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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Community Planning Meeting #2
Mason Community Learning Center
Thursday, January 8, 2004 @ 6:00 p.m.**

In Attendance

J. Wheeler	AAG
J. Baumann	AAG
C. Schreckenberger.....	AAG
D. Loomis	Akron Public Schools
J. George.....	Akron Public Schools
J. Finley	City of Akron
D. Lombardi.....	CPT
S. Lukacik.....	CPT
T. Evans	CPT
A. Babich	CPT
C. Isenhardt.....	CPT
B. Isenhardt.....	CPT
C. McVan.....	CPT
J. Nicolino.....	CPT
K. McKinnie	CPT
S. Parsons.....	CPT
K. Mulhauser	CPT
R. Stout	CPT
L. Bezbatchesko.....	CPT
M. Anderson	CPT
R. Baker	CPT
R. Smith.....	CPT
S. Basone.....	CPT
F. Schenk	CPT
B. Whims	CPT
S. Wellsby.....	CPT
A. Rushanan.....	CPT
R. Rogers	CPT

Distribution

AAG Project Managers

M. Salopek.....	AAG
D. Mitchell.....	AAG
D. Loomis	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal	Akron Public Schools
K. Ingram.....	Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan	City of Akron
T. Long	City of Akron
M. Williamson	City of Akron
D. Krutz	RKPS
L. Jennings	Burges and Burges
J. Berman	Concordia
B. Hill	Concordia

The following is a review of items discussed at the meeting:

- J. Wheeler introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present at the meeting then introduced themselves.
- M. Salopek reviewed the Agenda and discussed at length the enrollment review projected for this building (400 students). Currently, there are approximately 450 students, counting special education students enrolled at Findley Elementary. Both teachers and the principal questioned how those numbers were conceived. Site plans were distributed that indicated Central Hower school district and the immediate area around Mason Park enrollment district and the number of homes having children attending school. D. Loomis stated that these original school counts were developed from the Year 2000 State GIS information and that she expects new information, hopefully, by this Friday, January 9, 2004. She noted that she had a discussion at the Owner/Architect progress meeting of January 8, 2004 with Jeff Tuckerman of the OSFC. The current counts are what are being designed-to.

D. Loomis asked that everyone be patient and trust that adjustments, as required, will come down the road and that we should concentrate on moving forward and progressing with the program for the building. D. Loomis had to excuse herself to attend another school POR meeting also held this evening.

The discussion continued with J. Finley stating that he believes it to be important that this group push for the maximum number of students required for this area because once the designs are completed, the potential for redesign is not very great. J. Wheeler indicated that redistricting of some students and special education students may occur and this may adjust the final figures. M. Salopek also discussed the fact that these figures will be reviewed upon completion of the first phase of sixteen community learning centers. The basis of the current student enrollment projections and school sizes are based upon very complicated calculations performed by both APS and the OSFC as a starting point. The Commission will not fund a school smaller than 350 students. It is important to understand that these first schools are an attempt to begin the process. There will be review steps throughout the process. It is geared so that the future schools, five and ten years out, have the appropriate number of students and funding available. The last thing anyone wants to have happen is all the schools being completed and not having the student populations in certain areas and have to close the school.

- F. Schenk challenged the logic of not providing for more students at this time. He questioned the legality of M. Salopek s statement that closing a community learning center if there are not enough

students could happen since they are community learning centers built with public funds. F. Schenk stated that he would like to have Mason Elementary the right size now as opposed to trying to expand it later when future levies would need to be passed for such work.

- Building assessment reviews were addressed. Currently, Mason Elementary rates poor to borderline in all the assessment areas. The cost to update the current facility is approximately \$9,873,000. The cost to replace is approximately \$13,000,000. This equates to a percentage of renovate to replace of 75.08%. M. Salopek reminded everyone of the guidelines of the two-thirds rule or cost to replace exceeding 66%, thus resulting in it being more cost effective to build new.
- There was a video presentation with positive comments about the content. Photographic examples were shown that depicted some of the aspects of the OSFC current guidelines and Canton City Schools that have been built under these guidelines.
- The field trip to the Alliance City Schools on Saturday, January 24, 2004 will be leaving the Administration Building at approximately 9:00 a.m. on chartered buses. It is encouraged that all committee members attend this trip if possible. Return time will be approximately 1:00 p.m.
- J. Wheeler reviewed the questionnaire completed by D. Lombardi, L. Bezbatchenko, J. Nicolino, and C. McVan. Regarding item No. 3: *Does your school have extracurricular activities or after-school programs including any specialized programs unique to your school. Please describe the program as well as current facility resources and spaces utilized by the program. Also indicate any elements of concern you have observed with regard to these activities or programs.* OPT Tutoring, Twenty-First Century Grant Tutoring, Homework Help, extracurricular activities, and Mason Park After School Program (Latchkey) run by Mason Park staff were noted. J. Wheeler asked if there are any other potential learning center programs that are held or are not currently held around the community that could be held once the new facility is constructed. The school currently does not offer adult education. There was a discussion held about some of the problems associated with this. The lack of adult/parental interaction with the school and the students, the need for adult daycare, multipurpose rooms, computer training, adult use and sports in the gymnasiums currently occur five nights a week, wrap-around care for the children before and after school could utilize the gym or LRC, G.E.D. classes, parenting classes, child care, and adult re-education training are possibilities. R. Rogers of the Mason Community Center supervisor and teacher questioned whether or not this was the time to discuss community center needs. Current and future community centers, if reconstructed, will need multipurpose rooms, crafts rooms, game rooms, and computer learning areas.
- There was a discussion about rumors that the existing community center is going to be torn-down. At this point, J. Wheeler, and J. George indicated that there are no plans to replace the community center, but if this committee determines that it is desirable, it will be part of this group's role to determine how we can develop funding to make it happen.
- J. Wheeler distributed to the new attendees copies of the Summary for the Program of Requirements (POR) as well as bracketing forms for the POR. He overviewed what the two documents are showing and how individuals should take information from them. It is important that each of the committee members review and understand the specific areas that the bracketing currently shows and understand the logic described in the Summary sheet about why certain areas differ from the OSFC standard. Akron Public Schools has expanded beyond the basic requirements in order to meet the classroom and special education area requirements specific to the Akron area. M. Salopek requested that a separate subcommittee geared toward reviewing the Program of Requirements and a type of roll-up your sleeves committee to review each of the areas and the specifics of each area. This meeting could be held anytime in the next few weeks,

before or after the January 24th field trip. It should occur prior to POR #3. J. Wheeler indicated that a majority of POR #3 would involve a review of the program and building components.

There was a presentation of an aerial view of the Mason Park site and surrounding community. Examples of some of the initial thoughts regarding traffic, pedestrian, and student flow to the schools was discussed and identified. Current students that are north of Exchange Street are bused to the school. Specifically, there is a blind spot in the hill, roughly in front of the existing community center, and one teacher indicated that some students have actually been hit by cars there. J. Wheeler pointed-out that this is excellent information and the type of site idiosyncrasy that can be brought-to-bear when decisions are to be made.

- J. Wheeler noted that one of the first things that he understood about Mason Elementary was that you have to know where it is or get directions to it, because it is not readily observable from Exchange Street. A building identity is an important aspect of any facility, especially a school. Vehicular and pedestrian circulation needs to be taken into account as well as the use of the existing site. A good thing about the Mason Park site is its ability to meet a majority of both hard and soft green space requirements of an elementary school. Locating the school will be a paramount decision undertaken by this committee, whether attaching to the existing community center, allowing for future community center replacement is possible. Fronting the building for example on Exchange Street could be difficult, but may be accomplished. Utilizing some of the site features and existing facilities will definitely need to be taken under consideration. It is understood that the current tennis courts are named after a contributor and that there should be an attempt to maintain them. Ideally, funds will not be expended to relocate the current playground, tennis courts, and basketball courts unless it is deemed necessary. J. Wheeler asked that everyone bring ideas about this to the next meeting.
- It was determined that POR Meeting #3 will occur on February 5, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.
- The homework assignments are to sign-up for the bus tour on January 24, 2004 and review the distributed POR sheet.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The preceding is AAG's interpretation of the meeting. Any changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.