



AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**FIRESTONE/LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
Community – Site/Building Concept Review Meeting**

Wednesday, March 7, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m. – Firestone Cafeteria

In Attendance

- D. James..... APS
- P. Flesher APS
- F. Herr APS
- K. Balchak APS
- M. Moore..... City of Akron
- L. Duncan..... City of Akron
- J. Peterson GPD
- M. Salopek GPD
- C. Bader..... GPD
- Community members – see attached sign-in sheets

Distribution

- M. Freeman..... APS
- M. Marquess-Kearns Litchfield Principal
- L. Petry Firestone Principal
- B. Gantz..... RPJ

The following is a brief review of items discussed at the meeting.

- D. James provided a brief opening statement over the intent of the meeting and then introduced J. Peterson to lead the presentation.
- J. Peterson briefly reviewed the agenda for the meeting and the proposed student count and size of the new CLC
- J. Peterson reviewed the following recent activities:
 - Submitted the Program of Requirements to JBR/BOE/OSFC/CM
 - Obtained completed site surveys
 - Obtained results of a water flow test for the site - tests reflect adequate water pressure for the building's needs
 - Decision to use geothermal as the HVAC system (building will be fully air conditioned)
 - Development of site/building design concepts.



- J. Peterson reviewed the goals for the overall operations of the project:
 - Litchfield will move into Perkins starting the fall of 2012 to allow for abatement/demolition of the existing Litchfield building.
 - Firestone will self-swing, meaning the existing high school building will stay in operation during the construction of the new Firestone CLC on the same site.
 - During construction building access, parking, and general site safety will be maintained and addressed as best as possible.

- J. Peterson listed out the goals for the site/building design:
 - The two schools, while technically combined into one large structure, will function as independent and separate schools.
 - Each school will have its own drop-off and parking areas and main entry.
 - Proposed parking to meet or exceed the current parking capacity.
 - Inclusion of track, competition, and practice fields.
 - Separate service/delivery areas.
 - There will be separate student dining areas serviced by one main kitchen with separate serving areas. Dining areas will be separated by an operable wall that can be opened to create one large assembly space with stage.
 - Performing arts spaces will be grouped together.
 - Athletic spaces will be grouped together, in close proximity to the existing-to-remain natatorium and gymnasium (Activities Center).

- J. Peterson reviewed the current site layout and then explained the proposed site/building design in detail (via the site and floor plans on display), which addressed the design goals stated above.

- J. Peterson stated that once the new CLC is complete, the old Firestone HS building will be demolished and the new track and competition field installed in its place.

- J. Peterson stated that RFPs have gone out to several theatrical/acoustic/lighting consultants for the design of the Performing Arts spaces.

- J. Peterson concluded that the next steps will include conducting future meetings with the various school departments and their staff, further development of the design through its various stages, creation of 3-D renderings showcasing said design, and cost estimates, all of which will result in bidding documents that will be completed and go out to bid by spring of 2013.

- The session was then opened to Q&A for the Community:
 - Q: Will it be possible to enter the school from either side during events in lieu of finding parking on one side of the site and having to walk around the building to the entry?
 - A: Possibly. This can be looked into further during the design process.

 - Q: Will bussing to/from Perkins be available for the Litchfield students residing outside the Perkins district?
 - A: Yes, buses will be provided at the existing Litchfield site to take students to/from Perkins.



- Q: What will be the availability of the practice fields during construction?
 - A: The practice fields will be temporarily unavailable for a time during construction of the new CLC.
 - Clarification was requested over whether or not the high school students would stay in the existing high school during construction.
 - A: Yes, the high school will be self swinging.
 - Clarification was requested concerning when the Litchfield students would move to Perkins.
 - A: Litchfield will move to Perkins this fall for the start of the 2012-13 school year.
 - Q: With nearby Essex ES closing end of this year, would it be possible to use the land at Essex for sports practice/events during the construction of the Firestone CLC? What about use of the fields at Perkins?
 - A: At this time, we don't know what will happen with the land at Essex or its potential availability. The fields at Perkins will be available for use.
 - Q: Are there plans to include a stadium at the new Firestone CLC?
 - A: No, not at this time.
 - Q: Are there drawings of the proposed site/building layout available for review? Are there square footage comparisons of the existing vs. new designs available for review?
 - A: Yes, both will be available shortly on the APS website.
- Next Community meeting: To be determined, potentially mid-April.

The preceding is GPD'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.