MINUTES
Ashland City School District Board of Education –Work Session
June 14, 2010

The Ashland City School District Board of Education met for a Work Session on Monday, June 14, 2010, at the Ashland High School Little Theater, 1440 King Road. Bryan Lefelhoc, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. **ROLL CALL**. The roll call showed the following members present: Mr. Rick Ewing, Mr. Tom Lavinder, Dr. Wolfe, and Mr. Bryan Lefelhoc.

Mr. Hill was absent.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Lefelhoc, Board President.

III. **DISCUSSION**.

A. O.S.F.C. Facilities Initiative

1. Options Review
2. Community Feedback/Input/Questions, etc.
3. Board of Education Discussion

Mr. Robinson began the introduction of the Ohio School Facilities Initiative. He made the announcement that the regular June meeting will be moved to June 24, 2010, in the Little Theater.

Mr. Robinson introduced Mr. Earl Crossland with V.S.W.C. construction began explaining the process of the options being presented from the community input received.

Mr. Crossland began his presentation of the community selection with 2 potential construction plans. He explained the original plans consisted of various construction options; some offering containing costs over 60 million dollars in costs. The committee had paired the costs to 2 plans. One of the plans involved the construction of a new High School, realigning the middle school to the current high school with grades 5-8, and when state monies were received, building a new elementary school on Duff Field. Other features are included in the total local share for this option with an approximate cost of 37.5 million dollars.

The second option discussed consists of the construction of a new middle school for grades 6-8. In addition, monies will be available for some renovations to the new high school. Once state monies are received the plan includes construction of a new elementary school. The approximate cost for this plan is 31 million dollars.

Mr. Robinson commented the market value information was provided to obtain an estimate of potential millage for a bond issue with each construction plan. He also mentioned 1.2 million was set aside for contingency plans and with the first option, land acquisition if necessary.

Mr. Steve Stuart expressed enthusiastic support for the need for new buildings. He mentioned his personal interest in the support of a new middle school building, since it appeared throughout the years that the middle school has always received “second-handed materials, classrooms, etc…”. He addressed the Board with concerns that the lower cost plan might have a stronger chance of passing a levy.

Mr. Crossland responded to Mr. Stuart in regards to a portion of monies included for renovations to the current high school and the availability to segregate the grades with separate available wings in the high school, so the 5th grade class would be set apart from the older students.

Mr. Ewing asked a question concerning the structure and plan design of a new high school. Mr. Crossland responded the design will include flexibility for curriculum changes and selected by the Board and the community.
Mr. Robinson discussed the construction plans costs were established by Hammond Construction Company.

Mr. Benway expressed his support for the construction plans presented and notated the need to offer what the costs would be to taxpayers with homes valued at less than $100,000.

Ms. Kathy Hiner shared her support for the progress the Board and Superintendent had made in efforts to move forward in a positive direction. She further asked questions concerning option B, if money was included for updating the high school. Mr. Robinson answered that money is allocated for renovations to the current high school (to become a middle school). She further asked if the district was eligible to receive state funding. Mr. Robinson answered yes to her question and Mr. Crossland reviewed the tie lines for the Expedited Local Partnership Program (E.L.P.P.).

Mr. Shane Ross encouraged the Board to make a decision and include the option that would take less compromise 10 years after construction.

Ms. Jodi Benton offered her support for the investment in a new high school which could potentially attract new families to Ashland.

Mrs. Benway offered her support for new buildings and confided in her trust and support for the teachers to adapt to the change. She encouraged the Board to make a decision for the students sooner than later.

Ms. Jodi Benton made the comment concerning nutrition for the students and the need for pooling the talent of all students. The new buildings offer may potentially offer these features for Ashland City Schools.

Mr. Paul Shantz encouraged the Board to move forward with a decision and made the comment that the community was relying on the Board to follow through with this process.

Ms. Loughman, High School Teacher, offered her support and encouraged voters to support the need to pass the levy.

Ms. Tiffany Sanders offered her support for the need for a new high school and included that she would still like to continue the neighborhood schools.

Dr. Wolfe asked the community members at the meeting if the new high school concept met their expectations?

Mr. Ewing explained the construction presented in both plans concerning the high school or middle school would come from local funds first. Then the state share of monies would build the elementary building.

Ms. Benton made the comment concerning the urgency to get the middle school students out of the current middle school building.

Mr. Robinson made comments concerning the elementary student capacity with and comparison with both construction plans.

Dr. Wolfe made the comment to take into consideration which plan could potentially attract new businesses. He further discussed the middle school and the negative perception associated with the current middle school building.

Mr. Greg Gorrell commended the Board for their efforts. He discussed the need to make a decision that will best impact the district in the long range future for the students. The decision is a long term investment for Ashland City Schools.

He further commented that a decision must be made to avoid the potential of losing state share funding.

Mr. Lefelhoc posed the question if the state funding would go away, the local share can still meet the urgency of the building needs of the district.

Mr. Hess addressed the need for the Board to communicate the plan to the community.

Mr. Freer addressed his support for the construction of new buildings. He made additional comments concerning athletic fields and the future role of the community for a new high school.

Mr. Robinson discussed safety issues of current high school and issues concerning asbestos.

Mr. Lefelhoc discussed a future meeting for the building and grounds committee to be held Thursday June 24, 2010.

Mr. Lavinder addressed the Board the urgency for full support that will come from the recommendation of the building and grounds committee. He made comments regarding the millage (approximately 4-mills) for the potential construction plan being low; construction costs being low due to the economy, and the opportunity is now for new buildings. He further mentioned the timeline regarding the bond issue and supported the ballot being placed on the May issue for voter support.

Dr. Wolfe offered his support for either plan, commenting the Board needs to the best they can for the chosen construction plan.

Mr. Ewing explained the process of the O.S.F.C. plan that had begun 3 years prior. The original plans were more expensive the costs have been carved down from 50-80 million to the range of 31 million and 37.5 million to meet the needs and desires of the community. He further made the comment that the Board must do what is necessary to be successful.

Mr. Lefelhoc thanked everyone for their input.

Mayor Glen Stewart complimented the Board for their efforts with the planning process.

B. Healthcare Update

Dr. Wolfe presented information regarding claim utilization and increased costs for the healthcare plan. He addressed the increase in premiums expected to reach a 16.8% increase beginning July 1, 2010, with 90% of this increased, absorbed by the district. Dr. Wolfe discussed the process with the Healthcare committee and the need to involve the committee for assistance and empowerment with providing solutions to reduce healthcare costs. In addition, he presented challenges with the newly revised federal and state healthcare mandates.

Mr. Lavinder agreed with Dr. Wolfe and made comments regarding the changes will assist with the negotiation process.

Dr. Wolfe reported on a meeting held with Milestone benefits and the healthcare committee to be proactive in problem solving. He further discussed the need to implement an R.F.P. for other insurance companies as good business practice.

Mr. Knabe agreed with Dr. Wolfe and the need for team effort through the healthcare planning process.

Mr. Robinson discussed the importance of teamwork with administration and both associations.

Ms. Roop discussed the need for team effort with all involved on the healthcare committee and agreed with Dr. Wolfe for the addressing increased healthcare costs.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT 2010-06-063**- Dr. Wolfe moved and Mr. Ewing seconded the motion to adjourn the June 14, 2010 Work session meeting-motion carried 4-0.

ATTEST:

Bryan Lefelhoc, President

Gina Roop, Treasurer