

MINUTES OF THE
BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING
Of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
Held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009
Blythe Park Elementary School
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

Committee Chair Giles McCarthy called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Mr. Giles McCarthy, Mrs. Mary Stimming, and Mrs. Hareena Wakely.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; Board President Mrs. Nancy Jensen; Board Members Mrs. Jennifer Leimberer and Mrs. Mary Ellen Meindl; Ames Principal Colleen Lieggi; Blythe Park Principal Bob Chleboun; Central School Principal Dr. Janice Limperis; Hollywood School Interim Principal Mindy Keller; Technology Director Vern Bettis; Director of Maintenance Bill Radtke; Architects Mark Miller and Chris English from CONCEPT 3 Architects; and approximately 15 District 96 parents, staff and interested citizens of the community.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Tour District 96 schools.
- Discuss summer 2010 Site Improvement and Life Safety projects.
- Discuss ECE Proposal by Board Member.

Beginning at Hollywood School, elementary school principals conducted guided tours of their respective buildings. These tours provided Committee members with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the schools, and to observe specific maintenance projects that need to be addressed at each building. A tour of Hauser Jr. High will take place at a future meeting.

Prior to the tour of Blythe Park School, Mr. McCarthy opened the meeting for Public Comment. Ames School parent Terri Culloden addressed the Committee regarding two historic trees near the school that are presenting a safety hazard. Mrs. Culloden provided the Committee with pictures of an Elm tree in front of the school, and a Mulberry tree overhanging the southernmost corner of the Loudon parking lot that require trimming. She stated that some overgrowth on the Elm tree is distorting the growth of ornamental trees near the school's main entrance. Both the Elm and Mulberry trees contain dead or damaged branches that could cause injury if they were to fall. A large (6" - 8") Mulberry tree branch was damaged following a summer storm and is hanging by only a small portion of the branch that remains intact. The Committee thanked Mrs. Culloden for bringing these issues to their attention and asked Mr. Radtke to contact Davey Tree Service to obtain a quote for trimming.

Mrs. Culloden also approached the Committee regarding a garden she would like to install along the street side of the fence bordering the Ames School property line. She proposed replanting 30 or 40 butterfly garden flowers that were salvaged during the summer 2009

landscaping project at the school. If the project is approved, flowerbed renovation and planting would take place in May 2010 by Ames 4th and 5th Grade students and PTA volunteers. Committee members welcomed the idea of additional flowers being planted around the school as long as the proposed flowerbed remains within Ames property survey lines. Mrs. Culloden will present a detailed landscape plan for the Committee's consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Riverside resident and Boy Scout troop member Fitz Robling addressed the Committee regarding his preliminary ideas for his Eagle Scout project. He is interested in repairing the infield and dugout areas of the Hauser baseball field closest to Akenside Road, including renovation of the base paths, the benches and possibly the drainage system. He hopes to complete the work over a couple of weekends or possibly during District 96 spring break in March 2010. He noted labor for his project would consist primarily of Boy Scout troop volunteers. Mr. Robling plans to submit a formal proposal to the Committee in January detailing the specific aspects of his project. Mr. McCarthy and Supt. Lamberson thanked Fitz for his willingness to give back to the District 96 community and they welcomed him back in the New Year to present his formal proposal.

Following the tour of Blythe Park School Architects Mark Miller and Chris English reviewed designs for the summer 2010 Site Improvement projects at Hauser, Hollywood, and Central Schools. Since the Committee's last meeting, Mr. Miller noted that topographical surveys had been conducted at each school. He also remarked that the Hauser Hardscape/Landscape drawings presented in September would be finalized once the Village of Riverside is able to provide the exact location of the property setback line.

In September, Committee members expressed interest in adding a vestibule to Hauser's main entrance on Woodside Road. A vestibule would provide a more secure entrance to the building. A vestibule would also provide the building with a ventilation lock that could lower energy costs.

In keeping with the materials used at the historic portico entrance, Mr. Miller presented a preliminary vestibule design made principally of glass and limestone. The front of the vestibule contains two metal and glass doors flanked on either side by sidelight windows and rounded limestone columns at each corner. The light colored limestone will offer definite contrast against the school's red brick façade and will provide a clear focal point as the main entrance to the building.

A question arose regarding how much energy savings would be realized by adding the vestibule to the building. Discussion took place regarding how often this entrance is used in a typical day. Mr. English will gather potential energy savings data for presentation at the next meeting.

Dialogue took place regarding whether the installation of a security system covering Hauser's back doors could be incorporated into this project. Currently, there is no security system in place that would alert the office if one of the school's back doors were opened. Although standard practice in new school construction, Supt. Lamberson remarked that none of the elementary schools in the District has this capacity. Following further conversation, Dr. Lamberson acknowledged that Hauser is unique in the District because it is so widely used

during the day and in the evening. At the next meeting Supt. Lamberson will provide the Committee with pricing information to electronically secure Hauser's back doors.

Following discussion, the Committee gave the architects approval to refine the proposed vestibule design so that the project can be put out to bid as an alternate to the main bid package in January. Dr. Lamberson will forward any resulting design changes to the Committee.

Following a recent meeting with interim principal Mindy Keller and a Hollywood parent committee, Chris English presented a revised Hardscape/Landscape Plan for Hollywood School. The revised plan includes a widened sidewalk and additional hardscape near the street to accommodate students at drop-off and pick-up times. The plan also addresses maintenance issues near the Kindergarten windows. Broken and deteriorating concrete sidewalks will be replaced and a study circle similar to the one at Ames School will be installed. Now that a near final design has been developed, Mr. English will contact the Village of Brookfield to discuss the sidewalk repair portion of the project that is on village property.

In September, Central School PTO President Allyn Pilewski addressed the Committee seeking help to resolve two existing issues on the school's playground:

- Poor access to the playground area due to steep yard slope.
- Persistently muddy area under a nearby tree.

Mr. English presented a landscape design that incorporates a stepped, stone pathway leading down to the playground area. Terraces supported by rough limestone on either side of the steps will be installed to create flat, mulched areas where children can sit or play. The existing railroad tie walkway on the far left side of the playground area will be replaced with stone to provide a consistent appearance and use of materials. Mr. English remarked the intent of this design is to preserve the investment previously made to upgrade the playground but also to resolve the remaining issues parents are dissatisfied with.

Mrs. Pilewski and Central School parents in attendance were generally pleased with the design as presented and thanked Mr. English for his work. A request was made to widen the stone walkway leading from the benches down to the playground to accommodate high "traffic" volume in this area. Mr. English noted that this change could be easily made and remarked that the goal will be to put this project out to bid in January.

The Board has been conducting ongoing discussion regarding finding a permanent location for the District 96 ECE program that is currently housed at Blythe Park School. All classrooms at Blythe Park are needed beginning in 2010-11 to accommodate Kindergarten through 5th Grade enrollment. Mr. McCarthy remarked that Board member Jennifer Leimberer recently spent time researching this issue and asked her to present her draft proposal to the Committee for consideration.

Mrs. Leimberer's proposal suggests moving the ECE program out of District 96 Kindergarten through 5th Grade schools to a permanent location of its own. She noted that in prior years students have been displaced from attending ECE in the District because our two classes were filled to capacity. Through her initial research, Mrs. Leimberer found that in 2009-10 District 96 spent approximately \$6,250 per student in tuition and transportation costs to send these

students out of the district for service. The goal of her proposal would be to find an alternate location that could accommodate four sections of ECE and possibly provide space for a Blended Pre-School if the District's Early Childhood Program is expanded to meet the needs of young children in our community. Mrs. Leimberer commented that any unutilized space could be leased to LADSE creating an income stream for the District.

Mrs. Leimberer noted a church property for sale in the Hollywood section of Brookfield, on the corner of McCormick and Parkview, might serve as a possible location for the proposed expanded program. Demolition of the existing building and construction of a new facility would be required. She commented that the District would not be adversely affecting its own tax base by purchasing this property because, as a church, it is a tax-free property. If the District is not interested in purchasing additional property, Mrs. Leimberer remarked that leased space could probably be found relatively easily due to the vast amount of vacant commercial space that exists in the community.

Committee members thanked Mrs. Leimberer for her hard work in gathering this data and for "thinking outside of the box" to find a permanent home for the District's ECE program. It was noted that if a property purchase and new building construction option is pursued it represents a long-term solution to providing a permanent space for ECE and that the Committee should also focus on the immediate need of finding space for the program in 2010-11.

Supt. Lamberson remarked that the District Leadership Team has been discussing a variety of possible locations for ECE in preparation for next school year. At the next Building Committee meeting he will present a summary of those options and will bring a recommendation to the Committee.

Dr. Lamberson noted that the lift at Hauser Jr. High School is in need of repair. He presented two proposals for the Committee's consideration that will be discussed in detail at the February meeting.

For planning purposes, as a follow-up to the school tours, the Committee asked principals to submit a "wish list" of the maintenance projects they feel need to be addressed in their respective buildings.

A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the meeting be adjourned. The time was 7:40 p.m.

Susan Moorhead, Board Secretary

Giles McCarthy, Committee Chair