

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA**

**JOINT MEETING OF FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**Monday, September 16, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – Board Room**

The following Facilities/Finance Committee persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. Ritchie Webb
Ms. Irene Boyle

Administrators:

Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Mr. Paul Minotti

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. Scott Congdon
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Others in attendance:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Mark Shubin, Board Member
Mr. Mike Morris, Board Member
Fifteen member of the public

The Joint Meeting of Facilities/Finance Committee and Facilities Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Webb.

Mr. Webb welcomed everyone, since it was the first joint meeting between the Facilities/Finance Committee and the Facilities Ad Hoc Committee. He explained how the Finance Committee works with regards to the public wishing to speak. He explained that we were having this meeting to clarify some of the data and to receive an update on our borrowing capacity.

1. Status of the bonds and available borrowing:

- **Mr. Michael Lillys – RBC Capital Markets**
- **Mr. James Gray – RBC Capital Markets**
- **Mr. Jason Brockman – Public Financial Management (PFM)**

Mr. Webb introduced Mr. Michael Lillys from RBC Capital Markets. Mr. Lillys introduced Mr. Jason Brockman from PFM who spoke about the current market conditions, since interest rates have increased. Mr. Brockman stated that the interest rates increased dramatically since the last time they attended our meeting in March. He stated that in March, the 25 year tax index was 2.8%, a historical low, but as of September, it rose to 4.41%. The last few days it has dropped about 20 basis points. This increase affects the information that was given to the district in March, so they are going to review the new numbers.

Mr. Lillys introduced Mr. Jim Gray, his colleague at RBC and then he reviewed the financing alternatives. A handout was distributed. He stated that in March they presented two alternatives. One was borrowing \$50 million with no budget impact by restructuring all or part of our existing 2006 bond. The other alternative was a \$100,000 increase for three years, so it would be a \$300,000 budget increase at the end of the third year, again restructuring the 2006 bond. They came up with a few additional alternatives, where they were not adding in the state reimbursement. Mr. Lillys reviewed the new alternatives. Having no budget impact, he looked at restructuring all the 2006 bonds with state reimbursement and without state reimbursement, and then he looked at restructuring a portion of the 2006 bonds with state reimbursement and without state reimbursement. They looked at this without state reimbursement because even though we filed the PlanCon in time, there is a moratorium on state reimbursement now, so they wanted the district to be aware of the situation in case the moratorium is not lifted by the time of this project.

Mr. Lillys stated that with no budget impact, restructuring all the 2006 bonds with state reimbursement, the district would be able to have \$34,579,982 for construction, and \$30,824,831 without state reimbursement. If the district restructured a portion of the 2006 bonds with state reimbursement, we would be able to have \$32,043,656 for construction, and \$28,472,425 without state reimbursement. Mr. Lillys explained that the bond yield is a little different than the 25 year tax index. The bond yield is a blended average of all the maturities over the life of the issue. By restructuring the bond, we are extending the life of the bond by ten years and by doing so, you are paying more interest. So, by restructuring the entire 2006 bond, the additional interest is approximately \$45 million, but by restructuring a portion of the 2006 bond, the additional interest is approximately \$21 million. If you restructure the entire bond, it would only be an extra \$2.5 million and the interest costs would be twice as much as a partial restructuring.

Mr. Lillys then reviewed the alternatives with a budget impact of \$100,000 per year for three years with a total bond restructuring and with a partial bond restructuring. He also did with and without state reimbursement. He reviewed what the district would receive for construction and how much it would cost in additional interest.

There was a question that if the interest rates changed by 100 basis points, what would that mean in terms of borrowing. Mr. Brockman stated that it would be approximately \$8 – 9 million. So, we were down 0.2 points, so that would be about \$1.6 to \$1.7 million.

Mr. Brockman stated that most school districts are factoring no state reimbursement when they are looking at these projects because no one knows what is happening with the state. He also stated that the reason that this restructuring is a little inefficient is that the 2006 bonds have a call date of May 1, 2016. So money has to be set aside in an escrow account for three years earning nothing and we are borrowing at 5%. So it is a little inefficient in today's market. He stated that he reviewed all the numbers and PFM agrees with everything in the handout. Mr. Lillys stated that some school districts, if they can, are spreading the borrowing over several years and borrowing \$10 million a year.

Mr. Webb thanked Mr. Lillys and Mr. Brockman for their presentation. He stated that we would invite them back to our next meeting for an update.

2. Space Utilization

- **Mr. Scott Downie – Spiezle Architect**
- **Mr. William MacLaughlin – Reynolds Construction Manager**

Mr. Webb introduced Mr. Downie from Spiezle Architect, to discuss space utilization. He stated that they did an initial review of the district's capacity, but the information is several years old and Spiezle did not gather the information directly. They are recommending that they do an exercise where they go into more detail to get current and firsthand information on the use of the buildings. He stated that school capacity is not an absolute figure and there are a number of things that can influence or impact the capacity. Some of the items are the way each classroom is used in the building (regular classroom, special education needs, or specialized instruction like art or music) and the dynamics of the enrollment in any particular school.

Mr. Downie reviewed the information he was using, but suggested a different process. He suggested to actually look at several years of historic information for the actual enrollments. They can then develop a true utilization rate based on each individual school. He stated that they then look at how the classrooms are assigned and he is suggesting that he would make a visit to each school, look at how the school is used, and how the rooms are assigned by grade and by use. They would look at the last three years of enrollment on a class by class basis so they could calculate a true utilization rate for each school. They would be able to see the dynamic of which schools are growing and which are not. He stated that the intention behind their recommendation for this new study is that these numbers change on a year to year basis.

Mr. Webb suggested to the board that they allow Mr. Downie to conduct the utilization study within a reasonable scope and for Mr. Downie to contact Mr. Profy to iron out a cost. There was a discussion regarding the McKissick report and the information the district would like Mr. Downie to gather. Mr. Downie stated that their report will include the following: all the details of what they see in the rooms, they will look at utilization at rooms that might be possibly usable as classrooms but are not currently used, they will identify the spaces that are leased to the Intermediate Unit, they will look at the use by meeting with the principal and understand the dynamics of how the enrollment has been at the school, they will look at the class sizes that are employed and the actual utilization rate that the school has seen over the last several years. They will not be looking at the dynamics of housing change or the community. Mr. Downie stated that the process should take two to three weeks to complete and a report written.

3. Consensus on data needed for future

The committees agreed that Mr. Downie should perform the utilization study and that he should look at the elementary schools and the middle schools.

4. Other Items

There were no other items.

5. Public Comment

There was no further public comment.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 21, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Markowitz
Business Administrator

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA

JOINT MEETING OF FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Thursday, November 21, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – Board Room

The following Facilities/Finance Committee persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. Ritchie Webb
Ms. Irene Boyle
Mr. Mike Morris

Administrators:

Mrs. Barbara Markowitz

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. Scott Congdon
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Others in attendance:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Mark Shubin, Board Member
Mr. Stephen Pirritano, Board Member
Mr. Thomas Profy, III
Nine members of the public

The Joint Meeting of Facilities/Finance Committee and Facilities Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Webb.

Mr. Webb welcomed everyone and he stated that tonight there was going to be an update on our finances and Mr. Downie from Spiegle Architectural Group will review the study that his company prepared.

1. Status of the bonds, available borrowing and an update on our SWAP:

- Mr. Michael Lillys – RBC Capital Markets
- Mr. James Gray – RBC Capital Markets
- Mr. Zach Williard – Public Financial Management (PFM)

Mr. Webb introduced Mr. Michael Lillys from RBC Capital Markets. Mr. Zach Williard from Public Financial Management (PFM), the district's financial advisor, started by reviewing the handout. He explained that over the last few months the interest rates started to rise. This was caused by the Fed suggesting it would begin tapering its quantitative easing policies. The market has calmed slightly, more recently, causing rates to fall.

Mr. Lillys continued by reviewing the summary of financing alternatives. He reviewed the three alternatives, which all include a partial restructuring of the 2006 bonds and no state reimbursement: Alternative 1 has no budget impact, Alternative 2 has a budget impact of \$100,000 per year for 3 years, and Alternative 3 has a budget impact of \$100,000 for year 1 and 2 and a \$300,000 budget impact for year 3. He reviewed the amount that the district could borrow for the project in each alternative: Alternative 1 \$37,708,328, Alternative 2 \$43,256,089, and Alternative 3 \$45,443,321. Mr. Lillys stated that this extends the final maturity of the restructured bond by 10 years and the new money's maturity would be 24 years. He also reviewed a sample financing timetable so the committee would understand the time it took to restructure the bonds.

Mr. Williard distributed a handout on the interest rate swap agreement. He stated that from the start of the swap, March 1, 2006 through November 21, 2013, the district has received \$870,756 in interest. He stated that PFM is monitoring the swap.

2. Space Utilization

• Mr. Scott Downie – Spiezle Architect

Mr. Webb introduced Mr. Scott Downie from Spiezle Architectural Group. Mr. Downie described the process he used in preparing the assessment. He visited the schools, met with the principals, and toured each room. He reviewed the scheduling, how the school operated, and how the elementary rooms were operated. He reviewed the projected enrollment and class size. He reviewed the current school capacities. He stated that the chart represents how the schools are programmed today. The potential school capacity looked at certain spaces, what rooms can be moved around, and change what the rooms are currently used for. He stated that Appendix 1 shows the last ten years of enrollment. Appendix 3 shows a color coded floor plan.

Mr. Downie distributed a draft of the Facility Capacity Assessment. He reviewed the current school capacities. He stated that the chart represents how the schools are programmed today. The potential school capacity looked at certain spaces, what rooms could be moved around, and changed what the rooms are currently used for. Mr. Downie stated that when he looked at the room utilization, he did not adjust for the IU, he did not adjust to the decision whether the district would make computer labs standard at all schools, and he did not make an adjustment for full day kindergarten. He stated that he came up with a potential capacity for each building, which he reviewed with the committee. Mr. Downie stated that the number of empty seats in five years using a 90% capacity rate would be 805, which does not include the items that he did not include in the room utilization. He reviewed the appendix: Appendix 1 shows the last ten years of enrollment; Appendix 2 shows the background for all of the capacity calculations; and Appendix 3 shows a color coded floor plan.

Mr. Downie stated that he was asked to offer some comparison to the prior numbers that the district received from the McKissick study. Spiezle had a number for empty seats of 614 and McKissick had 1100. This is not a direct comparison since McKissick's report was done a few years ago and the school usage was probably different. Also, Mr. Downie thinks that the McKissick report had a different room count used in the capacity. McKissick's report had the assessment at a maximum capacity, and there was not a utilization rate applied, which yields a higher number as a result. So, the different numbers is partially because they were calculated off of a different basis – different number of rooms, different year, different enrollments, and different allocations. There was a lot of discussion on the empty seats and the district's next step.

Mr. Webb thanked Mr. Downie and he told him that we will probably ask him to attend a future Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Mr. Downie said that would be no problem.

3. Other Items

There were no other items.

4. Public Comment

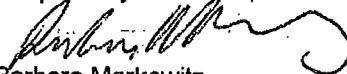
There was no further public comment.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Markowitz
Business Administrator

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA

FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Thursday, January 23, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – Board Room

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Cabinet Consultant:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

Others in attendance:

Mr. Scott Congdon, Board Member
Ms. Irene Boyle, Board Member
Mr. Mike Morris, Board Member
Mr. Mark Shubin, Board Member
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator
Mr. Paul Minotti, Director of Facilities
Mr. Don Harm, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration
Mr. Michael Rodriguez, Principal of Hoover Elementary
Five members of the public

The Facilities Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

1. Discussions on School Consolidation:

Mr. Pirritano thanked everyone for coming and he distributed handouts. He introduced the Ad Hoc Committee and their charge to deal with the consolidation issue, what consolidation is: a comprehensive plan to manage facilities to further invest in education, by reducing their footprint and closing a school(s). He acknowledged the excess capacity in the elementary and middle schools, that the studies confirm 600 to 800 open seats, and this goes back as far as 2006-07. Mr. Minotti confirmed the GIS study should be completed in 10 days. The GIS study will show where the population is and align the students to best utilize facilities and manage the excess middle school capacity. Closing a middle school is unforeseeable since two (2) elementary schools are connected to them and transportation would become an issue. Additional space per student is needed at the middle school level because of class changing between periods. Mr. Copeland agreed that the middle schools are logistically placed where they need to be. The elementary utilization rate is currently at 81% versus the middle school utilization rate of 63%. It was confirmed that the architect will be at the next meeting.

The efficiencies that could be gained by consolidation were discussed. Students who end up in special education tend to lack interventions at early stages. The shortage of reading specialists was confirmed. Mr. Pirritano suggested reinvesting in Language Arts at the middle school level because they were previously cut, along with STEM enhancements and computer technology classes. He made the point that he cannot ask taxpayers for additional money when money is being wasted.

2. Other Items:

There were no other items.

3. Public Comment

A member of the public questioned the number of students that were expected because of a full day kindergarten program. Mr. Copeland explained that you need a demographer to look at live births and trending. There are currently two (2) townhome communities being built with 131 and 141 units respectively. It is estimated that each unit represents 1.6 students. The age of the student will be factored by the price of the townhome. Current demographics are generally decreasing. Mr. Pirritano suggested once the GIS Study is received the committee should be able to make a recommendation to the board within 30 days.

Mr. Copeland had concerns that you cannot close a school without having a plan for the other students, but the GIS study will allow you to provide a series of scenarios and issues. It was discussed that both the Mc Kissick and Spiezle studies have confirmed underutilization of the elementary and middle schools.

Mr. Sposato commented that the bottom line is that we want to consolidate to save the district a little bit on buildings. Mr. Shubin added that Spiezle did some preliminary numbers with the full day kindergarten and there were still seats open in the elementary schools. Mr. Morris stated that Mr. Copeland implemented good changes this past year, so maybe the focus should not be on closing a school.

A member of the public questioned if this was a new look at the data or if the previous proposals were still valid and where the proposals could be viewed. Mr. Pirritano mentioned these are things that are needed to be considered, the initial 18 plans boiled down to three (3) and the committee agreed to two (2). The Spiezle and Mc Kissick studies are on the district's website and the GIS study will be posted there upon receipt.

Mr. Copeland stated that there are efficiencies with consolidation. He also mentioned that we are negotiating with the IU to see how many classes we can bring back from the IU to reduce our dependency and provide quality Special Education.

Mr. Pirritano stated that the GIS study will recommend the area(s) that need to be consolidated and identify potential schools. He stated that they should start the process of closing a school because of specific state requirements. The public had no further comments.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA**

**FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – Board Room**

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Cabinet Consultant:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

Others in attendance:

Mr. Scott Congdon, Board Member
Ms. Irene Boyle, Board Member
Mr. Mike Morris, Board Member
Mr. John V. Allen, Board Member
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator
Mr. Richard Rehmann, Civil Solutions
Mr. Scott Downie, Spiezle Architectural Group
Eight members of the public

The Facilities Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

Mr. Pirritano welcomed everyone and announced the GIS Study was complete; he distributed handouts from Mr. Scott Downie, Spiezle Architectural Group and Mr. Richard Rehmann, Civil Solutions.

1: GIS Study:

Mr. Pirritano stated that there were two (2) items being addressed. They were the middle school utilization and the possible closure of an elementary school. He announced the board voted on February 18, to hold a special meeting on Monday February 24, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the recommendation of closing an elementary school and moving 5th graders to the middle schools creating a 5th-8th grade model. He stated that the Ad Hoc committee was going to review the state's strict timeline for a recommendation on closing a school.

Mr. Copeland clarified that the GIS study takes the demographic information from the district and imports it into a software system that shows where everyone is located and we have the ability to ask it certain questions. An example would be if you move students, what impact will it have in terms of population. This is not a final report, but a working tool. Maps of enrollment in the various elementary and middle schools based on a communal map were included in the handout. Mr. Pirritano stated another reason for the GIS tool was to assist in the process of redistricting, if necessary. The concept of closing an elementary school and moving the 5th graders to the middle schools would need to happen at the same time. It was discussed that saving's alone was not the only reason behind closing an elementary school. It is also to become more efficient with teacher assignments, specialists assignments and classroom utilization.

Mr. Downie introduced Mr. Rehmann who gave an overview of the GIS tool. He demonstrated how the data was implemented and how to layer the data to create projections and simulations. Mr. Rehmann discussed the process of producing GIS maps for the elementary and middle school boundaries; adding students to the map, and associating students with an area (census grid) of where each student resides, then assigning grids to an elementary school. The actual student roster was entered and the roads were located. This allowed for a count of students per school. The GIS numbers came back very close to the actual student enrollment by school. From an analysis standpoint, grid designations can be changed to provide scenarios and "what if" questioning.

Mr. Downie gave an overview of the scenarios summarized on the handouts. He concluded the numbers used for enrollment were actual February 2014 enrollment figures. The potential capacity numbers are based on a 90% utilization rate, the same ratio used throughout the Spiezie study. Scenario A looked at the relocation of 5th grade from the elementary schools to the middle schools, Scenario B looked at closing Everitt or Miller and leaving 5th graders in the elementary schools, Scenario C looked at closing Everitt or Miller and moving 5th grade to the middle schools. Mr. Downie confirmed the Kindergarten numbers used in the scenarios counted the maximum AM or PM class size. Mr. Downie reiterated the additional capacity at Ferderbar, Heckman, Lower South and Hoover were not used in the capacity calculations to demonstrate conservative numbers and minimal redistricting.

2. Public Comment:

A member of the public asked what PDE recommends for usage capacity. Mr. Downie responded that 90% is a common and standardly accepted percentage; the 10% spread is the average fluctuation percent of enrollment.

A member of the public questioned if it would be advantageous to use full day kindergarten projections and adding the estimated influx of students from the approved housing developments to the projections before redistricting. Mr. Copeland responded that once a demographer is appointed it will not take long to come up with a more accurate kindergarten projection and the key is having additional space; accommodations such as re-routing kindergarten to a designated school for a year can be made. It was discussed that the two (2) new communities currently being built would yield (at a 1.6 multiplier) an estimated 435 students across all grade levels.

There was a discussion regarding redistricting. This is still being reviewed by the district. Mr. Minotti stressed the importance for a timely decision since 2014-15 bus routes are currently being configured.

Mr. Pirritano generated a recommendation from the Ad Hoc committee to recommend to the full board to have the administration proceed with the 5th-8th grade model starting with the 2014-15 school year. The committee voted 3-0 in favor of the recommendation.

There was a discussion on the estimated savings from the closure of an elementary school. A member from the public stressed concern as to where the money saved would go. It was stated that the will of the school board is to put any money saved back into the education of our students, but the current pension situation may not allow for new programs to be created, however it may prevent programs from being cut.

Mr. Pirritano asked the members of the Ad Hoc Committee to recommend to the full Board on February 24, the proposal of Miller Elementary School to be advertised for a hearing to start the closing procedures. The vote was 3-0 in favor of recommending Miller Elementary to be advertised for a public hearing.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, March 10, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA**

FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, March 10, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – L.G.I.**

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Cabinet Consultant:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

Others in attendance:

Mr. Scott Congdon, Board Member	Mr. Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire
Ms. Irene Boyle, Board Member	Mr. Scott Downie, Spiezle Architecture Group
Ms. Susan Cummings, Board Member	Dr. Gloria Hancock, Assistant to the Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction & Assessment
Mr. Mike Morris, Board Member	Mr. Don Harm, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration
Mr. Mark Shubin, Board Member	Mr. Anthony Devlin, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. John V. Allen, Board Member	152 plus members of the public
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator	
Mr. Paul Minotti, Director of Facilities	

The Facilities Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Mr. Pirritano.

Mr. Pirritano welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He introduced Mr. Copeland who gave an overview of the Facilities Ad Hoc Committee and the State timeline for closing a school.

1. Closing & Consolidation Discussion

Mr. Copeland stated that the consolidation decision was up to the School Board. Mr. Copeland spoke about three things the administration was tasked to consider: Closing Walter Miller School beginning with the 2014-15 school year, have the middle schools include grades 5-8, and a full day kindergarten program. Mr. Copeland gave a report highlighting the technical and adaptive problems associated with each task. His recommendation to the Board of Education was to postpone the Miller closure and put off the 5-8 model until the administration had the ability to work with the community and not make rushed decisions. Mr. Copeland pointed out a Gantt chart and stated that moving too aggressively with multiple projects enhances the opportunity for oversights. The goal(s) when considering closing a school were to keep neighborhoods together and smooth out the oddities in current zones and redistricting from the center outwards. He also highlighted the transportation issues and the number of walkers to Everitt and Miller. Mr. Copeland acknowledged the community members concerns and will remain open to suggestions on alternative plans.

Mr. Copeland stated that members of the administration visited Upper Merion Middle School which was a 5-8 middle school with 1,200 students. When their enrollment went down, they consolidated elementary schools and moved the 5th grade into the middle school. Mr. Copeland stated that Upper Merion performed a survey and found that 93% of 5th grade students wanted to stay in the middle school. Mr. Copeland asked that the public keep an open mind and introduced Dr. Hancock who gave an overview of a study composed by Duke University titled "Should 6th Grade be an Elementary or in Middle School?"

Dr. Hancock gave an overview of the Duke University analysis of grade configuration, student behavior, disciplinary infraction rates, and end of grade test scores for 6th grade. Dr. Hancock summarized the incomparable attributes to the Duke University Study that looked at kids in 6th grade in North Carolina and the demographic differences of Neshaminy School District students. Dr. Hancock explained why the reporting information was inconsistent, the differences in the way schools report their information, and how this impact cannot be measured without having a treatment group to compare results.

Mr. Copeland recommended the full day kindergarten program move forward should the Board agree it is something they want to do. He concluded the administration went through the process of moving the 5th graders into the middle school and closing Walter Miller Elementary and the recommendation is not to do these items this year but to keep the option open.

2. Public Comment

A member of the public questioned the timing of closing a middle school. Mr. Pirritano stated the district has been studying consolidation for the last 10 years and due to the strict State timeline, the process must be started now if action was going to be taken for the 2014-15 school year.

A member of the public questioned the timeline for moving the 5th graders into the middle schools. Mr. Copeland explained there is no finite plan, and there will not be one without input from a number of resources. Dr. Hancock has done research with a number of 5-8 models in addition to Upper Merion and found a number of differences. If a 5-8 model is decided, the research will be a basis for how Neshaminy wants to mold their own model.

A member of the public questioned if the administration has traveled to Neshaminy schools to see the 5th graders feelings about moving into the middle school. Mr. Copeland recommended the board not move too quickly and reminded the Neshaminy community about the greatness of the current middle schools. We can always take a step to be better, to look at opportunities, and to decide where we want to go by having conversations with a lot of people.

A member of the public asked the community to remember that we are a single high school community. All of our students end up at one high school, so if it's not Miller, it is going to be another school. They asked for support of the district and those parents to help make the changes necessary.

A member of the public questioned how a school is being selected. Mr. Pirritano stated there are 5 elementary schools in a 3 mile radius and the population in that area cannot sustain all 5 schools. It was decided the factors in determining which school to close cannot be decided until the study has been fully reviewed and analyzed.

A member of the public questioned if implementing a full day kindergarten program required the 5th grade to move up to the middle school. Mr. Copeland stated that the board approved a demographer to look at full day kindergarten. He has started his work and it should be complete in 3 weeks.

A member of the public commented that the 5th graders should be moved up; we are behind as a country. As long as the 5th graders will be separated from the 8th graders, and bullying programs remain implemented, it is a good move for our education program.

A member of the public requested a referendum in November asking the taxpayers if they would be willing to have a tax hike, in order to keep all of the schools. It was discussed that the community, being 75% retired, would not vote to raise taxes.

A member of the public questioned if a full day kindergarten was implemented and 5th grade remained in the elementary schools, would classrooms be put on a cart. Mr. Copeland responded when special education classes are consolidated, some classrooms will be picked up. Mr. Harm stated a full day kindergarten and no consolidation will put a strain on space and carts may be necessary. It was discussed carts are the latest trend enabling technology to be brought to the kids and are not necessarily a bad thing.

Mr. Pirritano stated that the Ad Hoc Committee was going to vote on making a recommendation, to the whole school board, who will vote at the hearing on March 17.

Mr. Profy read the first motion he drafted, that the Ad Hoc Committee recommend to the full Board that the Board on March 17, 2014, rescind the previous action of the Board regarding a hearing for the closure of Walter Miller Elementary School. Therefore, the hearing would be cancelled and the school would remain open.

Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Rudy, and Mr. Sposato were all in favor, 3 ayes. Motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Profy read the second motion that the Ad Hoc Committee recommend to the full Board that the Board have the administration continue to study moving the 5th grade to the middle schools creating a 5-8 grade model.

Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Rudy, and Mr. Sposato were all in favor, 3 ayes. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, April 7, at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA**

**FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**Monday, April 7, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – Board Room**

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Cabinet Consultant:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

Others in attendance:

Mr. Scott Congdon, Board Member
Ms. Irene Boyle, Board Member
Mr. Mike Morris, Board Member
Mr. Mark Shubin, Board Member
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator
Mr. Don Harm, Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Mr. Paul Minotti, Director of Facilities
Mr. George Sundell, Sundance Associates
Eight members of the public

The Facilities Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

1. Review of Facilities Ad Hoc Committee Minutes- March 10,2014:

Mr. Pirritano welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes from the March 10th meeting, there were none.

2. Renovation Data Update:

Mr. Minotti revised the cost of total repairs needed for all the Neshaminy buildings; the original estimate was around \$72,000,000 in 2006-2007. The engineers updated the estimate based on their notes from the original assessment to include cost of living increases. The revised estimate totals \$91,134,000. Neshaminy Middle and Eisenhower's repairs have been removed from the list along with the repairs that have already been completed. From this list, Mr. Minotti prepared the 5 year plan, which highlights the projects that need to be addressed right away. Some of the items have been completed, so the new total is \$38,275,000. There was a discussion regarding ADA compliance on the buildings without repairs and being grandfathered in not having to meet certain requirements.

Mr. Pirritano stated they should determine the schools that are going to be around in the foreseeable future and designate those schools to be renovated and upgraded. He mentioned the elementary schools that are attached to the middle schools should be added to the list of designated schools to remain open. The summer renovations for 2014 are scheduled and he would like to give the administration a direction for renovation projects for the 2014-15 school year.

Mr. Morris suggested two plans that involved Poquessing, Ferderbar, Lower South and Tawanka. Mr. Minotti confirmed Tawanka holds 425 students and has 25 classrooms, Lower South and Ferderbar currently have over 900 students. Mr. Pirritano stated the Ad Hoc committee was not looking to close a middle school, but had asked the administration to look into a 5-8 model to increase efficiency.

Mr. Copeland suggested that the Ad Hoc committee give a suggestion to the board to vote so the administration can move forward with a plan for renovations and consolidation. There was a discussion about the plan which closed 3 elementary schools and added on to Buck, but moving 5th grade into the middle schools would no longer require an addition to Buck. The goal for consolidation was to not only increase utilization, but to deliver the best

educational plan in the most efficient manner, limit redistricting and generate savings. It was determined closing a middle school would create a transportation issue and increase the number of bus runs. It was agreed the goal should be to reduce the amount of redistricting necessary to all grade level students.

Mr. Copeland stated full day kindergarten can fit into the existing elementary schools but it does not do anything to increase underutilization at the middle schools. Mr. Shubin requested an educational plan to move 5th grade in the middle schools. There was a discussion regarding isolating 5th and 6th graders but Mr. Copeland mentioned his concern for isolation and suggested that once 5th through 8 grade schools could be seen operating you will get a different feel than what is portrayed now.

A member of the public commented if a middle school was closed, Sandburg would be ideal since Poquessing had just been renovated. Mr. Morris responded that the growing vacancy in the next few years will be near Poquessing. There was a discussion about the new development being built near Poquessing and that there are over 1000 elementary students in the Lower South area.

Mr. Pirritano took a vote to pursue investigating the closure of a middle school. Mr. Rudy, Mr. Sposato and Mr. Pirritano all voted no.

Mr. Copeland suggested the board stick with their original timeline from last year. If a decision could be made by October or November the necessary steps could be implemented by the spring.

3. Redistricting

Mr. Minotti presented a map with recommended redistricting changes for the middle schools. He pointed out a small area that should be redistricted to Sandburg (Twin Oaks, currently going to Maple Point). Mr. Copeland suggested moving the students who go to Maple Point from Schweitzer to Sandburg instead. Mr. Minotti suggested leaving the neighborhoods in tack and not splitting them into 2 different schools. Mr. Pirritano asked for a few more scenarios to smooth out the oddities with minimalized bus rides to reduce transportation costs.

Mr. Copeland recommended that the Ad Hoc committee make a decision to present to the board for the next meeting. If the decision includes redistricting, the students and community should be made aware prior to going into the next school year. If there is a student in 5th grade selected to be redistricted they will have the option to stay at their school for the 5th grade year if they choose to transport themselves. Mr. Congdon suggested the same for an 8th grader who would be redistricted.

A member from the public questioned if the committee could consider putting a smaller elementary school on the Maple Point property. Mr. Congdon responded the board was looking to reduce the number of elementary schools from 8 to 6. He acknowledged the need for upgraded schools for our students and faculty, providing classrooms with more than one outlet.

A member of the public asked when we would tell the students and staff about the Federbar redistricting. Mr. Shubin confirmed there would be a decision by the May meeting and an announcement at that time, if necessary.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, April 21, at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA**

FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE

**Monday, April 21, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – Board Room**

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Cabinet Consultant

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

Others in attendance:

Mr. Scott Congdon, Board President
Ms. Irene Boyle, Board Vice President
Mr. Mark Shubin, Board Member
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator
Mr. Don Harm, Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Mr. Paul Minotti, Director of Facilities
Four members of the Public

The Facilities Ad Hoc Meeting was called to order at 7:19 by Mr. Pirritano.

1. Review of the Facilities / Finance Meeting Minutes- April 7,2014:

Mr. Pirritano welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes from the April 7 meeting, there were none.

2. Redistricting:

Mr. Minotti presented a plan that includes redistricting 2N and 2O on the census grid which includes 72 students that currently go to Schweitzer. These students currently attend Maple Point and they will now go to Sandburg. Mr. Minotti explained that the redistrict would save 15 minutes in drive time. Sandburg's current enrollment would increase to 587 and Maple Point's enrollment would decrease to around 900. Mr. Copeland stated that if a 5-8 model is decided, the students would not be redistricted twice. The elementary redistrict of students from Ferderbar to Lower South may result in a double redistrict if a new school is built. Mr. Copeland added that if a student is going into 5th or 8th grade, they may finish their final year at a particular school if the parents agree to transport the student.

Mr. Rudy presented a handout that summarized the Spieziele study. There was a discussion on the handout.

Mr. Pirritano requested an overview of the Ferderbar to Lower South redistricting. Mr. Minotti pointed out 8K (on the census grid) being moved permanently from Ferderbar to Lower South. Mr. Harm concluded there would be enough space if all of the 5th graders asked to stay. Mr. Copeland suggested a vote at the Board meeting in May or latest June.

Mr. Minotti has a team working on getting a more accurate cost for renovations at Hoover and the Sandburg/Schweitzer, Poquessing/ Ferderbar complexes. Mr. Copeland suggested the board take a look at two very old pools at Sandburg and Poquessing, since there is plenty of space at the high school for a new swimming facility. Mr. Minotti confirmed the cost of running the current pools and that new pools have an energy efficient system. Mr. Shubin requested an ROI on closing the two pools.

Mr. Copeland suggested the board give a price per square foot they are willing to spend on renovations and an architect can provide what that will yield, or provide the Board with the square footage rate for renovation and they can decide what areas to renovate. Mr. Minotti explained that the Poquessing renovation cost \$5.5

million. The architect came up with suggested renovations and when it was complete, that it was about 75% renovated.

Mr. Rudy explained that the 90 million of renovation costs are out of proportion and once the projects go to bid, they will come in substantially lower. Mr. Minotti confirmed the estimated costs do not include any soft costs which are permit and engineering fees, so expect an additional 15-20% on top. Mr. Rudy requested a tour of each building; Mr. Minotti explained the older buildings contain trenches where the majority of the problems are located.

Mr. Pirritano requested an update on the 5-8 model. Mr. Copeland explained there was a kick-off meeting, there are multiple guest speakers, tours are being scheduled and work assignments are being disbursed. It is the administration's job to portray what the 5-8 model will look like in Neshaminy, and the Board will have to decide if they would like to do it or not. There should be a solid body of evidence by September or October, and November until the end of February will be used to devise a final plan.

Mr. Pirritano stated that if we choose to keep all the schools and add the full day kindergarten, space will be tight. Mr. Copeland explained that next year we are okay, as long as we do the Ferderbar move, and the numbers are still projected to go down, even with full day kindergarten. Mr. Pirritano requested the administration to propose a scenario where 3 schools are closed and 1 opened with and without the 5-8 model. Mr. Copeland stated that he would request a timeline from Mr. Profy and a construction schedule.

3. Public Comment:

There was no further public comment.

4. Next Meeting:

The Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 7th at 7:15 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA

FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday May 7, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – LGI Room

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Facilities Ad Hoc Committee:

Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Cabinet Consultant:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

Others in attendance:

Mr. Scott Congdon, Board Member
Mr. John Allen, Board Member
Mr. Mike Morris, Board Member
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator
Mr. Don Harm, Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Mr. Paul Minotti, Director of Facilities
Mrs. Judy Brown, Principal of Ferderbar
Mr. Scott Downie, Spiegle Architectural Group
Mr. Rick Evans, Reynolds Construction
Forty seven members of the Public

The Facilities Ad Hoc Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

1. Review of the Facilities Ad Hoc Meeting Minutes- April 21, 2014:

Mr. Pirritano welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes from the April 21st meeting, there were none.

2. Redistricting - Mr. Don Harm:

- **Elementary - Ferderbar to Lower Southampton
Census Zone 8K**
- **Middle School - Maple Point to Sandburg
Census Zone 2O and 2N**

Mr. Harm gave an overview of 5 redistricting options for the Ferderbar students in census zone 8K for the upcoming school year. Option 1 kept all the current students at Ferderbar, converted four spaces for classroom use and increased FTE's by 3.5. Option 2 kept all current students at Ferderbar, sister schooled new registrants, converted one space for classroom use and increased FTE's by .5. Option 3 redistricted students from census zone 8K to Lower Southampton Elementary, allowing for the technology lab to be recreated and decreased FTE's by 2.5. Option 4 redistricted students from census zone 8K to Lower Southampton Elementary, with the exception of Grade 5 and siblings, allowing for the technology lab to be recreated and decreased FTE's by 1.5. Option 5 redistricted students from census zone 8K to Lower Southampton Elementary, with the exceptions of Grade 4 & 5, and grades 5's siblings, allowing for the technology lab to be recreated and decreased FTE's by 1.5.

Mr. Copeland added that the facilities and transportation costs have not been figured into any of the proposed options. Mr. Minotti reported the cost to move and set up 6 double trailer classrooms was \$109,635, not including any plumbing.

A member of the public questioned Lower South accommodating the 76 students with their current staff. Mr. Harm clarified that the student population at Lower South would increase by 5-10 students from the current student population. Depending on full day kindergarten and what option the board chooses, one FTE may need to be added.

A member of the public questioned why the census code 8K was chosen to be redistricted. Mr. Minotti explained geographically it was closer for busing, and contained the optimal number of students per grade. The apartment complexes were evaluated, however some complexes contained a total of 10 students, too few to impact the redistricting.

A member of the public questioned moving 5th grade to Poquessing for the upcoming school year. Mr. Harm confirmed that Poquessing would be able to accommodate 5th grade. Mr. Copeland offered the administration to look at a 5-8 middle school at Poquessing, but expressed caution about moving too quickly. The Ad Hoc committee agreed to the administration looking into that option.

3. Renovations - Cost and Planning - Mr. Paul Minotti:

- **Mr. Scott Downie, Spiezie Architectural Group, Inc.**
- **Mr. Rick Evans, Reynolds Construction Manager**

Mr. Rick Evans gave an overview of PA Act 39, Construction Procurement Methodology for PA public schools which is a design build process for facilities that are in need of infrastructure upgrades. The contract is a fixed price that includes soft costs, design and construction management. There are guaranteed savings associated with each project, which can be used to pay for the project. Mr. Copeland explained the benefits of a design build process vs the typical school construction process being reliant on low bid. Mr. Evans explained that they scope the project to upgrade certain components of the building that will not require the entire building to be brought up to code, and will not have brand new finishes throughout.

Mr. Evans confirmed Reynolds would not be in control of the systems. There was a discussion about the 5 facilities on the list for renovations and the \$23 million estimated cost to renovate utilizing Reynold's program. It was discussed that the complex schools (Sandburg, Schweitzer, Ferderbar and Poquessing), and Hoover being the largest elementary, most likely would not be closed. Mr. Minotti suggested renovating Hoover since it requires multiple repairs.

4. Other Items:

Mr. Harm explained the net result of the redistrict of census zones 2O and 2N, going to Sandburg Middle, with the exception of 8th graders, would increase one FTE at Sandburg. Mr. Harm recommended the board reconsider the redistricting of 2O and 2N when they make a decision on a 5-8 middle school model. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed with Mr. Harm's recommendation to not redistrict those zones at the current time.

Mr. Pirritano mentioned the Citizen's Committee recommendation of closing Heckman, Lower South, Samuel Everitt and building a new 900 seat school at Tawanka. Mr. Minotti confirmed there would need to be an addition put on Pearl Buck, and with a K-5 model the 900 seat new school would be very tight but a K-4 format would be sufficient. Mr. Downie mentioned the cost to renovate the Tawanka building to a 900 student facility would cost approximately \$26 million and the cost to build new was \$27 million. Mrs. Markowitz explained the bond rate has remained around 3.3%, the maximum borrowing capacity is between \$40 and \$45 million dollars.

5. Public Comment:

A member of the public questioned the enrollment at Poquessing and Ferderbar, and suggested flipping the schools. It was discussed the cost to change a middle school to an elementary school would be too expensive.

A member of the public questioned what the plan would be for properties of schools that are potentially going to be closed. Mr. Copeland explained the IU would be interested in renting other building space if Tawanka is not available. It was discussed that the money from the sale of Neshaminy Middle school is in the building fund, only to be spent on building infrastructure.

6. Next Meeting

The Next meeting will be Thursday, May 29th at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA

FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday May 29, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – Board Room

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Facilities Ad Hoc Committee:

Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy

Cabinet Consultant:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

Others in attendance:

Mr. John Allen, Board Member
Ms. Irene Boyle, Board Member
Mr. Mike Morris, Board Member
Mr. Don Harm, Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator
Mr. Paul Minotti, Director of Facilities
Mrs. Marie Wallace, Director of Food Service
Mr. Rick Evans, Reynolds Construction
Mr. Damion Spahr, Reynolds Construction
Mr. Scott Downie, Spiegle Architectural Group
Twenty five members of the Public

The Facilities Ad Hoc Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:23 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

1. Review of the Facilities Ad Hoc Meeting Minutes- May 7, 2014:

Mr. Pirritano welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes from the May 7 meeting, there were none.

2. Redistricting - Mr. Don Harm:

Mr. Harm distributed a decision brief handout with the Ferderbar redistricting proposal options and potential cost for each option. Option three, four, and five include some redistricting for census code 8K. Option one keeps all current students, requires an increase in staff by 3.5, and converts additional space into 4 classrooms. Option two sister schools new registrants and increases staff by .5 FTE. Mr. Harm explained Options four and five, included redistricting census code 8K to Lower Southampton Elementary, with an attendance exception for grades four and five and a possible sibling exception.

Mr. Pirritano questioned if Option four or five lessened the chance of being redistricted multiple times. Mr. Harm explained Option five gave an exception to grades 4 and 5 and siblings of grade 5, and he recommended this option. All the exceptions require parental transportation if chosen.

A member of the public questioned the number of additional staff members needed at Lower South if the redistricting takes place. Mr. Harm confirmed there is no need to increase staff members. Currently there are 23 classrooms and there will continue to be 23 classrooms after the redistricting.

Mr. Pirritano stated he favored Option 5. Mr. Rudy commented that Option 5 provides the most continuity. Mr. Pirritano and Mr. Rudy agreed to recommend Option 5 to the full Board. There were no additional comments from the other board members.

There was a discussion regarding concern for the families that are being pulled from Ferderbar.

3. Act 39 Proposal:

- **Mr. Rick Evans, Reynolds Construction Manager**
- **Mr. Damion Spahr, Reynolds Construction**

Mr. Damion Spahr gave an overview of the feasibility approach to renovating buildings, the ACT 39 approach to renovating buildings, and how Reynolds delivers projects. Mr. Evans provided additional details of the pros and limitations of the ACT 39 proposal. The concept provides guaranteed savings and includes one contract, with a fixed price and no change orders. Savings are achieved on several fronts including energy efficiencies, reducing the length of the project, reducing the number of ADA compliance items, and the design build methodology.

Mr. Evans reviewed a handout about a recently completed case study of East Juniata High School. Mr. Spahr pointed out that Hoover, Schweitzer / Sandburg, and Ferderbar / Poquessing do not require significant programmatic changes and fit the profile for Act 39 renovations. He presented a suggested list of upgrades for Herbert Hoover Elementary and cost for the renovations.

A member of the public questioned if all of the buildings could be included in the proposal from Reynolds Construction. Mr. Spahr explained the 5 buildings were selected because they met certain criteria, however all buildings were evaluated. Mr. Rudy requested a copy of the evaluation.

There was a discussion about guaranteed savings and how Reynolds monitors the program.

There was another discussion regarding the site planning work Spiegle completed at Tawanka site and the pros and cons of running simultaneous projects.

4. Other Items:

There were no other items.

5. Public Comment:

There was no further public comment

6. Next Meeting

The Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 24 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA**

FACILITIES AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Tuesday, June 24, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Maple Point Middle School – Board Room**

The following Facilities Ad Hoc Committee persons were in attendance:

Facilities Ad Hoc Committee:

Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Anthony Sposato

Cabinet Consultant:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools

Others in attendance:

Mr. John Allen, Board Member
Mr. Mike Morris, Board Member
Mr. Don Harm, Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator
Mr. Paul Minotti, Director of Facilities
Mrs. Marie Wallace, Director of Food Service
Mr. Rick Evans, Reynolds Construction
Mr. Damion Spahr, Reynolds Construction
Mr. Scott Downey, Spiezle Architectural Group
Mr. Thomas J Profy, III Esquire

Thirty five members of the Public

The Facilities Ad Hoc Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano.

1. Review of the Facilities Ad Hoc Meeting Minutes- May 29, 2014:

Mr. Pirritano welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes from the May 29th meeting, there were none.

2. Review of Enrollment Options - Mr. Don Harm:

Mr. Harm briefly discussed that moving elementary students into middle school space, from Schweitzer into Sandburg and Lower South into Poquessing, would not be optimal because some spaces are not conducive to classroom instruction every period. There was a discussion about total classroom space and classroom space for learning support, adding modular classrooms and redistricting.

A member of the public expressed concern about mixing elementary school students with middle school students and consolidating grade levels within buildings.

3. Recommendation of Energy Audit Firm-Mr. Paul Minotti:

Mr. Minotti gave an overview of the RFQ process for the Act 39 (ESCO) project, and reviewed the results. Two of the firms required a contract and fee for the initial audit. Reynolds Construction was not going to charge for the initial audit. Mr. Minotti recommended Reynolds Construction as the firm to elect for the Act 39 project.

Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Rudy and Mr. Sposato agreed to recommend to the full board Reynolds Construction for the Act 39 project.

Mr. Rick Evans stated an investment grade audit would be performed on the 5 identified buildings, and an additional audit would be performed on the other facilities. A report will be provided to the board in August as to where those facilities fit into the Act 39 process.

4. Architect's Report on School Consolidation- Mr. Scott Downey:

Mr. Downy presented a handout of an overview of what consolidation looks like from an architect's perspective. The roadmap included steps to close a school (Everitt was discussed), relocating the Intermediate Unit, the guaranteed savings energy program from Reynolds construction , the potential new 900 student elementary building, the 5th through 8th grade configuration, an addition to Buck Elementary and the closing of 2 additional schools. There was a discussion about construction scheduling and the importance of deciding on a grade configuration in a timely manner.

There was a discussion about the space needed at Buck Elementary if the current grade configuration is continued. The cost per square foot for an addition and new construction was discussed. There were also discussions about the energy savings from the Act 39 process and when those savings will be realized.

Mr. Pirritano suggested starting the various processes immediately, but expressed concern about getting to a point of no return. Mr. Copeland clarified with the Act 39 process the point of no return would be borrowing funds through a bond issue. There was a discussion about the timeframe of issuing a bond, the construction schedule, and the optimal point to being able to attain the funds.

Mr. Pirritano took a vote of the committee to move the school consolidation proposal to the full board. Mr. Sposato and Mr. Pirritano voted yes, Mr. Rudy voted no.

5. Other Items:

There were no other items.

6. Public Comment:

There was no further public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. by Mr. Pirritano