

The Rockbridge County School Board held a special meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021. The meeting was held at Maury River Middle School.

Present: Chairman Wendy Lovell; Trustees Corey Berkstresser, Kathy Burant, Heather Hostetter, and Neil Whitmore; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Clerk Rhonda Humphries.

Board of Supervisors Members Present: Leslie Ayers, R.W. Day, D.E. Lyons, and David McDaniel; Spencer Suter, County Administrator and Clerk to Board. Absent: A.J. Lewis, II

CALL TO ORDER

School Board Chairman Lovell called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Chairman Lovell expressed her appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for their interest in the renovation at Floyd S. Kay Vocational Technical Center.

Rockbridge County Schools Division Wide Feasibility Study Addendum

Superintendent Thompson stated that the board has reviewed Rockbridge County High School and Floyd S. Kay Vocational Technical for several years. The Executive Committee met over the summer. As a result of this meeting, RCPS met with Quinn Evans to update cost figures from the A & E Study.

Mr. Spencer Suter, County Administrator, stated that the Executive Committee had good conversation and that this full meeting for both Boards is the next logical step.

Mr. Randy Walters, Chief Operations Officer, presented the Rockbridge County School Division Wide Feasibility Study Addendum by Quinn Evans. The report included the following:

Program Survey (existing uses)

- Program Assessment
- Facility Assessment
- Stakeholder Survey
- Recommendations: the recommendations included Building Recommendations for the Floyd S. Kay Vocational and Technical Center, Levels of Renovation (light renovation, moderate renovation, heavy renovation), Phasing Recommendations which includes a projected timeline
- Project Cost Scenario that includes amounts based on current and historic knowledge construction market conditions as of July 2021 and are projected to the anticipated midpoint of construction at Fall 2023, which bidding in Fall 2022. [\$7,700,000]
- Supervisor McDaniel inquired of the 7.7 million, he asked for two clarifications: 1) has the HVAC and roof already been done?; 2) what percentage would be Lexington City?
 - Mr. Walters responded that the Quinn Evans Study determined that the square footage added would be enough, the remodel would remain the same, but really no definitive answer.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the Lexington percentage changes and stated that last year it was 17% with an estimate of 15% this year. The appropriate funding percentages for Lexington City will be determined.
- Supervisor Lyons inquired if the architects are working on a percentage or fixed fee.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that this will be part of the bid process and will be included in the RFP for architects.
 - Supervisor Lyons asked what RCPS was doing to ensure students and parents understand the value of the classes being offered in Floyd S. Kay and through the CTE track.
- Superintendent Thompson stated that the building was built in the 1970's and there has been a stigma about going into the building. The updated programs and finishes to the building will make it more appealing to stakeholders, knowing that staff need to "sell their product" to students.
- Supervisor Lyons suggested that administration and teachers stress the importance of career technical education to students as he feels it didn't get the push when the building and programs were originally built. There have been conscious changes to the CTE program and community needs to be made aware.
 - Trustee Berkstresser shared his perception of reaching out to local businesses who have staff who went through the program and are successful in the community, to share their story.

- Trustee Burant reflected that the programs can attract students with all types of interest, while noting that STEM programs are so active right now, as well as the medical program. The programs can aid students to work and gain extra training to go to community colleges.
- Chairman Lovell stated that the students and interest are already there.
- Superintendent Thompson stated that Work Base Coordinator has begun as a part-time position with hopes to make it full-time beginning the 2022-2023 school year.
- Mr. Paige Owens, Director of Technology and Career and Technology Education, stated that there have been CTE Fairs, work fairs at Maury River Middle School and at the Virginia Horse Center in coordination with the Chamber of Commerce. This has enabled the middle school students to see what is happening with the CTE programs.
- Supervisor McDaniel stated that he feels it would be beneficial to mandate that a student have one CT credit.
 - Chairman Lovell stated that in order to do that for each student, the building would have to be larger.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that it is now part of the sixth grade career portfolio. It is desired to add credentialing to the high school diploma.
- Trustee Hostetter expressed her sentiment that it is important to impress on students that even college bound students that CTE is a great opportunity and that the programs are open to all students.
- Supervisor McDaniel stated that there is debt service going off so it will not be an impact on taxpayers. He also noted that are other projects in Rockbridge County that need to be considered. He inquired if there has been any discussion with Lexington City regarding the renovation.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that there is an AD HOC meeting coming up soon and will be discussed. He reiterated that the Rockbridge County School Board is not ready to ask for the entire amount of a renovation project now but rather the ask would be \$725,000 for the A & E search to begin.
 - Supervisor McDaniel expressed his sentiments that he doesn't want to waste \$725,000 not knowing what the total cost will be and that the timeline could enter into the financial impact. He stated that he feels the members of the Board of Supervisors need to meet and discuss this request.
 - Trustee Berkstresser inquired if another study needs to be done.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the architects will provide build drawings, and tweaking what is already in the previous feasibility study that was conducted two years ago.
- Supervisor McDaniel shared his concern of a 25 year loan and the building has been there 50 years. The reality is that the building can't be changed but can be modified and change classrooms to meet the needs of new technology.
- Supervisor Ayers inquired how responsive the study is to employees and future industries; i.e. planning for tomorrow only or the future in twelve years. She also inquired if the building site is land-locked.
 - Trustee Burant stated that flexible space is vital to allow programs to change.
 - Chairman Lovell stated that there are space limitations.
- Mr. Suter stated that it would be beneficial for the fire, EMT instructor to have flexible classroom space.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that there certainly could be an EMT classroom with flexible classroom space.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Whitmore and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Wendy W. Lovell
Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman

Rhonda B. Humphries
Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board