

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE MARSHALL BOARD OF  
EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021 AT 6:00 PM  
VIRTUALLY @ [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo\\_Dw2K8ptX5eFKauouPJZQ/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo_Dw2K8ptX5eFKauouPJZQ/)

PRESENT: LINDSEY, NICHOLSON, MIDDLETON, WILLIAMS, M. DAVIS,  
GAMBLE, LANKDERD, DAVIS, JONES

GUESTS: Facility Needs Assessment Committee Members: Alec Egnatuk, Paul Egnatuk, Mark Lelle and Joanna Tarkiewicz. Principal, Architect, Community Practice Leader Jim Horman of Progressive AE working with Albion College, and MPS Athletic Director Dan Coddens

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Lindsey. A moment of silence was observed.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Secretary Middleton.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Lankerd, supported by Williams, that the agenda be approved as presented. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Lindsey called for any members of the virtual audience to address the Board.

Garrett Brown asked that education issues be resolved at the elementary school in Albion; that both communities need to be involved in the potential bond discussion; and that Albion College President Dr. Johnson's proposal should be strongly considered.

**BOARD TOPIC – BOARD REVIEW OF POTENTIAL BOND**

Superintendent Davis introduced guests in attendance that will participate in the meeting. He shared that a binder of information related to a potential bond serves as a backdrop demonstrating the work that has occurred thus far. Each board member received a binder and was asked to review it and take in its contents. The purpose of this meeting is to answer questions, seek board members' position on a bond and to determine how to move forward. He indicated a new bond is needed in the next few years. He reviewed a list of the top priorities gathered from the FNAC, the four forums and parent surveys.

President Lindsey lead the discussion through the identified topics and polled each board member along the way to determine their position on a potential bond.

Considerations were discussed and comments/thoughts were provided as follows:

- The FNAC will need to meet again.
- 1) Need for a new bond in next few years.
    - A new bond in the next 1-3 years is needed.

- There does not seem to be a well formulated plan.
  - Collaborations need to be explored.
  - Timing of going for a bond is crucial.
  - Go for a bond sooner rather than later. Costs will only escalate over time.
  - A bond is needed, it is not a matter of not keeping up with what the district needs, it's because the district has grown.
  - Seeking a bond needs to move forward for sure.
  - Given the current situation with the pandemic it will be hard to meet with groups to help explain the need of a new bond.
  - The district's strategic plan needs to be completed before moving forward.
- 2) What is the maximum amount you would ask voters to approve?
- It seems a lot of things could be taken care through other means rather than through a bond as there are things that need to be taken care of now.
  - Equal amounts should be spent in each community.
  - Some folks will be sticker shocked by the amount of money needed.
  - Do not agree that equal amounts need to be spent in each community, need to act as one school district.
- 3) When do you think we should call the bond election (08/21, 11/21, 05/22, later in 2022, later in 2023).
- Not in support of an August 2021 bond vote; could maybe support it being on the November 2021 ballot or on a ballot early in 2022.
  - August 2021 bond vote may be too soon, November 2021 election may be better.
  - An August 2021 bond vote would allow for the proposed new elementary school to be built and ready for the start of the school year; a November 2021 vote would put the opening of the school to be halfway through the year.
  - A November 2021 bond vote makes sense.
- 4) Albion College offer of collaboration.
- Albion College offered land adjacent to its Washington Gardner Center as a potential build site for the new elementary school in Albion.
  - A few architectural renderings were offered with the school building being two to three stories high.
  - The proximity to the college would allow for ease in having one-to-one mentoring if not two Albion College students to every one student at the elementary school.
  - K-5 students connecting and having a support structure is a direct connect with higher learning and proximity matters.
  - The district would need to own the land in order to build on it using bond funding.
  - Building vertical is more costly than building horizontal in the case of an elementary school.
  - Approximate size and costs need to be made available.
  - The partnership sounds great.
  - Such a collaboration would be great if it is affordable.
  - Conceptually it is okay but prefers an elementary be built on the Watson Street campus or the Crowell campus.

- Would outdoor space be limited at the downtown location being suggested by the college?
- 5) Current vision of the Watson St. campus.
- The current vision is that it be a location for non-traditional learners.
  - Collaborating with Kellogg Community College and the Career Center to offer certification in manufacturing skills.
  - The building has a legacy that folks want preserved.
  - The community values the building and continues to have access to it.
  - The scope of what needs to be done to the building needs to be pared down.
  - Essentials (simply mechanical) needs at the Marshall Opportunity High School total \$11.8M.
- 6) Proposed athletic facilities upgrades.
- \$16M needed for athletic enhancements at Marshall High School.
  - This would benefit the community and would provide all students opportunities.
  - An auxiliary gymnasium would allow for athletic practices to end sooner.
  - The enhancements to the facility would provide equity between girls and boys athletics.
  - Enhancements to athletics is positive to add to the mix.
  - Seems like a lot of money when compared to education.
  - Athletics is more than playing a game.
  - Makes the district more appealing.
  - Definite advantages to adding an auxiliary gym.
  - Athletics is a large part of high school experience; support it for sure.
  - Would like to see the district explore a community partnership with the city or other partners; make the auxiliary gym a recreational center; have an indoor walking track.
  - Not completely convinced about it.
  - Not sure, vacillate for and against; are there other things that may need to be done more importantly?
  - Not in favor of the full \$16M.
  - What is the long-term strategy for athletics?
  - Would support the auxiliary gym but would like to see the two gyms next to each other.
  - Would it be possible to place a tunnel under the parking lot to access the building?
  - The auxiliary gym was seen as an equity thing because of student practice times.
- 7) Current adjustments to the 12 proposed “buckets”.
- Buckets as follows: technology, essentials at MHS, new elementary school, four additional classrooms, furniture, music, MOHS, auxiliary gym, athletics at MHS, Hughes Elementary needs, baseball field at MHS.
  - The top four buckets identified by the FNAC were the same four identified from feedback from the forums and the parent survey.
- 8) Combined weighted averages and prioritizing remaining proposed “buckets.”
- Comfortable with the priority of the buckets as presented.

- Would like to see the amount needed for MOHS reduced.
- Much voter education needs to occur.
- Is there enough time to educate voters for a November 2021 bond vote?
- A new elementary school in Albion was the very first item that was settled on.
- Athletics will be an important piece to getting a bond vote passed.
- Neighboring districts have better athletic complexes; the district has a long way to catch up.
- Add air-conditioning for the middle school.

9) Finale decision on moving forward.

- \$54M was the original cost, will work to reduce it to \$40M; the core team can do this quickly.
- Get the biggest bang for the buck.
- Invest for the future.
- What is known about foundations and donors that may be willing to help?
- Think of uses for the auxiliary gym that are outside the box.
- What are the costs for the proposed elementary Albion College is suggesting?
- Let's see what \$40M will cover.
- Like changes reflected in the meeting.
- Have students' input been sought, if not it needs to be. Survey them to get their thoughts.
- Need a long-term funding plan.
- Feedback from the Albion community about a new elementary school and the Marshall Opportunity High School.
- Disheartening to read some of the survey comments. Need to talk about equity, what that looks like, and how it plays out in the district.
- We are one district serving all students and their needs regardless of what zip codes they come from.

President Lindsey asked Superintendent Davis and Director of Business Operations to work to pull together what a bond package of \$40M would include.

Superintendent Davis indicated he was encouraged by the alignment that has developed throughout the meeting by the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Lindsey called for any members of the virtual audience to address the Board. There were none.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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LISA MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

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KIMBERLY VANWORMER, RECORDING SECRETARY