



Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

May 11th, 2022

Meeting called to order at 10:33am by Earl Thompson

Roll call attendance: Earl Thompson-present; Tracy Furlong-present; Maria Rector-present. Those present from the library: Jenna Diedrich, Craig Albaugh, and Rachel Lenstra. Charles Holmes excused. Those present from Galena Unit School District: Tim Vincent, Nikki Frank, Mike Hyland.

Discussion of GUSD's Future Use of Bus Lot

Introductions made between school board members and library board members. Vincent gave a brief overview of a meeting between Vincent and Diedrich. Vincent had also given Diedrich a tour of the primary school. Plans for the renovations of the middle school were explained and the future plan of the transportation lot that is currently used for the school buses. Vincent made clear that this meeting is purely exploratory; a brainstorming session between the facility committees of both boards.

Thompson requested further clarification on the future plans for the primary school. Vincent discussed district offices, daycare opportunities, tech shop, culinary room. The current blueprints for the primary school is concept-driven and not final. Frank discussed GUSD sending students to CTE. The renovations to primary school could possibly create opportunities for GUSD students to stay in Galena rather than travel to CTE. Diedrich explained that the library would not be able to utilize the full 33,000 square feet of the primary school. The current needs of the library require around 12,000 sq ft; with 15,000 being discussed to allow for additional growth in the far future. Discussion turned to the timeline of renovations, moving students to the renovated K-8, and the future of the high school. Vincent shared documents including preliminary plans for primary school and the transportation lot.

Frank requested background information on the library, what its needs are, and current limitations. Diedrich outlined space constraints for collections, programming, fire code for different areas of the library, historical room, archival room, and storage issues. Thompson reminded of parking issues and location. Locals are not using the library as much as before, they do not want to maneuver downtown with the increased tourism. Hyland inquired about security issues such as secure entrance and line of sight.

Vincent highlighted that GUSD is 30% too small for industry standard and land locked. GUSD is hesitant to giving up space unless it is beneficial to the district and its students. Having the library on school campus creates program opportunities for the community and students. After-school programming opportunities are intriguing. Educational opportunities are also present as GUSD does not have a librarian on staff. Shared resources would be a benefit as well. Rector and Frank discussed how having a library on school campus takes the reliability off of parents. Students would be able to get to the library safely when parents and caregivers are not able to bring them. Increases the accessibility to underserved populations.

Hyland discussed the library's ability to take over the entire primary school building. The attraction of a new school building with a state-of-the-art public library would be a plus to the community. Partnering with an additional organization, such as a daycare, to utilize space unneeded by the library could create a revenue source.

Discussion shifted to the library's perspective, provided by Thompson. Thompson stated the library needs to identify a practical goal, define what the option(s) are, and figuring the funding, tax base to pay for a larger space well into the future, and the future use of the library building. Frank inquired whether other locations are being looked at. Rector stated that other options are being researched, but not other locations. Diedrich informed that additional locations are slim.

Discussion on creating a campus that includes both the school district and the public library. Hyland finds this option to be a very positive possibility for the community and to attract people to move here. To allow for growth and expansion sets the library up for future success. A large space, such as the primary schools, provides an abundance of square feet that will allow for long-range expansion.

Albaugh inquired whether the land/building would be available to the library for purchase, donation, or leased. Decisions regarding selling, leasing, donating land has yet to be discussed. GUSD is focused on the renovation of the middle school. Frank inquired on Diedrich's thoughts on renovation of primary school versus a new build on the transportation lot. Vincent and Albaugh confirmed on what the transportation lot would be included. The lot in question, could be expanded from the 24,000 sq. ft flat portion that the buses currently sit on, to the lines of the driveway and parking lot. Vincent thought that the current detention pond would go along with the lot, not be kept by GUSD.

Frank stated her overall excitement at the possibility of GUSD and the library partnering for the betterment of the community. Hyland suggested to keep the primary school building as an option. Vincent provided the greenlight for the library to explore utilizing the primary school building or the transportation lot as options for a new library.

Thompson adjourned the meeting at 11:31am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenna Diedrich
Library Director