

## E-SPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** November 12, 2019 9:00 am at 145 Paradise Blvd.

**Attendees:** Alex Sams      Smith Wilson      Lara Mathes      Mike Waldrip      Rick Parker  
Nancy Hart      Andrew Malec      Alison Wright      Deborah Lonon      Tawana Mattox  
Patricia Yager      Demond Means      Dexter Fisher      John Gilbreath      Troy Bassett  
Gerald Arscott

**Staff Reports:** Copies of the following were distributed:

- October, 2019 Meeting Summary
- November, 2019 SPLOST Monthly Report
- November, 2019 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- November, 2019 Construction Schedule
- September, 2019 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend
- September, 2019 SPLOST 5 Financials
- September, 2019 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections

The Meeting Summary for the October 8, 2019 meeting was corrected by the addition of, “recommending a commercial **appraisal** of the Milledge...” within the Board HQ item.

Alex Sams introduced Kim Ness, CMS PTA President and Julie Caldwell, TRES Parent.

**Clarke Middle School:** Kim Ness noted that she was aware of the recent change that the \$10m initially allocated to Clarke Middle School in E-SPLOST 5 has been re-instated, by removing the BOE Headquarters project from E-SPLOST 5. She expressed her willingness and that of the PTA to be engaged in discussion concerning the future of the school.

John Gilbreath explained the Local Building Committee process that is used when commencing work on a school project. That process begins with a review of the building systems appraisal regarding the state of systems such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, roofs etc. together with the requirements of the school regarding the programming needs of the educational and support areas. Projected student enrollment is also a factor. An initial meeting is held with the Principal and teaching staff. Subsequent public meetings are held with parents and school staff to capture the expectations and wishes of those present and the architect begins to incorporate these in preliminary designs. Through a process of normally three or four meetings a design for the school is developed. It was through this process that BHL and Coile grew from building renovations of \$10m to more extensive projects of \$16/17m. It was now envisioned that this would also be the case with Clarke Middle, and likely mean that building a new school would be more appropriate, with the likely total cost being in the order of \$30m.

The intention is that meetings with the school will begin shortly, with the wider meetings with the school community being in January. It was suggested that meetings should also be held with the Principals of the feeder schools for Clarke Middle.

A letter to the COC from CMS student, Vivian Carabello was circulated.

Attention was drawn to E-SPLOST information recently presented to the school board and which can now be viewed on the E-SPLOST website: <https://www.clarke.k12.ga.us/Page/184>

**Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary:** This project is now complete. A closing report will be submitted to the November CCSD Board Meeting. A sum was deducted from the contractor’s final payment for landscaping issues. Work will be done to rectify this next spring. This project will now be removed from the COC agenda.

**Coile/BHL:** BHL is complete and final payment has been made to the contractor. A closing report will be submitted to the November CCSD Board Meeting. BHL will be removed from the COC agenda.

At Coile there is an area which was used by the contractor for storage and has not been effectively re-instated. When this has been rectified the project will be complete and final payment made.

New exterior playfield scoreboards have been installed at BHL, WR Coile and Hilsman.

**Hilsman:** The County has advised that there is a further delay with the installation of the traffic signals. Poles will be installed over the Thanksgiving break and the full traffic signal and crossing lights will be installed over Christmas. They should therefore be fully operational for the return of school in January. When the traffic signals are installed the crosswalk will be striped. In the meantime a Sheriff's Deputy is available morning and afternoon to assist with traffic flow. Punch list items are being completed and the remaining list is now small. The ribbon cutting on October 22 at 4.15pm for the Health Clinic and 5.00pm for the school was viewed as successful.

**Hilsman Health Clinic:** Work is complete and the Clinic is operational. Some punch list items are being addressed.

**CCHS Softball and Practice Field Improvements:** The project is complete. The final cost is approximately \$440,400. Managing the work directly through the SPLOST Department, supported by Plant Services, has saved over \$600,000 compared with the bids that were received.

**Cedar Shoals Gym and Locker Rooms:** The first stage, football locker rooms are complete. The second and third stages, comprising seasonal storage areas and the wrestling room are progressing well. The final costs for the Gym and Locker room project will be approximately \$450-\$500,000. The original budget for this work was \$350,000. Additional costs include new bleachers for the old gym, new varsity football lockers and new practice mats and wall padding for the wrestling room.

**Athletics Stadium Fields:** Different surfaces are being evaluated, which includes visits to school districts who have installed them, and the current plan is to go ahead with installation Spring/Summer 2020. Site plans for each school are being developed for an eight lane track and the consequential changes to bleachers, retaining walls etc. are being assessed. Purchase will be on the basis of state contracts. Further discussions will be held with each school before final decisions are made. It is anticipated that a report will go to the January CCSD Board meeting.

**Board HQ:** With the removal of the Board HQ from E-SPLOST 5 plans are being made to create additional space at HT Edwards for the Career Academy by moving some HQ staff to temporary buildings. Financial assistance to create a manufacturing lab has been offered by GA Power, Caterpillar and Carrier. The possibility of staff in the Whitehead Annex moving to Old Gaines is also being explored. This would free-up classroom space in the Annex for Whitehead Road.

**West Broad Campus:** Following Board approval for an Early Learning Center on Campbell Street and renovation of the historic building on Minor Street preliminary work has begun. The historic building will serve as a school based health clinic, student success center, community meeting room and a historical preservation area. Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental site inspections have been completed and indicate the presence of asbestos and lead paint. An initial budget of \$10m has been set. Contact has been established with Historic Athens to advise on the historic aspects of the project.

**School C:** School C was included in the SPLOST 4 referendum but, because of the economic down-turn was not pursued because of the difficulty in finding \$1m in operating costs from the General Fund. Instead of building School C other schools, such as Whitehead, Oglethorpe and Barnett Shoals were made larger to account for growth in the District. However, since construction of School "C" was on the referendum, the District is obligated to construct School "C". The District still owns the site of approximately 30 acres at West Vincent Drive and developers have been enquiring about the potential for sale.

**Transportation & Technology:** Dr. Means suggested that it could be helpful to the COC to have Mark Weaver, Director of Transportation and Taylor Duke, Director of Infrastructure Support Services present at a future meeting.

**COC Membership** – it was considered that additional new members would still be warranted, especially those with specific qualifications such as parents attending CCSD schools and those with connections with the construction industry.

**Financial Report** –The September E-SPLOST 5 sales tax was \$2.46m. This is the highest monthly sum ever received.

**Start Time of Meeting** – the start time of the meeting will be discussed next time.

**Future Meetings**

December 10<sup>th</sup>

January 14<sup>th</sup>

The meeting concluded at 10:55am.