

ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: December 14, 2021 8:30 am in HT Edwards, Heritage Conference Room and by virtual attendance.

Attendees:

Alex Sams	Nancy Hart	Rick Parker	Mike Waldrip	Andrew Malec
Erwin Greene	Tad MacMillan	Greg Davis	Linda Davis	Xernona Thomas
Dexter Fisher	John Gilbreath	Troy Basset	Gerald Arcscott	

Staff Reports: Copies of the following were distributed prior to the meeting:

- November, 2021 Meeting Summary
- December, 2021 SPLOST Monthly Report
- December, 2021 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- December, 2021 Construction Schedule
- October, 2021 SPLOST 5 Financials
- October, 2021 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections
- October, 2021 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend

West Broad Campus – A further meeting with the Superintendent will take place tomorrow to consider the options for the site

Early Learning at Old Gaines – The estimated cost of the works to enable Early Learning to occupy part of the building, in order to ensure that the grant is not lost, is \$2m. This is a high estimate due to uncertainty of current material supply and costs. Early Learning will occupy approximately 39,000 square feet of Old Gaines. The different areas of the school have different levels of renovation work to be completed. 15 scopes of work/bids are currently being advertised with return due on December 22. The plan is for SPLOST to manage the sub-contractors to reduce costs and to also avoid delays. Any bids in excess of \$50k will be reported to the BOE.

Board HQ: The final building inspection is set for tomorrow; a temporary certificate of occupation is anticipated. The move will commence on Saturday, December 18 and the plan is for it to be completed by December 23. Staff will therefore be in their new location upon return to work on January 3. The location for the next COC is uncertain due to furniture for the chapel not being delivered until January. **Watch carefully for location when the January COC agenda is issued.**

Clarke Middle School: A meeting was held with the Principal last week to further refine the plans. Meetings are scheduled with teachers on January 5 to talk through their specific space requirements. This is the normal process and will involve discussion with teachers by grade and one to one with specialists. The preferred design comprises one floor on the main level and three levels at the rear. The design is for 1100-1200 students, with pods of four classrooms per grade level. Covid issues are addressed by maximizing the fresh air intake and providing the highest filtration possible as allowed by the type of HVAC equipment. The clinic will have separate provisions to a higher standard. A meeting of the Local Building Committee is planned for the end of January/early February. Staff were encouraged to make this known to the wider community as far as possible. Reference was made to an agreement with the County Library re shared use of parking at the rear of the school, so this will need to be discussed with them in the context of the new building.

School C/Easom: Enrollment numbers continue to be monitored. The October figures, published by the Department of Education show elementary student numbers down, middle school numbers about the same and high school numbers higher. There is nothing to indicate the need for a new school at this time.

Cedar Shoals Field-House: An outline of the proposal was shown to the COC. The architect is working on the construction documents with a timeline of going out to bid in spring, 2022. The project can be funded from ESPLOST 5 as a result of the higher than anticipated revenue over recent months.

Early Learning Center Kitchen Extension: Work is continuing. There have been delays in the delivery of equipment and materials. It is anticipated that the regular serving line can be re-installed for service by early January 2022 and that the project will then be completed by March 1.

HT Edwards Culinary Kitchen: Once the Early learning center kitchen expansion is complete, the HT Edwards kitchen will then be converted to a culinary kitchen training facility. Details of what precisely is required is being developed with the Career Academy staff. Staff were urged to ensure that none of the historical elements of HT Edwards are disturbed and that the committee originally involved with retaining historical elements should be involved.

Facilities Review: A presentation is due to be made to the BOE which will provide an update on the remaining ESPLOST 5 projects and the program for ESPLOST 6. The remaining ESPLOST 5 construction program comprises completion of the BOE HQ, the ELC kitchen expansion, the Career Academy culinary kitchen, ELC Eastside at Old Gaines, West Broad, Cedar Shoals field house and \$10m provision for Clarke Middle (the balance required being from ESPLOST 6). There are also some systems renewal projects such as replacement of the fire alarm system at Chase.

Transportation & Technology: A report is being made to the BOE for the purchase of five 72 passenger propane powered buses and five 30 passenger gas powered buses. ESPLOST 5 will contribute \$500,000 to the overall cost of \$944,185. This will complete the ESPLOST 5 total contribution of \$2.5m to bus purchases.

COC Membership: Alex Sams encouraged a renewed effort to seek out candidates to join the Committee.

ESPLOST 6 – the next stage is the selling of \$75m in bonds in the Spring 2022. This enables the program to “jump start” some of the Tier 1 projects and not have to wait until enough monthly revenues are accumulated for projects to commence. ESPLOST 6 revenues begin to be collected in July, 2022. The bonds are reimbursed completely from ESPLOST 6 revenues.

Communication between the COC and BOE: Alex Sams had met with Dr. Gantt to further develop connections and Board Members will be encouraged to attend the COC.

Sales Tax Revenue: The October collection, received at the end of November, was \$2.756m, the highest figure ever.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

January 11, 2022 – **watch for information on the location.**

February 8, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.