

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting – March 20, 2024

The Grandview Heights Schools Board of Education met in special session in Room 2311 of Grandview Heights High School.

Call to Order: President Emily Gephart called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call	Members Present:	Members Absent:
	Eric Bode	
	Emily Gephart	
	Kevin Gusé	
	Katie Matney	
	Molly Wassmuth	

Committees/Liaisons

Superintendent Andy Culp and Treasurer Beth Collier discussed the current committee/liaison structure with the Board and the decision was made to keep the current assignments as follows:

- Superintendent Committees
 - Policy – Katie Matney, Kevin Gusé
 - Facilities – Eric Bode, Emily Gephart
 - Teacher and Learning – Kevin Gusé, Katie Matney
- Treasurer Committee
 - Finance – Eric Bode, Molly Wassmuth
- Liaisons
 - Start Talking Grandview – Kevin Gusé
 - Grandview Heights Marble Cliff Education Foundation – Kevin Gusé

Facilities

The Facility Advisory Committee, comprised of approximately 20 community members made a recommendation to the Board of Education on March 13, 2024 to proceed with a November, 2024 bond levy to rebuild Stevenson Elementary and to complete Phase 1 and 2 improvements to the Athletic Complex.

The Board discussed reflections from that meeting and next steps as follows:

Timing of New Project

Overall, the Board expressed their feelings that the Committee did a good job of capturing the pros and cons of a November, 2024 levy that were discussed in the committee meetings. While the focus was more on the whether the timing was right for a levy, rather than whether the project was needed, it was the belief of the Board that the Committee felt the need for the project was not a question. It was the unanimous belief of the committee that the improvements definitely needed to be done.

Continuation of Master Planning from 2017-2018

The Board discussed that in the planning of the 4-12 construction project back in 2017-2018, there was no athletic complex master plan at that time. The Financial Advisory Committee of community members believed it was most important to address the school buildings before addressing athletics. And, due to the cost projections at that time, the Committee recommended limiting the scope of that project to 4-12. The Committee made clear at that time that Stevenson Elementary would need to be addressed at a future time, but did not feel the community could support a project that included K-12 due to cost and affordability concerns. This explanation was included in the FAC's written report to the Board of Education at that time. The Board's current consideration of a levy to address Stevenson Elementary and the athletic complex is a continuation of that same plan from 2018.

Renovation Vs. New Stevenson Elementary

The Board discussed the reasoning for the plan to replace Stevenson, rather than renovate Stevenson. Due to the current design of Stevenson, which was built in the early 1900's, including the location of load-bearing walls, it would not be feasible or practical to renovate Stevenson in a way that could meeting the needs of 21st Century learning, including increasing the size of classrooms and providing collaboration spaces for students.

Cost Estimate

The estimated cost of building a new Stevenson Elementary and making Phase 1 and 2 improvements to the athletic complex is \$76.4 million. This cost includes estimated inflation to January, 2027, the estimated mid-point of construction if a bond levy is approved in November, 2024. The estimated millage is 7.82 mills, representing \$274 per \$100,000 of property valuation.

Communication

The Board discussed the need to establish a plan for communication with the community with the goal of making sure community members are informed and their voices are heard. The Board discussed their desire to host a public form to explain the process that has occurred and to hear feedback from community members.

Whether to Move Forward with Bond Levy in November, 2024

The Board discussed their feeling on moving forward with a November, 2024 levy, including the following considerations:

- There is definitely a need for the project.
- The planning process has been thorough and has included 3 different committees of community members providing feedback to the Board of Education: The Athletic Complex Master Planning Committee, the Stevenson Elementary Master Planning Committee, and the Facility Advisory Committee.
- There is concern around the cost being significantly higher than the 4-12 project, primarily due to unprecedented post-COVID construction inflation and the unprecedented demand for construction in central Ohio.
- While the cost is high, it will only continue to increase in the future.
- To provide additional perspective, the cost of the 4-12 project was as shocking to committee members and similar concerns around cost existed prior to that 2018 levy.
- The students and community have benefited greatly from the 4-12 project with the opportunities for students significantly enhanced. The belief is that there will be benefits to K-3 students that cannot even be imagined at this point in the planning process.
- There is concern around voter fatigue following the district's 2018 bond levy and the City of Grandview Heights' recent bond levy for a new municipal facility.
- Interest rates are currently higher than in 2018; however, it is not known at this time what rates would be when bonds would be issued - likely in Spring/Summery 2025 if a November 2024 bond levy is successful.

Next Steps

Prior to making a decision on whether to proceed with a November, 2024 bond issue, the Board would like to plan another meeting with the architects and cost estimators who helped facilitate the planning process to further discuss cost factors.

The Board also discussed having a third-party formulate an independent estimate to compare to the current cost estimate.

Motion 24-070 (Adjourn) Ms. Wassmuth moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gusé seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Matney, aye; Wassmuth, aye.

President Gephart declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

President

Treasurer