

Building Expansion Committee Meeting

Minutes

July 19, 2023

Attendees: Kristin Brooks, Dawn Hall, Kim Wheelock, Rhonda Lyons, Stacey Campbell, Tanya Young, Shane Cloutier, Amber Calhoun, Brooke Stevens, Deborah Greene, Jenny Keazer, Lindy Falconer, Nathan Lebel, Robert Murphy, Tia Cloutier, Mary Jolles, Shahanna Lebel

1. Review Minutes of March 15, 2023 Meeting

Board reviewed and approved the 3-15-23 minutes.

2. Election of Committee Chair

Nathan Lebel was elected as chairman of the committee.

3. Review of important budget information from the state

State budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025- \$86 million over the biennium for the state's school building aid program.

4. Status of Colebrook's Building Aid - Priority from the state

COLEBROOK IS # 1! - FY 24-25 applicants proposed projects will remain on the ranked list. This is not only for FY 24-25 but also going into the FY26 cycle and beyond, provided that construction of the project has not begun.

CHANGES TO BUILDING AID PROCESS HB 452 Funding availability is known for FY 24-25, prior to districts submitting their projects for local approval.

STATE BUILDING AID - FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COLEBROOK'S BUILDING

PROJECT NOW IN THIS BIENNIUM As soon as local approval is obtained, the District is able to proceed with planning and construction.

5. New legislation will impact future planning for the project.

HB 452 - Superintendent Taylor Amendment

Donations are now eligible funding sources for building aid. Previously, charitable trust funds, bequests, gifts, and donations were deemed ineligible. Any such funding would be deducted from the final total eligible costs. Now donations will not be deducted from total project costs and instead will reduce local contribution.

Grants funding continue to be grants deducted from the total project costs before building aid is calculated.

Building Aid Eligibility In order to continue to be eligible for building aid the design (new addition and renovation/repair) must remain as approved and construction may not commence until after local approval and grant award is made.

6. Discussion of Scope of Project

Principal Wheelock reviewed the current school floor plans noting that all available classrooms were in use and that other - non- classroom spaces were converted to meet the needs of students including copy room, conference rooms, weight room, stage, staff room. She also remarked that the art room had been divided in two due to the shortage of space for instruction. Next she noted that the building lacked space for required programs such as middle school science lab, family and consumer science and special education.

Superintendent Taylor noted the need for the building addition due to the closure of the academy and tech building. She shared the analysis of needs for additional classrooms for HS /CTE including:

- 1 HS ELA class
- 1 HS Math
- 1 HS science lab -(Used for HS Science and CTE Health Sciences)
- 3 elementary classrooms (displaced during move)
- 1 special education class
- 1 additional preschool class

- Woodworking/Building Tech Area
- Automotive Tech Area
- Automotive Tech Classroom
- Culinary/Hospitality Kitchen
- Culinary/Hospitality Classroom

Next she review the need for the HS Gymnasium:

- Current elementary school gym is too small for high school athletics and community events
- Increase in enrollment makes one gym inadequate for PK-12 student physical education
- Other programs need daytime space- ie: drama, music, etc.
- Town events require larger space
- Community will be able to access the space after hours for adult activities (outside of basketball season)

Depictions of the project scope were also shared including internal and external architectural renderings of the project as proposed by the school board at the March, 2023 annual school meeting (see attached).

7. Hearing of the Public

This was held for 30 minutes

8. Recommendation to the School Board

- Recommend Full Project - -HS/CTE Addition and HS Gymnasium
- Establish Communication SubCommittee - Listen and Respond
- Establish Fundraising SubCommittee
-Outreach Events and Personal Communications
- Determine Donors Commitment

- Plan for March 2024 Vote of the Community - Majority Vote required to accept building aid grant
- Following Successful Vote - Plan and Construct -2026 opening

D.Hall/T.Young: Motion to recommend the full project implementation to the school board with the original project design.

9. Future Meeting Date

To be determined.

Approved: 7/21/22