



East Pikeland Elementary Home & School Association Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2017

Dina Grasso called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance

Dina Grasso, Charlene Arnold, Kristen Myers, Jessica Whelan, Mrs. Spear, Mrs. Ng, Dr. LeRoy Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent of PASD, Dr. Alan Fegley, Superintendent of PASD, Stanley Johnson, Executive Director of Operations for PASD, and approx. 20 parents.

President's Welcome and Announcements

Thanks to everyone who brought treats for the teachers before the break, and thanks to Melissa Manzon for coordinating. Many thanks to Liz Conish and all the Adopt-a-Family helpers for making the program a success. There will be a Family Fun Night on Friday 1/27 with Pinot's Palette organizing a family painting night. Sarah Heil is taking signups for the 2/17 American Red Cross blood drive at school. PCEF gala fundraiser is on Friday 2/24.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Spear introduced the guest speakers (Dr. Whitehead, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Fegley to join later). Parents with questions about the new ELC/Manavon Elementary project can always contact her directly.

Presentation on Manavon Elementary Project – Guest Speakers

- Dr. LeRoy Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent of PASD, presented some recent drone photos of the project site. He was involved with the opening of a new building in his former district (WCASD) and believes we can carry on old traditions and build new ones at Manavon Elementary (MES). Building is on schedule and under budget; interior work is happening now. Explained cooperative teaching possibilities of the new building; currently working with Mrs. Spear on furniture decisions.
- Mr. Stanley Johnson, Executive Director of Operations for PASD, presented an overview of the project timeline. Ground broke 9/15 with a 20 month completion estimate. Current target for Certificate of Occupancy is 5/15/17; move in scheduled for 5/16/17. Movers will be at existing schools June 12; faculty can enter the new building in August to prepare for school year.
- One challenge was finding enough carpenters for the project. One turf field is installed and ready. Terrazzo flooring is going in MES wing now; bookcases coming next week. Geothermal system is in place; heat pumps arriving next week.
- Parent questions
 - *Will students learn about the green components of the building?* Yes, and students will be able to help bring back the tributary area. Courtyard area is an opportunity to teach about geothermal and the physical plant.
 - *Are there separate offices? Nurse's offices?* There is one combined office area for both principals and nurse's office. Library is the heart of the building – 2-5 books upstairs, K-1 books downstairs. Library staffing still being worked

- out – probably Ms. Melcher and an assistant. 6 day schedule will continue; 1st graders will have specials; K will not. K will be with Magic Memories for enrichment but will have library access.
- *Is the Kindergarten full day pilot program continuing?* There is one class this year, and there will be two full day classes next year.
 - *Will we have Titanic in the larger gym [kid question]?* To be determined!
 - *Will we have larger class sizes in the cooperative classrooms?* No. Class size is determined by board policy and the numbers will stay the same. Cooperative learning areas are for small group pullouts. Each classroom has its own Small Group Instruction area that can be used in multiple ways. In K-1 wing, hallways are designed for reading and group instruction. MES also has large group instruction space on each floor. Entryway stairs can be used for large gatherings.
 - *Will MES be classified as a Title I School?* Not at this time. K-1 will.
 - *Will bus rides be as long as an hour, as we've heard?* We are working on this to try to max 40-45 minutes.
 - *What about early morning music, etc., - how do we get one child to practice, then other children home in time for bus? Do we wait in the parking lot until school starts?* This will be discussed and worked out with principals. (Suggestion – early morning child care for siblings?)
 - *What are the projected enrollment numbers?* 1,050 total (built for 1,250). Current estimates suggest we should have enough room until 2025.
 - *What is happening with the house next to the driveway entrance?* District still investigating using it for special education/life skills/school anxiety programs; no discussions yet. Would need Schuylkill Township approval and would like to get input from new Director of Pupil Services.
 - *Will there be new technology at MES?* We are moving away from a computer lab model and towards more mobile technology (laptop carts). There will not be 1-1 technology as it is so expensive to update and replace.
 - *Will there be lockers for the elementary students?* Yes, without locks. These are for coat storage outside the classrooms.
 - *Will there be improvements on volunteer clearance process?* Dr. Fegley feels that despite some parents having difficulties, the process is actually more streamlined this year than in years past. It is hard to keep up with laws as they change year to year.
 - *What about security at the new school?* There are double-secured doors, and other features that cannot be discussed explicitly. This will be the most secure building in the district. First emergency calls to go Schuylkill Twp., but they work quickly with Phoenixville Borough.
 - *Will there be an active security presence on campus?* The police department will provide monitoring.
 - *When will students be able to visit the new building?* There will be visits at the end of the school year, then opportunities for parents and community members through the summer.
 - *How will lunches work?* Mrs. Spear is working on a plan. The cafeteria seats almost 400 students. It should be more efficient than current cafeteria.
 - *What will the furniture be like?* Students with OT/PT needs will be able to use bouncy balls, etc. They are still determining who will use desks vs. tables.

- There will be grade level standards.
- *Is there anything MES needs that our H&S Association can provide in honor of EPES?* All “needs” are taken care of, but courtyard furniture would be great. EPHS will discuss with Mrs. Spear.
 - *What is the status/plan for the old buildings?* Appraisals are being made right now on the K Center and EPES. Board has not yet decided on plan. Dr. Fegley doesn't believe the K Center can be brought back into service as a school due to its limitations, so will likely be sold. EP is still not certain. It will be boarded up in July, and eventually the 1960s wing will be taken down. With new development happening in EP, we will likely need a school again. It may be here or a developer may swap for another property.
 - *What will happen to the old furniture, etc.?* It will be sold at auction or scrapped.

Meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Next Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.