

Joint Committee of the Whole and the City of Beachwood Board of Education Meeting

August 21, 2017

BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND CITY OF BEACHWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING HELD AT BEACHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM, 25100 FAIRMOUNT BOULEVARD, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 by P.M. by Council President Martin S. Horwitz

ROLL CALL:	Present	J. Berns, M.S. Horwitz, A. Isaacson, M.M. Jacobs, B. Linick J. Pasch
	Absent:	B. B. Janovitz
	Also Present:	M. S. Gorden, H. L. Jones, G. Haba, W. Griswold, G. Smerigan, J. Ciuni, K. Carmen, P. Kearns, Mitchel Luxenberg, Michael Zawatsky, Brian J. Weiss, Joshua Mintz, Steven Rosen Dr. Robert Hardis, Superintendent Lauren Broderick, Director of Pupil Services, Linda LoGalbo, Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Human Resources Ken Veon, Director of Operations and Technology, Brian Koss, Supervisor of Facilities & Grounds, Bill Gallagher, Architect, CT Consultants, Gregg Strollo, Principal Architect, Strollo Architects, David Roose, Architect with Strollo Architects, Dave Myers, Engineer with Thorson Baker, Andy Comer, Traffic Engineer with Transportation Management Services

1. Joint work session between the City of Beachwood, City Council, Committee of the Whole and the City of Beachwood School Board regarding the City of Beachwood Schools Consolidation Plan.

The Board of Education had a roll call and the meeting was called to order.

Dr. Hardis thanked the Board of Education, City Council, and the City Administration for coming together to have this joint meeting.

This meeting was to discuss the joint use of the City's parking at the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center and the elementary schools parking lot in conjunction with the elementary school's consolidation project.

Dr. Hardis stated that he had reached out to City Council and the Mayor more than a year ago and all involved have worked together to create this project to prioritize safety and security.

Dr. Hardis thanked Mayor Gorden for his support of the City Schools and also for his support of the elementary school consolidation project.

Dr. Hardis invited Mayor Gorden to the microphone.

Mayor Gorden thanked Dr. Hardis and the Board of Education. He stated that the intent has always been to be cooperative and considerate for the betterment of the community.

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Mayor Gorden stated that the school consolidation was not merely a school project but, a community project.

Mayor Gorden stated that this was a “win-win” for the City of Beachwood and he stated that he hopes all projects have the same amount of cooperation in the future.

Dr. Hardis then shared a PowerPoint presentation that is attached hereto for the record.

After the presentation, Dr. Hardis invited Council to ask questions and stated that the elementary principals and other staff would address their questions.

Mr. Isaacson thanked Dr. Hardis and asked if there are considerations to close the cut-through that exists in front of the pool parking lot and Mr. Isaacson expressed his concern with traffic in that area.

Dr. Hardis replied that the school day traffic was at specific and set times and he stated that the pool traffic is more “piecemeal”. Dr. Hardis stated that there are very few times when school traffic and pool traffic are combined at the same time and he feels that there would be minimal impact to traffic including during rush hour.

At this time, Mr. Comer, the traffic engineer with Transportation Management Services, stated there was a queue analysis and the new signal will be coordinated with the City system.

Mr. Isaacson asked if the analysis took in current capabilities of the City’s traffic lights and system along Fairmount.

Mr. Comer replied that it did not.

Mr. Jacobs asked if the City would be able to use Fairmount School facilities for summer camp.

Dr. Hardis replied that Fairmount School would be available and that it would be an ideal location for the City’s youngest campers and that they would benefit from the use of the playground and the close proximity to the Pool.

Dr. Hardis stated that from Fairmount School, there would be no need to cross Fairmount Boulevard to get to the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center.

Mr. Berns asked about the cost of infrastructure and asked if that was a part of the bond issue.

Dr. Hardis stated that the costs have not yet been established but would include the costs in the bond issue.

Dr. Hardis stated that it is the Board of Education’s desire to establish a Shared Use Agreement with City Council.

Mr. Berns asked if the costs issue would be resolved prior to the agreement.

Mayor Gorden stated that these are ongoing issues and may not be completely resolved before the introduction of that Shared Use Agreement.

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Mr. Pasch stated that he would like to come up with a long term plan for shared use and maintenance of parking lots.

Mr. Isaacson asked what the plan would be for snow removal.

Dr. Hardis stated that the lots would be plowed as they are currently and that there is a grounds crew and equipment to handle that.

Mr. Isaacson asked where plowed snow would be stored so that it doesn't take up parking spots.

Dr. Hardis stated that he did not have an answer for that question but he stated that there are not usually large events that take place in the winter and therefore it isn't usually an issue.

Mr. Isaacson asked for a "fall back plan" if an agreement could not be reached.

Dr. Hardis stated that the Board of Education would likely request a variance for the current lot.

A discussion continued about the traffic study and Dr. Hardis stated that the traffic study that was conducted was done at Bryden and Hilltop Elementary schools over several mornings.

Dr. Hardis stated that there were approximately ninety eight parent drop offs in the morning and approximately seventy parents picking up students in the afternoon.

Mr. Linick thanked the Board of Education and asked if there was a reason behind only having one building on Fairmount and also what the reason was behind not separating the bond issue and the operating levy.

Dr. Hardis responded to Mr. Linick's first question and stated that two scenarios were considered and the consolidation was the best option.

Dr. Hardis replied to Mr. Linick's second question by stating that the bond and operating levy is a timing issue.

Dr. Hardis stated that there are a limited number of years and a prediction cannot be made.

Dr. Hardis stated that Bryden and Hilltop have major issues and systems are going to begin failing.

Mr. Linick stated that he was speaking more in terms as to why the issues were combined on the ballot.

Mr. Hardis stated that decision is the School Board authority and they believe it gives the best chance for success. Dr. Hardis stated that both issues are important and it is the Board's responsibility to educate the community on their importance.

Mr. Linick asked for an estimated cost savings.

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Dr. Hardis stated that the cost savings amount is approximately five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00).

At this time, Mr. Luxenberg made a few comments.

Mr. Luxenberg stated that this project has been going on well over four years and that there has been a continued collaboration with the Mayor and the Board of Education.

Mr. Luxenberg stated that consolidation instead of renovation could save an estimated sixteen to nineteen million dollars over a thirty year period and that number is significant.

Mr. Luxenberg again thanked the Mayor and Dr. Hardis and stated that he hopes the administration and the School Board can continue working together in the future.

After Mr. Luxenberg's comments, Mr. Rosen read the following statement:

On March 6th, I stood at the podium at the Council meeting and declared my love for the City of Beachwood. Since then, my love for Beachwood has only increased. I am proud of our rankings as a top School District and happy to see Cleveland Magazine recognize what I already knew: we are the best suburb in Northeast Ohio. On March 6th, I also declared my intention to become the next Mayor of the City of Beachwood. Since then, much has changed. At the time I declared my candidacy, Mayor Gorden had not announced he intended to seek another term. As we all know, he will appear on the ballot and would like to continue leading our great City.

On March 6th, there were three candidates running for three seats on the Board of Education. Since then, two other residents have filed petitions to run for seats on the Board. As such, the potential to have three new board members is there. This means if I leave the board, we could have four new board members coming on in January. This is a potential I can't support.

As many of you know, I hired an independent polling company to determine who Beachwood voters want to have as their Mayor. The winner of the poll was our current Mayor, Mayor Merle Gorden. In second place, the overwhelming choice was me. I have copies of the poll to share with any media in attendance tonight.

While I respect and appreciate the voters of Beachwood, I must announce tonight I will not be seeking the Mayor's office in 2017 and intend to remain on the Board. I thank the countless community members who have offered their support and appreciate all of their kind words and encouragement.

After Mr. Rosen's statement it was asked if there were any further questions.

There were none.

The School Board had a roll call and adjourned their meeting.

Mr. Horwitz thanked everyone again who participated in the meeting and entertained a motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Joint Work Session.

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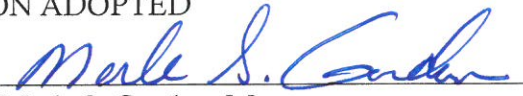
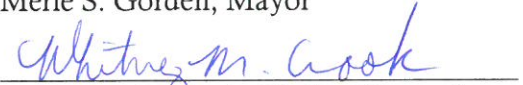
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ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Pasch, seconded by M. M. Jacobs, at 7:07 P.M., to adjourn the Committee of the Whole to the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

Yes: J. Berns, M.S. Horwitz, A. Isaacson,
M.M. Jacobs, B. Linick J. Pasch
Abstain: None.
No: None.
Not Voting: None.
MOTION ADOPTED

Approved:


Merle S. Gorden, Mayor

Whitney M. Crook, Clerk of Council

Pursuant to Ordinance Number 2017-107 Council has determined that the official Minutes of its Body, its Committees, and those of the Planning and Zoning Commission shall consist of the Audio Recording of the meetings together with a written synopsis of all agenda items and votes.