

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020
ZOOM MEETING

Vision Statement

**We enable all Sherman Students to become the best possible version of themselves.
We provide an environment where our children develop into empathetic, self-directed,
critical thinkers who don't give up when faced with challenges.**

The Maintenance Committee meeting of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Laughlin at 4:03 PM on July 30, 2020.

1. PRESENT:

For the Board: Mr. Laughlin and Mr. Neunzig
Administration: Dr. Melendez
Staff: Mr. Lombardozi

2. DISCUSSED:

Discussion took place regarding summer work completed in preparation for the start of the new school year. Work in relation to COVID-19 mandates was reviewed. Repairs made to enhance fresh air circulation and conditioning were discussed. Other projects including painting, required partitions for a required health isolation room and plexiglass installation among others were reviewed.

Potable water solutions were also discussed, the pump controlling the approved well malfunctioned and second well is not operable due to quality issues. There was a bacteria spike found throughout the system which requires a six month waiting period till additional tests can be conducted that are bacteria free. While potable solutions will not be viable for the start of school, non-potable water will be available for hand washing. Further investigation about the origin of bacteria is planned, tests will determine if the bacteria spike was in the well at the source or is internal, significant amounts of dead end plumbing from multiple renovations over time may be a factor in bacteria spikes. Controls issues and challenges obtaining replacement parts for HVAC systems were also discussed, solutions to remediate these issues with corresponding cost estimates were requested.

Discussion then turned to the conceptual design planning process. An overview of timing and next steps was reviewed. Concerns were raised about the potential need to make repairs prior to a potential renovation project being approved. The Administration was directed to prepare a full summary of repairs that will likely need to be made due to eminent failure. It was estimated that most projects would need to begin in the near term. There is an approximate useful life for some items that will likely not extend too far past the next eighteen to twenty four months. A consolidated outline of those items was requested for presentation to the Board of Education. The urgency in determining a path forward was identified as something that would need to and should be discussed with the Board of Education to appropriately determine a cost threshold for repairs that may be "spending money to throw it

away".

Discussion then turned to a potential planning process for alternative scenarios should a referendum not be successful. The need to identify feasible alternatives that could have lower impacts to taxpayers was discussed. While the current proposal appreciates an educational program for PK-8 with two classrooms per grade level and maintaining high school choice other models could be considered. Consensus was reached to request the Board of Education form a committee tasked with identifying feasible alternatives that could involve a different operating and/or educational model ranging from shifts in the current educational program and learning pedagogies to partial or full regionalization. It was noted that town leadership had expressed this as an option that some residents wished to consider based on declining enrollment and cost per pupil at the Board of Education's Special Meeting on June 8, 2020. All likely alternative scenarios would have different facility needs, however it was agreed that refinement of potential alternatives was best determined after Board of Education review and approval to create a defined committee of some type for that purpose.

Finally, the playground proposal was discussed. Vendor selection, cost and design were reviewed. Discussion included the need for further oversight of this significant expenditure at the Board of Education level. A playground committee will be reinstated to refine designs and the Committee will review the project proposal along with options for remediating the pirate ship playground once decommissioned. Regardless of outcome it was determined that the current and increasingly deteriorating conditions of the playgrounds must be addressed in the near term.

3. ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Laughlin
Chair, Maintenance Committee