

Special Facilities Pre-Application Site Visit Agenda
March 13, 2017
9:00am

Superintendent Ken Kenworthy called the presentation to order at 9:03am.

Superintendent Kenworthy asked each member of the Pre-Application Committee to introduce themselves. Present were Mike Pendley, Manatee County Schools, Suzanne Pridgeon, Finance Office of the Florida Department of Education, Darrell Phillips, Office of Educational Facilities for the Florida Department of Education, Terry St. Cyr, Escambia County Schools and Jim Richmond, General Council Florida Department of Education.

Also present were School Board Chair Malissa Morgan and Members Dixie Ball and Amanda Fuchswanz.

Economic Council Chair Frank Irby was asked to give a few introductory remarks regarding the replacement of Okeechobee High School. Mr. Irby explained support for the project because of the condition of the facility as well as the impact of economic growth to our community.

Superintendent Kenworthy explained the day's schedule would include a document review, tour of the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, travel to Okeechobee High School and a tour of that campus as well.

The presentation began with Superintendent Kenworthy showing a Power Point presentation on the demographics of our school and community including the number of students, ethnicity, lunch status, trends in enrollment as well as construction dates, capacity and grades served for each of the district's schools.

Dylan Tedders, Principal of Okeechobee High School, and Carol Revels, Senior Administrator for the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, provided additional slides in the presentation outlining the impact of our current facility on instruction and student life.

Brian Barrett, Director of Operations, outlined the problems with the older campus as it relates to air conditioning, plumbing, flooding, electrical concerns, technology concerns, traffic patterns, ADA concerns, air quality, asbestos, roofing and asphalt problems. Total expenditures to fix these items would be in excess of \$13,607,800.

Other documents reviewed at the meeting were the Castaldi Analysis Report indicating that it would be more economical to raze and replace the buildings on the campus as opposed to remodeling or renovating.

The Okeechobee Senior High School Florida Inventory of School Houses Building Plans were presented.

Several letters were provided showing local support for the project and the Five Year Plant Survey Modifications were also included.

Mr. Curtis Tyson, one of many parents present, spoke of the need to have a wrestling room. He reported students currently wrestle in the cafeteria. He said he was one of the few state-wrestling champions that came from Okeechobee High School. He said that having students wrestle in the cafeteria where students are eating food several hours later is not the best of situations.

The document review concluded and the group toured the Okeechobee Freshman Campus and noted the following:

- Capacity of the cafeteria
- Condition of the art room
- Conversations on the loss of instructional time by transporting students to OHS for class and the cost of adding an additional tier of busing
- Gymnasium concerns with locker rooms, heat and AC
- Staircases in the main building
- Small classrooms
- Small, oddly configured office space
- Utilization of rooms in the District office basement due to capacity

The group then traveled to Okeechobee High School and noted the following:

- Lack of compliance with ADA with no elevator in building 6, bathrooms not accessible, etc.
- Art room capacity
- Flooding of science and math buildings, lift stations
- Open air bathrooms
- Size of band and drama rooms
- Condition of the auditorium needed new lights, carpet under the seat, ADA restrooms, etc.
- Gymnasiums concerns with bleacher capacity, plumbing, locker rooms space, etc.
- Café doubles as wrestling room
- Multiple failed bathrooms across the campus
- The condition of Building 14 having been built in 1966
- Window tinting to keep out the sun
- Air conditioner replacement needs
- Traffic patterns that mix student foot traffic, cars and buses and the need for asphalt replacement
- Roof rapidly exceeding life expectancy
- Sewage lift station needs
- Maintenance trends by school showing increased costs and personnel
- Poor electrical design and upgrades needed
- Poor air quality
- Storage capacity
- Confidentiality concerns with portable walls and no office space for counselors

The group then discussed the financial possibilities and the fact that this size of school could not be replaced relying on local resources alone.

The meeting concluded with General Council Jim Richmond explaining that this was a fact-finding committee unlike the previous committee. He said they would be compiling the information and sending it to the full Special Facility Construction Committee for a decision. The committee asked for additional information concerning possible growth due to future housing projects. Superintendent Kenworthy said he would get them that information.

The meeting concluded at 1:00pm.