COMMITTEE MEETING – HELD AT HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA 7PM

DATE:	July 27, 2010 (Meeting #3)
SUBJECT:	LONG RANGE BUILDING PLANNING
MTG. INITIATED BY:	BBS & B.O.E.
PURPOSE:	TO BEGIN COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF LONG TERM BUILDING PLANNING
PREVIOUS MEETING DATE:	Not Applicable

PREVIOUS SUBJECT:	See Meeting #2 Minutes
PREVIOUS PURPOSE:	See General Notes below
DETERMINATIONS MADE:	N/A

GENERAL NOTES:

Analyze long term needs and solutions for (K-6) including discussions of availability, functionality & costs of various building options including existing, previously owned and potentially new school buildings, additions & alterations. Ascertain option with highest potential level of public support that also meets the needs of Huntington UFSD students.

LONG RANGE BUILDING PLANNING COMMITTEE

John J. Finello- Superintendent David Grackin- Assistant Superintendent Joe Giani-Assistant Superintendent Ken Card- Assistant Superintendent Shelly Marino- Principal, Southdown Primary Margaret Evers- Principal, Jefferson Primary Marlon Small- Principal, Flower Hill Primary Marsha Neville- Principal, Washington Primary Mary Stokkers- Principal, Jack Abrams Intermediate Jarrett Stein- Principal, Woodhull Intermediate John Amato- Principal, Finley Middle Carmela Leonardi- Principal, Huntington High Julissa Garris-Shade- Teacher, Flower Hill Primary Karen Fischer- Teacher, Jefferson Primary Joanne Cicio- Teacher, Southdown Primary Georganne White- Teacher, Washington Primary Laraine Schirripa- Teacher, Jack Abrams Intermediate Diane Grassi- Teacher, Woodhull Intermediate Michele Kustera- Parent, Flower Hill Primary Cathy Ribando- Parent, Washingotn Primary Jeanine Mulroy- Parent, Southdown Primary Jennifer Hebert- Parent, Jefferson Primary Patrick Giles- Parent, Jack Abrams Intermediate Paul Eidle- Parent, Woodhull Intermediate Carrie Nicodem- Parent, Finley Middle Kevin Thourborne- Parent, Huntington High Don Kiley- Parent, SEPTA Jennifer Casey- District Resident Crystal White- District Resident Christian Wenk- District Resident Barbara Wanamaker- District Resident **Richard Oehmler- District Resident** Paul Rispoli- Director of Facilities Georgia McCarthy- Health, PE, & Athletics Chris Bene- Trustee John Paci- Trustee

> R. Smith, AIA, LEED AP - BBS K. Walsh, AIA, LEED AP - BBS Jason Lee – BBS Sandra Ehle – BBS

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BBS Principal, Roger Smith, AIA, LEED AP

- Roger Smith stated that there are 41 possible configurations for the districts buildings and their uses. The BOE has decided to close Abrams, but in some configurations both Touro and Abrams are included. However, as a committee we have an opportunity to make the decision to bring a configuration we believe, for the long term, best suits our district. Then bring that decision to the BOE.
- We started by putting children in places where they would fit giving us 41 possibilities. Each configuration has floor plans to match. From here we can eliminate some possibilities and keep others.
- In 2008 Administration and BBS met up to form a program for the district to present to the BOE to decide on the right configuration. That 2008 program was used as a basis to draw up the 41 configurations of these plans. This may not apply for 2010 but it was our starting point.
- These buildings were designed to house the ideal program for the district. Here is a breakdown of some of these options. (Provided in handout)

-10 out of the 41 configurations contain a k-center as a possible option.

-9 out of the 41 configurations contain k-2 as a possible option.

-11 out of the 41 configurations contain k-3 as a possible option.

-6 out of the 41 configurations contain k-4 as a possible option. -4 out of the 41 configurations contain k-5 as a possible option.

-1 out of the 41 configurations contains k-6 as a possible option.

For example one of the options given is Finley as a 5-8. However, it does not fit unless there are (2) 5-8 buildings meaning it would split up the middle school. Is that an option you'd like to entertain?

General Discussion

Committee member stated the committee should have been given these options at earlier meetings.

Roger Smith replied these options were not offered because he felt that the committee would be able to narrow down what buildings would be used without having to go through every floor plan. At the last meeting, we were asked to show configurations which we are showing today. However, we do not believe you will be able to wrap your arms around all 41 configurations.

Committee member stated we can not necessarily wrap our arms around all 41 configurations but, they should have been presented to the committee sooner.

Roger Smith replied it has taken quite a bit of time to be able to draw all 41 configurations. Also the last two meetings were discussions on whether or not Abrams should stay open or closed. At that time we called for a vote on this issue because 16 of the 41 configurations utilize Abrams as a school. 14 out of 41 configurations have Touro open as a school. Some configurations have both open. If you agree as a group that these buildings should stay open then you have all 41 options available. If you would like Touro or Abrams to remain closed then those options are removed. We felt that as a group you would be able to take buildings out depending on things besides configurations. For example, removing all configurations with Touro since it is not owned by the district as of right now.

Committee member stated we shouldn't be looking at buildings such as Touro if we do not own them.

Committee member stated we can't make a decision on taking any building off the table without knowing the cost to each configuration.

Committee member asked for a vote on whether Touro is in or out.

Committee member stated that the committee could not vote without a cost being given because Touro may be a viable option.

Committee member stated that we have already discussed that Finley as a 5-8 doesn't work so we can start to eliminate options. Some of these options do not make sense regardless of cost.

Roger Smith stated here are some questions that may help in narrowing the options down. Should one grade be separate from the rest just as a philosophical and educational question? 10 of these options have a K-center. If the committee decides that it makes sense then we can show you one of the options that has K-center. If you decide it does not make sense to house one grade level separate then that knocks out 10 of the configurations. We can also discuss if they should stay neighborhood schools. Is there a maximum cost threshold? Some of the buildings contain a building that houses 1000 elementary students. Some clients we work with believe that is entirely too big for an elementary school but, if the committee decides it makes sense then it stays in.

Committee member stated that if you look at the option of closing Abrams and buying Touro it's going to be really expensive. However, if you keep Abrams open you just move kids around in the buildings you have and it will be less expensive. There are some options that are 90 million dollars and some committee members had problems when 40 million was proposed. So should 40 million be the cut off? That would leave us with 6 options.

Committee member stated why is any building on the table that we do not own? We should not plan for something we do not have. We need to narrow down options. Is there anyone who believes Touro should stay an option? What would we need to do in order to obtain Touro?

Roger Smith replied we would need to take it by eminent domain.

Committee member asked what are the odds of this building being taken by eminent domain.

Jay Finello replied that the District would have to legally prove that they need the space. However, it will take a long time.

Committee member asked how can we prove that Touro is needed if we still own Abrams.

Committee member stated Touro should be out because we more than likely can not obtain it. We need to start narrowing down the 41 options.

Committee member stated that a cost threshold should be decided on in order to remove options over threshold budget.

Committee member asked for the price to purchase Touro?

Committee member (BOE) asked Roger Smith if there is a number associated with the purchase of Touro and the cost needed to make it a useable school building.

Committee member (Facility and Grounds) stated that Touro has been appraised and it was worth just over \$10 million as of January/ February of 2010.

Roger Smith stated the cost for renovations to the building would be \$17 million. That price includes it all bus loops, asbestos and lead abatement, things of that nature to make it a good building. \$17 million is based upon having the ideal school building. That number can be narrowed down depending on what you deem to be necessary.

Kevin Walsh stated that Touro can house as many as 4 grades. The logic used for the chart was if Touro is used as a 3-6 and housed 900 children or 3-6 with 600 children. However, once the building is taken over you are going to renovate and use the entire building. So no matter what it is the same cost.

Committee member asks Kevin to explain what it would cost to build a brand new building with the same square footage as Touro.

Kevin Walsh stated that Touro currently is 110,000 Sq. Ft. and we added a couple thousand sq. ft. to resolve entry and ADA issues.

Roger Smith stated it would cost about \$350-\$400 a Sq. Ft. for new construction so a new building would be approximately \$35 million- \$42 million. This is not including cost to purchase property to place this building on. So the comparison is \$27 million to re-open Touro or \$42 million to build new. The \$27 million does not include any legal fees or any other cost that may come about in order to purchase Touro.

Roger Smith asked if the committee wanted to vote on whether Touro should come off the table or should stay on.

Committee member stated that we are looking at the configurations you have presented us but we are not looking at all the other factors along with each configuration.

Roger Smith stated we have given you 41 options however you may view there are more but that is up to the committee to decide. Had the committee decided Touro should stay out then I would not have brought you all 41 options. All of the Touro options would have been taken out and you would have had less to decide on. We are prepared to show you all 41 options. We have them all drawn.

Committee member stated that they believe that we should be able to eliminate options depending on cost.

Roger Smith stated that what he believes to be true is that you will not be able to get any building aid because you have enough space to house your children. The building permit for the modular classrooms at Woodhull has been approved. That is being paid dollar for dollar.

Committee member stated that as a committee we should look at the 41 options and make a decision on what options do not make sense for the Huntington School District. They stated that (2) 5-8 schools will not happen. In order for this to occur there would either need to be approval to have sports teams at both schools or there would have to be a budget for busing to one of the schools. Also the gyms could not fulfill all the requirements necessary for the athletics at Woodhull.

Kevin Walsh stated that if a configuration calls for housing different grade levels in a school then the cost includes new gym stations that would be made necessary.

Committee member asks to see these plans.

Kevin Walsh states that 375 children per grade level were used to determine rooms needed to accommodate each grade level. So depending on how many grade levels per building determined the space and building sizes.

Committee member asks Kevin Walsh to explain what the configuration would look like using a grouping of K-3 options.

Kevin Walsh stated that each plan shows what the building needs to be an ideal school building. It will house state regulated sizes of certain rooms such as support spaces and specialist suites. All the elementaries, as is, have adequate library, computer stations, and physical education spaces. However, as grades are added on, physical education stations are added as necessary. For every 14 classrooms a gym station is required. Using this information and the predetermined educational programs as developed by the administration we sized the schools accordingly and added space where necessary.

The educational program is the driving force of the configuration. The factors that also contributed to the configurations are

- What the buildings have and what they need currently
- The physical limitations of the building.
- Any dead end corridor conditions

These configurations do not show any additional programs other then what was decided upon back in 2008 with administration.

Jay Finello asked Kevin Walsh to summarize each configuration because the program that was developed in 2008 may or may not apply to this coming school year. There may be more students or less students then what these configurations are designed for. Some negotiating between the minimal and ideal program can help land a final configuration.

Committee member stated that we do not need to know square footage to set criteria. We can see the options and the cost and base a decision on that.

Committee member asked Kevin Walsh if the state would give any funding towards any district wide improvements if Abrams is used as an alternative High school.

Kevin Walsh stated that he was not sure of the States position.

Committee member stated that there are no options listed that do not include Abrams that fall under \$50 million. There are easy decisions to be made about choosing what needs to be cut just simply by looking at costs.

Committee member stated 3 most expensive configurations should be removed from list.

Committee member (BOE) stated that there are ways to save money within each configuration. Not every school may need an addition. For example Washington Primary, which is close to where Avalon Bay is proposed could have an addition that can allow Washington to house 400 or 500 Children. So the money is spent at that school and none of the other schools may need additions to be built so money is saved. And if there is an influx of children further down the road they would go to Washington and none of the other primaries need additions, saving costs. Balance has only been needed at the primary level because of space issues at Woodhull but, with the proposed addition BOE approved the funding for there will be more space at Woodhull.

Committee member stated they would like to be able to compare configurations not necessarily considering costs.

Kevin Walsh stated that the configuration can be reduced at any point and it would be easier to reduce when there are fewer options to compare.

Roger Smith stated that if they were to keep the option of two middle schools it would cause yearly expenditures to rise. Is this an option the committee wants? 4 of the options can be eliminated.

(Committee agrees on removing the possibility of 2 middle schools and eliminates 4 options- 37 options remain.)

Committee member (BOE) stated that a bond of \$15-\$22 million would probably pass. If the committee were to bring a solution to the BOE that was within that range that solves the districts problems for 15 yrs down the line they believe it would pass.

Committee member stated they did not believe this community would pass a bond that did not include Jack Abrams as a school in it.

Roger Smith stated that you can call for a \$27 million dollar bond that would make you love the building or you can whittle it down to bear minimum for say \$10 million. It all depends on what you decide you want as a committee to determine that final amount that is brought before the BOE.

Committee member asked is there a configuration that will allow us to receive State aid without going back to the configuration from the 2008-2009 school year. Currently there are spatial issues at the primaries.

Roger Smith stated that the state has not stopped giving building aid funding yet so he does not think they will stop in the future. But anything is possible.

Committee member asked Roger Smith whether or not going back to the configuration that existed in 2008-2009 school year would be more beneficial to gaining State aid.

Roger Smith replied that he believes you would be more likely to gain State aid with that configuration since there are spatial issues at the primary levels. The State gives \$0.37 on the dollar on educational space to solve the spatial issues. At an elementary school level State aid does not include auditoriums, art rooms, or music rooms because they are not required at that level. State Ed takes the class policy that the school district sets up as the guiding factor to determine needed space.

Committee member asked is there a specific square footage per student set up?

Roger Smith replied yes. The standard classroom size as setup by the state is 770 Sq. Ft. which has not been updated since the 1970's. We calculated classrooms at 810-820 Sq. Ft. because now there are computers and other such things that take up floor area that did not exist when the State set the guidelines. Kindergartens are 900 Sq. Ft. minimum. We use 920-925 sq. ft.. Keep in mind if there was an existing space that did not meet that minimum requirement we took that into account when redesigning to give them that needed space. If you move into an existing space that is a smaller space you do not have to make those spaces meet the requirement such as with Touro. What you would do is take the size of the rooms and divide by 28.5 and that would tell you how many children can be in that classroom.

Committee member asked Roger and Kevin for clarification on one configuration that calls for a separate K-3 building at Woodhull.

Kevin Walsh stated that there is a separate building for that configuration with only 300 children per primary school because there would be 5 schools to distribute them throughout. This would allow for less growth needed at each primary school.

Committee member asked, why do some of the options that have the same K-3 configuration come out to different amounts.

Kevin Walsh stated that those other configurations have changes to different buildings and/ or building on each different property contains varying costs.

Committee member (Buildings and Grounds) asked Roger Smith whether or not any of these configuration amounts include capital work that should be done at some of the buildings. These include but are not limited to fire alarm system upgrades, parking lot replacements, fuel oil tank replacement, etc.

Roger Smith replied that it does not necessarily include the capital work that is needed unless the additions or renovations to a building require building upgrades. Something like a big addition would probably incorporate a fire alarm system upgrade. At the last BOE meeting we actually showed how we hold money aside for electrical upgrades when calculating cost. Some buildings may require different upgrades so we took a general amount when figuring out costs. We did not figure it out item by item. But, if we can figure out what is needed spatially we can go back at the end and see where we can add money.

Kevin Walsh stated that once we have the space planned we can put them together and see if there are any overlaps and take out the overlaps.

Committee member asked to see what the plans look like for what exists for September so that we can start comparing down the other options.

Committee member asked if the schools as proposed for September 2010 can accommodate the 4th grade music programs.

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Committee member replied that yes there has been a plan that has been formed that would allow for a band, chorus, and orchestra to exist at every 4th grade level that is comparable to the program they have now. It will require some shifting of spaces but it seems doable.

(Power point containing plans of buildings for K-4 option is shown)

Kevin Walsh stated that you need to keep in mind all though several buildings are the same plan the sites are different and the additions or renovations we propose will reflect that. These plans are to scope out what we can possibly do and or need to do square footage wise. If you decide that this doesn't work as it is drawn now, we have an idea of what square footages we are working with to redesign.

Square footages and costs for k-4 option are as follows:

-Flower Hill Primary (469 designed enrollment at \$8.9 million)

- 17,300 Sq. Ft. of new addition
- 9,700 Sq. Ft. of interior renovation
- 41,000 Sq. Ft. existing building

-Jefferson Primary (469 designed enrollment at \$7.1 million)

- 13,000 Sq. Ft. of new addition
- 8,600 Sq. Ft. of interior renovation
- 41,000 Sq. Ft. existing building

-Southdown Primary (469 designed enrollment at \$8.8 million)

- 16,700 Sq. Ft. of new addition
- 10,000 Sq. Ft. of interior reconstruction
- 41,000 Sq. Ft. existing building

-Washington Primary (469 designed enrollment at \$9.7 million)

- 18,200 Sq. Ft. of new addition
- 12,500 Sq. Ft. of interior reconstruction
- 41,000 Sq. Ft. existing building

Kevin also stated that all 4 of these primaries encompass 4 sections per grade level, a specialist suite, and 13 support rooms. Each of these buildings will contain separate art and music rooms.

Committee member asks Kevin Walsh if any of these additions will interfere with the existing fields.

Kevin Walsh replied that no not really because the additions were all designed to stay tight to the existing building so they would interfere with the outside of the building as little as possible.

Committee member states that all 4 of the plans were designed to house 4 sections per grade level. What if there is an instance where there are more students needed per grade level?

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Kevin Walsh replied that there is one classroom that allows for a shift if there needs to be 5 sections in a building. These plans were designed to accommodate 375 students. Currently only one primary had that high of enrollment and it will feel the crunch.

(Slide showing Woodhull as a 5-6)

Kevin Walsh stated that this plan would allow for 6th grade to have dedicated science rooms which it hasn't necessarily had before.

-Woodhull (750 designed enrollment at \$16.7 million)

- 41,950 Sq. Ft. of new addition
- 16,300 Sq. Ft. of interior reconstruction
- 52,000 Sq. Ft. existing building

Roger Smith stated that the physical education stations are sized for secondary level. However, we have discussed with the State Education Department and they have said that depending on circumstances such as amounts of students etc. that they may waive that it has to be that big and can remain at a primary level size which will cut costs as well. That is something that can be discussed if this configuration is what is decided upon.

Kevin Walsh stated that the physical education stations are sized at a secondary level with the intention that they would be used by the entire District. They can be sized down to meet a primary level if need be. Rather then being 3 at 3,200 Sq. Ft. for a secondary level they can be 3 at 1,900 Sq. Ft. for a primary level.

Kevin Walsh stated that every Woodhull design uses the same auditorium and gymnasium size spaces.

Roger Smith stated that if you decide not to put on an auditorium that would take a big chunk out of the costs or if you pair down a gym that can cut costs. Woodhull as a 4-5 would have the same plan same square footage.

Kevin Walsh stated that the reason we are able to fit 4-5 in the same space as 5-6 is because 6th grade has less sections then 4-5 so the extra rooms were able to be filled up by science rooms for the 6th grade. The costs are relatively the same. The only difference is extra cost for science equipment for Woodhull as a 5-6.

Committee member asked Roger Smith if the septic system that currently exists where the new addition is proposed is figured into the cost as well as a new fire apparatus road.

Roger Smith replied yes, it has all been figured into the costs presented. With the new modular classrooms a new electric service will be provided to the modulars. All of the septic systems will be uncovered and evaluated by the Suffolk County Health Department for any addition that will be put on the building to see if they need to be upgraded and all of this is included in the costs whenever a new addition is present, at any of the buildings. There is also an environmental contingency cost factored in to all of these costs which would include asbestos, lead abatement and things of that nature that may come up.

Committee member asked if the \$2 million dollar addition on Woodhull has been voted on yet.

Roger Smith replied that the vote is on August 24th, 2010. If the vote fails then you do not have that \$2 million dollars in play. The \$2 million dollar addition would provide 5-6 classrooms to Woodhull.

Roger Smith stated that this plan of Woodhull is working towards a referendum in the fall to be passed. If the decision is not made in time then it would never get built in time for the school year 2011. The \$2 million dollar addition onto Woodhull would be the start of the overall additions we are proposing to Woodhull. If this plan is what you want then this would be voted on as a bond referendum this September and hopefully be ready for the 2011 school year. In regards to the modulars going in at Woodhull we believe making the drawings and submitting them to the State took less then 2 months. Now we need to bid the job and get them built and delivered. That was a May vote trying to make it for December so that will take about 7 months. The modulars will not be here for September although they are 14 weeks ahead of schedule.

Committee member asked Roger Smith how long this addition will take to build and will it be done while the students are in school.

Roger Smith replied that it will take approximately 18 months to build and it will be done while children are in school. All work being proposed will be done while school is in session. The working zone would be fenced off while still allowing access to fields and playgrounds. The contractors would meet on a daily basis with the school principal to discuss what will be done that day and coordinate when needed. Any part of the addition such as the connecting corridors to the existing school would be done in the summer so to not interfere with the children.

Committee member stated that if we spend \$2 million dollars now we may not be spending it on what we as a committee decides upon should be done.

Roger Smith stated that we do not believe you will be spending that \$2 million dollars until a configuration is decided upon.

Committee member asked even though the modulars at Woodhull were voted on, can they be stopped.

Jay Finello stated that voting to release the \$2million is from a capital reserve fund. It does not necessarily have to be used on a new addition. It is just released and can be used on what ever configuration is decided upon.

Committee member (BOE) stated the reason that the modulars where voted on and are still being built is because the Board voted that the space was definitely needed for this upcoming year.

Committee member stated that they were told that these modular classrooms would act as a transition space for when construction is being done on classrooms inside the building, children could be housed in these modular classrooms while work was being done and then moved back to the school once the construction was complete.

Roger Smith stated that yes this is possible. Right now the modulars are about to go to bid for manufacturing, construction and to be leased. Once the lease is up there is always an option to buy or lease again. They are designed right now to house music with practice spaces and an art room.

(Power point presentation begins again with Finley as a 7-8)

-Finley (750 designed enrollment at \$10.6 million)

- 19,000 Sq. Ft. of new addition

Roger Smith stated that these plans do not show the shift of Administration into Abrams. So there would be some space freed up if that shift were to occur.

Committee member stated that 16 of the 41 options show Abrams being used as a school and 7 of the 8 under \$50 million use Abrams for students.

Committee member stated we should factor in the cost to have 4 guards posted 24 hours a day at every corner of Abrams for safety's sake as compared to having to build out other schools to make up for the square footage lost if Abrams is out. Committee member asks to see plans showing K -3.

(Power point showing plan of Flower Hill as a K-3)

Kevin Walsh stated that this plan would house K -3 at Flower Hill similar to the others and would cost \$5.7 million.

Roger Smith stated that things can be eliminated from the plans depending on what the committee deems necessary for the building to have and that will cut cost. These plans were all figured out at \$250/Sq. Ft. according to what we have been receiving for current bids so that number may change.

Committee member asked if demographic report will be ready by the time the committee will have to make there final decision.

Committee member replied that yes it should be however it will not include Avalon Bay since it has not yet been approved.