

MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR WORK SESSION
High School

Tuesday, February 22, 2022
7:03 PM

Pledge to the Flag
Call to Order - Board President
Roll Call - Board Secretary

MEMBER

- Daniel L. Albert
- Todd A. Badger
- Susan Beery
- Joseph B. LeCrone
- Dottie M. Mathers, Vice President
- David Shimmel, President

MEMBER

- Ronald E. Snell
- Dale Ulmer
- David J. Young
- *Richard Galtman, Solicitor
- *Christina Bason, Superintendent
- *Brandy N. Smith, Business Mgr./Bd.Secretary
- *(Non-Voting Member)

OTHERS

- Feerrar, Darrin - Elementary School Principal
- Gnoffo, Joseph - Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
- Hanner, Timothy - Supervisor of Special Education
- King, Christopher - Assistant Middle/High School Principal
- Myers, Curtis - Middle School Principal
- Peipher, Sebastian – Lead Network Administrator
- Taormina, Daniel - High School Principal
- Yonkin, Jamie - Elementary School Principal
- Residents Media Students

Public Comment

Jack Callahan asked about a digital message board for the High School.

Brenda Oberheim said she had heard there may be a switch in the voting order. She asked who requested this and what their reasoning was.

Informational Items

Mr. Shimmel called for a discussion on board voting procedure.

Mr. Shimmel said that he had proposed a change to the voting order for roll call votes so the first voter is rotated every time. He shared that many boards handle voting in that manner.

Mr. Snell said he doesn't think it should be changed and that he was suspicious of the motive.

Mr. Albert said he doesn't think it matters either way the vote is made. He said nothing suspicious is going on.

Dr. Beery said that it does not matter to her either way.

Mr. Shimmel said he was bothered that someone would think there was a motive behind the change. He said it was something he has wanted to discuss for a while, but he withdrew his request for Board consideration on the item.

Mr. Shimmel called for a discussion on the building project options.

Mr. Shimmel stated that he does not favor a major project. He shared concerns about enrollment and current higher construction costs. He said he favors an air conditioning project for both schools.

Mr. Ulmer asked if it was possible to just do air conditioning in both schools if there are other issues.

Mr. Cousins said it will depend on codes and the line between maintenance and renovation. He said that any HVAC project will result in some electrical upgrades needing to be done.

Dr. Mathers asked what the cost would be for just air condition in both buildings

Mr. Cousins said that something could be prepared. He cautioned the board on pulling line items out of the project estimates as it would be different if the project was just for air conditioning upgrades.

Mr. Snell asked what the annual savings were if Loyalsock Valley was closed.

Mrs. Smith said the maintenance and utilities savings would be around \$110,000 annually. She shared that personnel savings will be different than when the projections were prepared previously.

Mr. Ulmer stated that he likes option 3. He said that he feels like it makes the most financial sense when looking at the numbers and enrollment trends. He said he likes the annual savings and not having to worry about additional maintenance costs at those buildings. He said he likes that all students would have the same level of facilities and classrooms.

Mr. Snell said just because the District can raise taxes it doesn't mean it should happen.

Mr. Cousins said if the Board would like the project to go out to bid then they would need time to put together a bid package.

Mr. Snell asked for an option 8 with air conditioning in both elementary schools. He asked if heat would be included in that option.

Mr. Cousins said that if you were providing air conditioning you would need to upgrade the whole system with heat and humidity control.

Mr. Albert brought up how costs went up on the maintenance building roof when that project was pushed back. He said costs will only increase so those increases need to be factored in to decision making. Mr. Albert shared concerns about how much the HVAC updates will end up costing compared to the cost of option 3 plus the costs that will come for other updates later on. He said that the district needs to be fiscally responsible

Mr. Snell said that the bones of Loyalsock Valley are still good and it is time to improve it.

Mr. Albert said he doesn't know if he agrees with paying money to improve and maintain two buildings.

Mr. Ulmer said that he doesn't think they should keep putting band aids on an older building. He said it would be smart to get all students in the same building using the same facilities.

Mr. Shimmel said that he is in favor of doing some upgrades at each building. He said that if enrollment continues to go down that in the future all the students could move to Lyter with less of an addition being needed and Loyalsock Valley will be more marketable for sale with upgrades. He asked if the heating system had to be upgraded or if it could be independent.

Mr. Cousins said that it would not make sense to leave a failing heating system side by side with a new cooling system.

Mr. Snell asked for an estimate on just HVAC upgrades.

Mr. Ulmer said the board should decide if they are willing to go with a bigger project then if not ask for more estimates for smaller projects.

Mr. Albert said he would like to at least see the costs for HVAC upgrades before deciding.

Mr. Shimmel said that the board would need to make a decision soon because of project timing. He asked other board members what their thoughts were.

Mr. Young said that he would like to pick from the original 7 options. He said he favors the option where both facilities are upgraded.

Mr. Ulmer reminded him that it doesn't include a lot of program upgrades so those students won't be getting the same experience at Loyalsock Valley.

Mr. Young said that added travel time has to be considered. He said students who have gone through Loyalsock Valley have been fine to this point.

Dr. Mathers said if option 1 upgrades both buildings but doesn't address all the building and educational needs and is the same cost as option 3 then she is in favor of option 3.

Mr. Albert asked what options the District would have for Loyalsock Valley if it wasn't housing students.

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Taormina said there wouldn't be much use for it other than to be sold.

Mr. Albert said he can't see the point in putting a lot of money into Loyalsock Valley and still not getting things like a gym and cafeteria.

Dr. Beery pointed out that there are unused elementary schools in the area that haven't sold.

Mr. Shimmel asked Mr. Cousins to provide an estimate for just an HVAC project to compare to Options 1 and 3 then re-evaluate in the work session in March.

Mr. Young asked how much was available for use in the capital reserve fund.

Mrs. Smith said that she would estimate around 3 million.

Mr. Snell reminded the board of the webinar information that he shared. He asked for regular reports on what the ESSER fund is being spent on.

Mr. Snell asked if parents can see all of the bus routes on the Here Comes the Bus Application for parents.

Mrs. Smith shared that they have to register with the student information and they can only see their own bus stop.

Mr. Snell asked if there were updated use of facilities fees at this time.

Mrs. Smith said she will send it out via email.

Mr. Young asked if the COVID numbers were available yet.

Mr. Ulmer said he would like to see a historical perspective for each building once operations are back to normal.

Public Comment

Gregg Stapp said that COVID tests are no longer approved by the CDC. He also said that the board should not make decisions based off feeling. He said they should be speaking to the public about the building project options. He said that the board should wait to see what the future holds and not start any projects. He said that there should be no masking at all.

Brenda Oberheim said that the district should upgrade HVAC in both buildings but not take on a full renovation.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING 8:34 PM

Motion: LeCrone Second: Ulmer
Result: **Motion Carried**



David Shimmel, President



Brandy N. Smith, Board Secretary