

Facilities Advisory Committee

Meeting 04 – Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 – 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Barrie Elementary School

FAC Members Present -

Rob Abbott	Lisa Hollenberger	Amy Oakley
Matt Banaszynski	Ryan Huber	Adam Paul
Sawyer Brandenburg	Kory Knickrehm	Cody Rutter
Dave Geiger	Nicole Leibman	Andy Selle
Dan Halvorsen	Collin Maas	Jill VanderMause
Maddie Hansen	Jordan Nelson	
Carla Haubenschild	Alicia Norris	

Resource Team Present - Dan Chovanec (CGS - Project Lead), Sarah Dunn (CGS - Communications Lead), Mario Millonzi (Upper 90 Energy), Nicholas Kent (PRA - Architect Lead), Jason Demerath (Director of Business Services), D.J. Scullin (Director of Technology), Josh Carter (Director of Buildings and Grounds), Marissa Weidenfeller (Comm. & Community Engagement Specialist), Debbie Kopps (Admin. Assistant to Supt./BOE).

District Leadership - Leigh Ann Scheuerell, Dick Schultz, Brent Torrenza, Jennifer Walden

Call to Order - Co-Chair Kory Knickrehm welcomed all, outlined the agenda, and asked for any questions.

Key School Finance Concepts, Fort Atkinson Financial Trends, and Facility Funding Options – Brian Brewer, from Robert W. Baird & Co., and Jason Demerath presented [Key School Finance Concept](#) and explained this [visual on tax levy and mill rate](#).

Q and A:

- What makes up Fund 80 Community Service? (It is for programs/services for community-wide benefit that are run through the school district. [I.e. City of Madison operate Parks and Rec through the school district].)
- Could the community pool use qualify? (The District previously did this but the state required accounting became so detailed for the small revenue return [I.e. having to count down to every minute when the pool was used by the community].)
- Has the District looked at any community programs? (Other than the pool being used by the community - no).
- How does our mill rate compare to others? (\$9.37 is the state average compared to Fort Atkinson's \$10.66).
- What are private school vouchers (Resident students attending private school who apply and qualify for vouchers from the state).
- Private school vouchers are made up by local taxpayers. Three years, the amount the District has paid for private school vouchers has increased (\$25,000, \$175,000, \$500,000).

- It was noted the District is not seeing an increase of students attending private schools but the number of those applying and qualifying has increased.
- Are other school districts seeing decline in enrollments? (Yes, most districts are experiencing declining enrollments).
- What is the impact of open enrollment students? (The District has always seen a revenue gain by open enrollment but net gain has been decreasing over the years).
- What does not having to short term borrowing save? (Difficult to say as it would depend on amount borrowed, interest rates, length of borrowing, etc.).
- Has it ever been figured out what the savings would be for not having to short term borrow? (No, it has always been the philosophy of the Board to avoid short term borrowing).
- Can the District diversify its investments in bonds, etc. (Government has restrictions on where school districts can invest).
- Is Fund 46 fairly new? (Yes, it came in approximately 2015-16).
- Why was moratorium placed on Act 32? (It was a “work around” to the revenue limits).
- Is Fund 46 designed to be a savings account? (Gives the District a place to set aside funds for maintenance).
- How soon after a referendum is passed can financing be locked in? (Can do some pre-work to split the calendar year if a referendum would be approved in November).
- Are property value increases factored in? (Yes, approximately 3%).
- The District received a Moody’s Score of Aa2, which is the second highest score available which will help sell the District’s bonds.

A tour of Barrie Elementary School was conducted.

Next Meeting will be January 28, 2020 at Rockwell Elementary School.