



Blueprint Schools Program Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Mar 9, 2022

Start Time - 6:00 pm

Attendance

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Chair Calvin S. Hawkins	Council Chair, PG County Council	Jason Washington	Director, OAIPD
Dr. Monica Goldson	Chief Executive Officer, PG County Public Schools	Erika Evans	Assistant, OAIPD
Erica Berry-Wilson	Chief of Staff, DCAO for Health, Human Services and Education	Brandey McDonald	Fengate Asset Management

Call to Order:

Called to order by Erika Evans: "Welcome to the 2022 first quarter Blueprint Schools Steering Committee Meeting, Chairman Hawkins, can you please call the meeting to order?"

Chair Hawkins calls the public meeting to order.

Meeting Logistics:

- Spanish interpretation access
- ASL interpretation – occurs simultaneously.
- Q&A function – disabled
- Questions can be submitted on the program website: www.pgcpsblueprintschools.com
- Public comments - will be called on in the order in which you signed up

Roll call for all attendees takes place.

Steering Committee moves to:

- Chair Hawkins moves to approve the 12/8/2021 steering committee meeting minutes. Erica Berry Wilson seconded. All Steering Committee members voted in favor with no opposition or abstention.

Director's Report

[*See Attached*](#)





Q&A:

Committee:

Dr. Monica Goldson: “Can you provide a little bit more detail around the pending litigation?”

Mr. Jason Washington: “There are two current filed lawsuits in circuit court. One is focused on the letter of authorization that we received from Maryland Department of Environment for the Southern Area K-8 site around wetlands, on the site. The current plan, we submitted our requested brief. There's a public hearing on April 1st in the circuit court that will hear the merits of the case. I don't know if we will have a determination then, but soon thereafter, there will be further guidance on the process. The root of that litigation is around the requirement or the litigants belief is that there is a requirement for public notice and hearing. And MDE's contention was that the size of the impacted area didn't rise to the level of a need for public notice and a hearing. Thus, just the issuance of the letter of authorization. The other pending litigation is an appeal of the park & planning approval of the tree canopy plan two, TCP two, and their ability and the authority to issue that to us. And so that one, there has been no date set yet. We have filed the requested notices, and that one is in circuit court as well. We will work both of those through the process, through public hearings, and we'll report back once we have more information on findings and next steps.

Mrs. Erica Berry-Wilson: “What is the proposed or the requested resolution, particularly with regard to the tree canopy appeal? Is it planning some new trees, planning more trees, and then for the MBE or the Maryland Department of Environment? What's the resolution there if the litigants are or the complainants are successful? Again, how does that impact, if at all, us moving forward with the schools?”

Mr. Washington: “We had an appeal with park and planning back in October, and the stated remedy then was to replant the trees that have been removed from the site. I would also say they are looking for guidance on whether or not park and planning is the sole determiner of approval of the TCP 2. Can that be moved and appealed to the district Council per se? So I think that is kind of the remedy there. Being a makehold type approach for the TCP 2, as it relates to the wetlands. That remedy would be that we are not allowed to encroach upon the wetland and that theoretically they could rescind the letter of authorization, at which point we would probably need to get a waiver from DPIE because we're impacting the wetland because of permit requirements to widen the road. That's why we're impacting it, to widen the road, to reduce the impact on traffic. And so if we're not allowed to impact the wetlands, as we anticipate, we would probably have to redesign a few things on the site. It wouldn't impact the school because the school was not in the wetland, but it may impact our ability to widen the road, which could have some down the road impacts on traffic conditions in the community. Those are right now what I've been told. There may be different remedies that are now being sought by the complainants, but it's been a very diligent process to this point. They're both on our permits, not to us. So it's on the permits that have been issued to us by the public entities.”





Chair Calvin Hawkins: “How are the meetings going with the various community groups, specifically the Alliance? I see in your notes that tomorrow they're having a town hall meeting. Is that something that I should show up to, in your opinion?”

Mr. Washington: “I will just say it's been incredibly helpful. So we have put together monthly meetings and updates where they've posed questions and we've come to address them. So, for instance, we had conversations about the landscaping plan and what are we going to do with the trees that are there and how are we going to reforest the area? There have been questions on the fence line and questions that need to be asked... What is the sequence of events? When are we going to be impacted? So those meetings have been informative, and I believe that we've been responsive to their requests, to date. The meeting tomorrow is actually the full infrastructure work group. So it's actually both DPW and DOE, and it's our town hall to the broader community outside of just the alliance. And so one of the questions that they want me to address is around the traffic impacts of the new school. What are we doing to address that? And we will discuss and provide the presentation on the road improvements, the widening that we are doing, and all of the work that we're doing in the road per our permit. And DPW will be there to talk about traffic impacts and how they view the addressing of those concerns. There were a couple of folks that we asked to join the naming committee that were not necessarily fans of the school but live in the community or will be impacted by the community. And they joined and they participated and provided incredible feedback. And in fact, Colin L. Powell was a recommendation of one of those participants. And so I think that there's an appreciation that we're there to address questions. I still think that they're still getting used to this, but that's been seen basically with all of the communities, is that while everybody is excited about schools and everything, they still have concerns and they are going to be impacted and have been impacted in some way. And so we just have focused on doing what we can to be responsive when we can. The Gilbane team has done yeoman's work in terms of just being accessible, addressing questions when they come up, getting calls and helping us work through potential solutions should there be anything that has popped up. But overall, I would say that I apologized to folks that there are a lot of trucks moving and a lot of dirt moving and concrete and everything, and we understand that we want to move as quickly as possible to reduce this impact. It's been a learning experience for sure.”

Chair Hawkins: “Looking at your notes and you spoke about transportation, some inconvenience. How is that going in the six areas specifically with your reference (and I experienced it the other afternoon), your reference to the work constructions that's going on on 210 - East Swan Creek as well as Fort Washington Road, how's all of that working and not only just there with the other communities? Seems like your team has a handle on it. But any comments?”

Mr. Washington: “We do, but there were some hiccups at first. We had created some designated routes, and the way that a lot of the beginning site work and the dump trucks were coming made it very hard because they would just get assignments and going down Indian Head Highway, the first exit is Fort Washington, not East Swan Creek, which is where we directed folks to come in onto the site. And so there definitely was just getting





into a rhythm. And in Hyattville, there were some issues there as well. And we were able to work with local officials to get those clarified and to move forward. With Indian Head Highway, particularly we're working with and have reached out to state highway to put construction signs on Indian Head Highway. So that to say, "Please use East Swan Creek Road only". So that process is definitely moving. It's a lot more tedious than I thought it would be just to go through that process. But that's where we are as it relates to the transportation impacts. And as we move specifically at the Southern site, they're now starting to see steel. And so those are going to be bigger trucks, those are going to be a little bit more impact, so to speak. But we've been able to address it. And when issues have come up, we've tried to handle them as quickly as possible. "

Public Comments:

Ms. Kathy Zentek: "My question was about making sure that Adelphi Middle and Hyattsville Middle that don't have baseball and softball fields, that was being worked on behind the scenes, now, instead of waiting until the buildings were ready to open up. My concern was that it's a lot of work to open up a school, a brand new school, which I'm sure you're aware of. And I just didn't want it to get left to the last minute and have those schools not have the opportunity to play baseball or softball, which we learned this year, our first year in middle school, that season starts super early. So that was it."

Mr. Jason Washington: "Ms. Zentek, thank you so much for that question. We are working on it and hope to have some answers up on the website very soon on what we're doing on that."

Non-Agenda Items:

There are no non-agenda items at this time.

Next Steering Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Meeting Adjourns:

Chair Hawkins motions to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned

