

SUMMARY

Capital Improvements Advisory Committee

July 15, 2008

8:30 a.m.

1300 King Street, Beaufort SC

Chairman Berne Kole called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. New committee members introduced themselves. Mr. Kole shared information about subcommittees and membership. Attendees were asked to sign-in to the meeting.

Mr. Chris Poe, facilities construction and planning officer for the Beaufort County School District, provided an update on the Referendum 2008 projects, including:

- Land: Several parcels in the Bluffton area are under review and due diligence for use as possible future school sites identified in the referendum (one new middle, one new elementary and one new high school site in the Bluffton area, and one new elementary site on Lady's Island), as provided in the April 26 school bond referendum. Those purchases are expected to come to the Board of Education in coming months.
- Design work/schematics:
 - Design work is progressing on the two early childhood centers for M.C. Riley and Bluffton elementary schools. The 45,000-square foot centers will serve approximately 300 pre-k and kindergarten students, but are flexible designs that can accommodate first graders and older if needed.
 - The elementary school prototype is underway – with the first application of that plan scheduled for the Jones Tract near SC 170/SC 46. The two-story, 800-student prototype and the early childhood centers are on the Bluffton planning agenda for August.
 - The new auditorium for Beaufort Cluster schools, located on the Beaufort High campus, is nearing schematic completion. The auditorium will be similar to the Hilton Head Island High Visual & Performing Arts Center to seat 650 people.
 - All those projects are scheduled to start construction by the end of calendar 2008 except the auditorium, which is scheduled to start in January 2009.

Mr. Poe then updated the committee on Referendum 2006 projects:

1. Red Cedar Elementary: The L-shaped school will be ready to open in Fall 2009 for 800 students. Construction began in May and the project is moving smoothly and on schedule. Mr. Poe shared photographs of the ongoing masonry work and pervious parking lots. H.G. Reynolds is the general contractor.
2. Bluffton Middle: Bids are due July 31 on this project. It's a 145,000 square foot, 1,100-student facilities between Buck Island and Simmonsville roads. The project still awaits approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – in a meeting last week, the Corps said approval would be granted this week. The project has been

before the Corps for 15 months. Construction is expected to start in August with completion in 2010.

3. Whale Branch High: The Beaufort County Development Review Team granted final approval last week. Loggers arrived on-site Monday to begin clearing for construction. H.G. Reynolds is the general contractor. The project is scheduled to open Fall 2010. The school is designed for 650 students with full athletic components for a 1A-division school.

For an update on the 8% Capital Renewal renovations/expansions/repairs, Mr. Poe shared information about renovations to Hilton Head Island Middle's front entrance for safety and traffic flow; a new gym floor at Hilton Head Island High; renovations to Robert Smalls Middle that include traffic flow changes; painting Battery Creek High's interior; replacing the HVAC at Davis Elementary.

To assist the committee in understanding the work flow within the school district, Mr. Poe shared an organization chart for his department. He talked about the district's relationship with *Heery International, Inc.*, which provides expertise in a variety of fields related to construction projects. Details are available on the school district's website under Construction Updates, including project by project updates.

Mr. Poe said the district will provide committee members and the Board of Education with three-ring binders to organize the materials that will be distributed about the various projects. Those binders and accompanying tabs will be available at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Kole commented briefly on the Committee's role and history. He appointed new committee members Mr. John Berra and Mr. Tim Maher to the design/review and construction progress subcommittees. Both live on Dataw Island. Mr. Berra's career included construction of power plants; Mr. Maher's background includes work reviewing school plans for a town in New Jersey.

Committee member Bob Gross spoke of the challenge of keeping water out of facilities. Appropriate stormwater systems are needed initially, but maintenance of those systems is equally critical, Gross said.

Committee member Allan Patterson asked Mr. Gross about nitrogen runoff and how that might impact future construction and site design. Mr. Gross said the nitrogen issue is a site-by-site issue and will be affected by each waterway's chemical analysis.

Committee member Diane Groom said she visited Whale Branch High's site and asked if the roadways will be widened. Mr. Poe said turn lanes will be installed at Detour Road. She expressed concerns about buses arriving as well as teen-agers driving the currently narrow roads.

Mr. Kole named committee member Roland Faricy to the Finance sub-committee.

Mr. Kole asked sub-committee members to touch base with their chairs. Mr. Chuck Hoelle, chair of the procurement sub-committee, asked his members to meet immediately following this meeting for a few moments.

Not including staff, 18 members attended the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee meeting. Al Stern, chairman of the committee's Finance sub-committee, couldn't attend because of prior commitments. An updated membership list is attached.

Mr. Kole adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Summary provided by John Williams, director of school & community relations for Beaufort County Schools.