

Buildings and Grounds Committee

September 29, 2016

5:00 p.m.

<u>Members Present</u>	Dan Dietrich, Randall Bonde, Jill Preissner
<u>Others Present</u>	Dr. Blankenheim, Ben Hill, Ruthie Rumpff, Sheila Lefeber, Jack Lechler, Jim Baumann
<u>MS Water Issues</u>	The Board was previously notified, through Dr. Blankenheim's update, about water issues in the sub-basement of the middle school. The committee toured the sub-basement and will discuss options at a future meeting.
<u>Facility Upgrades</u>	This agenda item was referred back to the B&G committee by the Board. Ben Hill shared additional quotes/information he obtained regarding bathroom upgrades at the high school. Options included:

- 1) Adding a partition in the second floor bathroom between stall and urinals. The budgetary cost to add this is \$2,500.
- 2) Remodel the existing bathrooms by the auditorium turning them into family/unisex bathrooms. Ben contacted C.D. Smith, Jos. Schmitt, and Miron to provide budgetary quotes. C.D. Smith was \$31,200/bathroom; Jos. Schmitt was \$25,900-\$30,900/bathroom; and Miron will be meeting next week with Ben.

Member Bonde inquired if all of these upgrades are a result of the transgender student. Member Preissner said no and referenced discussion at the board meeting. Member Bonde noted that the bathrooms by the office have changing tables and are ADA compliant.....just make those gender neutral. This is not an option as there are multiple stalls in each bathroom and this would create an environment that would now allow both boys and girls in the bathroom at the same time. Member Bonde suggested just putting up unisex signs up to change the bathrooms by the auditorium.

Again, Member Preissner spoke to being more cognizant of the community and her desire to upgrade one of the bathrooms at this time to a family/unisex bathroom and then reassess the need for another one after a year. Members Dietrich and Preissner support doing one bathroom now.

Jack Lechler expressed his concerns:

- the public and citizens are unable to share their concerns or be at the meetings;
- this being too fast of a schedule for different reasons;
- the board being pushed to make a decision.

He told the committee the board needs to sit back and take a look at the situation. The schools are here to educate students and recommends not doing anything now and that way the board would gain appreciation and respect from the public for waiting. Member Dietrich told Mr. Lechler to have those individuals unable to speak or come to meeting to contact Louise.

Member Preissner expressed the need to follow through on option 1 as she feels it is a good move for all students. Member Bonde doesn't understand what we're doing....need to make a policy to keep them out of the bathroom of their identity. Dr. Blankenheim explained the recent court decisions in the Kenosha and Ohio cases as well as being a protected class under Title IX.

Mrs. Dorner asked how she is to make a distinction when there is a male gender marker, male name, and looks like a male. No way to do this without checking genitals. Member Bonde indicated there is no scientific information to support transgender. Mrs. Dorner asked Member Bonde which restroom am I suppose to have the transgender student use? His reply was the private locker room with toilet facility that we have made available just for him. Member Bonde said it is about interpreting the policy.

Member Dietrich reminded everyone that no board member brought forth any concerns when it was originally shared by Dr. Blankenheim on August 3. Based upon no objections, Dr. Blankenheim followed the correct procedural path.

Jim Baumann shared that it was a directive from President Obama and not law. He talked with county supervisors and Representative Vorpapel. A private locker room was offered and that should be sufficient.

Mr. Lechler expressed his concerns about the fiscal side of this.

Member Preissner brought everyone back to the agenda and determining recommendations. The following recommendations were discussed:

- 1) Member Bonde suggested fixing the water issues at the middle school and other items on the 5-year plan prior to doing anything with the bathrooms.
- 2) Member Preissner recommended option 1 adding the partition to the 2nd floor bathroom. This was supported by Member Dietrich and Dr. Blankenheim and Ben Hill were directed to proceed with this option.
- 3) Member Bonde recommended doing nothing. This was not supported by Members Dietrich and Preissner.
- 4) Member Preissner recommended remodeling one of the bathrooms by the auditorium into a family/unisex bathroom. This recommendation was supported by Member Dietrich and will be presented to the full Board on October 5.

Adjourn

On Motion of Member Bonde, seconded by Member Preissner the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.