

Members:

Hon. Ben Walsh
Mayor
City of Syracuse

Hon. Helen Hudson
President, Common Council

Hon. Patricia Body
Commissioner of Education

Jaime Alicea
Superintendent of Schools
Syracuse City School District

Calvin Corriders
Vice President, Commercial & Retail
Sales Manager
Pathfinder Bank

Charles P. Merrihew
Vice President for Engagement &
External Affairs, Syracuse University

Larry Williams
Director
Syracuse Save Our Youth

Advisory Staff:

Joseph W. Barry, III, Esq.
Secretary to the Board/Counsel
City of Syracuse

Bob Andrews
Director
Intergovernmental Affairs and Shared
Services
City of Syracuse

David DeVecchio, CPA
Commissioner of Finance
City of Syracuse

Thomas C. Ferrara, P.E.
Director of Facilities,
Maintenance & Operations
Syracuse City School District

Mary Robison, P.E.
City Engineer
City of Syracuse

Suzanne Slack
Chief Financial Officer
Syracuse City School District

JSCB

Joint Schools Construction Board

www.syr.gov.net/jscb/

Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2019

9:00 a.m. (Common Council Chambers, City Hall)

Board Members Present: Mayor Ben Walsh, Superintendent Jaime Alicea, Helen Hudson, Patricia Body, Calvin Corriders, Charles Merrihew and Larry Williams

Board Members Absent: None

JSCB Secretary Joe Barry gave the following updates:

-Notified Board members that they all accepted reappointment

-Notified Board members that the Board of Education decided to go ahead and vote to authorize additional expenses for the Fowler Project and pay that out of local share and that the vote today would allow us to authorize the architect to begin the design of the project and keep us on current schedule

Mayor Ben Walsh stated that before we entertain the motion, maybe Chris Gray could refresh everyone's memory on the scope and plan going forward

Chris Gray provided an overview of the Fowler Project

Mayor Ben Walsh asked about the budget of the project and there was a discussion about the budget implications

Board members wanted to confirm the budget numbers and understand how the funds would be spent

Board Member Helen Hudson expressed her concern about the long-term liability of the project and the impact on the students of any potential contamination

Chris Gray indicated that contamination would not be a concern because the cleanup is being addressed pursuant to DEC guidelines

Board Member Larry Williams asked about the peat moss issue and how it impacts the construction; Chris Gray replied that the engineering design had found a way to build the field without removing all of the peat moss

Mayor Ben Walsh noted that there are three separate components to the project and there was a general discussion about how the components interacted



Ben Walsh
Mayor
203 City Hall
Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 448-8005
Fax (315) 448-8067



Jaime Alicea
Superintendent
725 Harrison Street
Syracuse, New York 13210
(315) 435-4499
Fax (315) 435-4015

Board Member Calvin Corriders followed up with some more questions about the environmental standards and Chris Grey replied with how the standards apply to this project

There was a general discussion about the financial impact of the additional cost and concern about how this would impact the project in the future

Resolution:

Calvin Corriders made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1-2019 to authorize an amendment to Resolution No. 48-2018 (Comprehensive Plan) to reallocate \$5 million of funding from the unallocated funds in the Plan (\$8.5 M) to be used for the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler project. This reallocation will increase total funding for the Fowler project from \$26 million to \$31 million dollars. Charles Merrihew seconded the motion and it passed 6-1.

Mayor Ben Walsh asked if there was further discussion

Board Member Helen Hudson stated that she hopes down the road we're not looking back 15-20 years from now and saying oh by the way, this occurred

Superintendent Jaime Alicea stated that we have had kids playing these fields for years and years on that side of town; that community, they need athletic facilities as we do at other schools and we need to be involved, this is taxpayer money, I understand that

Board Member Patricia Body stated that when Calvin was on the board we talked about this, it's very difficult. The school district has always struggled financially, but it's very difficult to have parents and students come into the board meetings saying how it's not fair to them. I have the same concerns that you do about what can happen in 15 years, but it's very difficult to deprive our children of an athletic field and then in 15 years say we shouldn't have done it, but these children need a field

Board Member Helen Hudson stated that the children need a field; Danforth, Blodgett also have environmental issues so we need to protect the children.

Board member Larry Williams started that we want to reward that those – the families and students on that side of town, we know that they deserve the reward. We are cautious about this. A lot of this we've been saying for years, that community deserves the best and for years they have not had that. The school never should have been built in the first place but it is and now we have this. The families get what they deserve; crossing my fingers and praying that this works

Mayor Ben Walsh stated that we need to have faith. I really appreciate the comments by everyone. There is some risk here, but I think this body has done our due diligence and pushed our design professionals to do their best to come

up with solutions. I think it's worth the risk for the families on the west side. So we have a motion, we have a second

Board Member Helen Hudson voted no

Mayor Ben Walsh stated that the motion is carried 6-1

Calvin Corriders made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jaime Alicea seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.