

Work Session  
September 20, 2017  
High School Rm C115A

Attendance: Dr. Wilcox, Dr. Sanders, Mr. Thrasher, Mr. Kerr, Mrs. Merry, Mr. Wright, Mr. Durnil, Christine from Ferguson Law, Mr. Link, Ms. Lee, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Caldwell.

Consultants: Dr. Halik

At 6:30 P.M. Mr. Durnil called the meeting to order and lead the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Durnil Started by saying this was a work session to discuss options, but no final decisions would be made tonight. He read a report that stated about the committee that was put together and their findings. He turned the meeting over to Mr. George Link.

Mr. Link went over what they have been looking at to improve our facilities up to this point. He went over the first phase of the improvements. Mr. Durnil ask Mr. Link to go over how much it would take to get Stinesville up to code. They are not ADA compliance. He went over things that would need to be upgraded like air conditioning, heating, to name a few. This would take approximately 8 million dollars.

Dr. Wilcox ask Dr. Halik to talk about the impact on our general fund.

Dr. Halik had data on Stinesville that the board ask for on general fund. (Attached to minutes)

Mr. Wright said the committee really worked well together and he was very impressed with what came out of the committee. Mrs. Merry said that she is very thankful for Dr. Halik and his work he did to help us with the Long Range Planning.

Dr. Wilcox ask for board comments: Mr. Kerr said that the information that they received shows that the enrollment at Stinesville in declining every year. The cost per student is almost double at Stinesville versa EIS and EPS. He thought this was very important information that we need to consider. The cost of 8 million to get the building up to code he thought was a large amount for a school with declining enrollment. Based on these facts we can't continue to keep Stinesville open. Mr. Thrasher agreed with Mr. Kerr. He is sad, but feels they have no other option at this point. Mr. Wright thought that the committees were very informative and brought a lot to the table. We have redistricted 3 times, but did not help in the past. It's unfortunate that money is a big issue but, we have to look at what is best for our community. We are talking about a building not teachers or staff we are not planning on losing any teacher. We have great staff and administrator there. Mrs. Merry said that her goal is that the students in this district gets the best education possible. Then we have to look what is fair as far as a tax payer. Mr. Durnil said this is not an easy decision. We have been pressured for the last 10 years to close Stinesville. We have done everything in our power to keep it open. When declining students start to happen year after year then we have no other choice. Dr. Wilcox said that next to losing a loved one this is a very hard loss to cope with. We have great staff and wonderful students at Stinesville so this is a very hard decision.

Mr. Durnil opened it up to visitor's comments. He directed them that each person has only 3 minutes each.

**Patron #1** — (Katelynn)

Construction cost presented was 9.3 million and 8 million for renovation of Stinesville.  
Where did these estimates come from? Have any other cost estimates been run?

Note: remember these are cost "estimates" not bids and not actual cost.

**Patron #2** — (Carlie)

Where were all of these meetings advertised?

We did not know about these meetings?

Our kids have the highest test scores?

Note: is it a true statement re: test scores and what is the history?

**Patron #3** — (Andy)

Stated there was representation from all schools and noted that this is a financial decision!

**Patron #4** — (Marlynn)

Concern is — the special needs children...

They will not be getting the 1:1 services they need.

My grandchildren do not do well with change.

They will not the 1:1 they need.

**Patron #5** — ( Katelynn Bruce)

My daughter is one of the special education children and has a disability.  
She only succeeds with the service at this school.

The school is 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> blocks from my house.

My property values will drop if this school is closed.

**Patron #6** — (Mrs. Butler)

I teach kindergarten at this school.

I have 28 students in my class.

What you keep saying about class sizes is not true.

Parents have other options and will choose other schools if Stinesville is closed.

**Patron # 7** (Jay Wilson)

What is the deficit?

Why haven't the attendance lines been moved?

**Patron #8** — (Jane Sawback)

Shared family history at Stinesville.

There are already 30-40 students in the other schools classrooms.

Everyone knows all of the 'children's names at Stinesville and they do not in the other schools.

**Patron #9** — (Kathy Abel)

I live there, it is my home!

The Principal knows everyone's name.

Assure me our kids will not get lost.

Bloomington people come to Ellettsville — our kids are different.

**Patron #10**— (Tim)

I have two kids at this school.

They had good grades — they went to the Junior High and getting D's

Are there **10** extra classroom for all of these kids in Ellettsville.

**Patron #11** — ( Mrs. Nicholson)

I went to school there.

I lived through consolidation.

Ellettsville and Stinesville schools did not conform.

**Patron #12** — ( Kate Stine)

I have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader.

We moved here for the school.

The city school does not offer what is at our school.

I will drive my kid to another school and others will see this as an opportunity to leave too.

**Patron #13** — (Trish Wilson)

Was the PTO President for 12 years.

I have watched the numbers rise and fall (enrollment)

Cosmetics are not important.

Teachers care way more about our kids.

**Patron #14** — (Laura Wilson)

How long have you been noncompliant with regard to ADA (American Disabilities Act)? Is there a deadline for ADA compliance?

How many districts are declining in enrollment?

You will be losing our test scores and our kids!

**Patron #15** — (Terry Reynolds)

Why are Stinesville test scores higher ... it's because of the teachers.

**Patron #16** — (Kari Cosby)

We moved here from Brownsburg.

We don't need sports.

If enrollment is lacking what can we do to increase enrollment? Why can't we bus kids from town to balance the schools?

**Patron #17** — (Laurie Hancock)

I have had 4 children in this school and I want you baby to go there too.

This school is the heart of this town.

Where can you cut from other schools proposed projects; make cuts from their plans and make improvements here.

People ask me all the time to tell them about Stinesville Elementary School.

**Patron #18** — (David)

My big thing is that every construction job and every contractor has different prices. Have you considered different A&E Firms?

Where is the competition?

We have only one man's opinion?

Why as our school taken the back seat over the years?

Why has no money been invested there the past 10 years or so?

Meeting adjourn 8:00 p.m.

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Jimmie D. Durnil, President

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Randall C. Wright, Member

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Larry Thrasher, Vice-President

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Dana R. Kerr, Member

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Debra Merry, Secretary