

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Syracuse Swimming Pool Study Advisory Committee

FROM: Bill Silky

RE: Meeting Notes-Meeting of January 9, 2018

DATE: January 10, 2018

Attendance:

Committee Members: Alexandra Knipp, Annette Francescotti, David Sargalski, Kevin Eager, Andy Harrington, Jody Rogers, Joseph Blidy, Patrick Kennedy, Kristin Purdy, Madeline Thorne, Marlene Bittner, Michael Kubala, Nichole Polos, Raymond Patraw, Sarah Jobin, Walter Dengos

Consultants: Bill Silky

Observers: Don Keegan, Michael Shusda, Annette Speach, Brad Ranieri, Billie Jo Lenning, Theresa Lonardi, Paul Leonardi, Sandi Thorne, Jeanne Vinette, Brenda Lenweaver, Cindy Cifaratta

Location: District Office

1. Superintendent Annette Speach and School Board President Mike Shusda welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for participating on the committee. Annette provided background on why the Board has commissioned the study-primarily because there is again a great interest in exploring a swimming pool for school and community use. She indicated that the issue has been brought up a number of times over the years without resulting in approval of a swimming pool. Annette then introduced Bill Silky who has been invited to facilitate the work of the committee.
2. Bill also thanked the committee members for their willingness to serve on this important committee then circulated an attendance sheet so a record of those present could be maintained. He provided his background and then invited all committee members to do likewise and indicate they are interested in serving on the committee. Bill then reviewed the meeting protocol saying all meetings will be held in public with anyone not on the committee welcome to observe the committee do its work. He did indicate that at the end of each meeting the floor would be open for observers to ask questions or make statements. Bill said the meetings would start promptly at 7:00 p.m. and would be no longer than two hours in length. He further indicated that e-mail would be the primary means of communicating to the committee.

3. The agenda was reviewed and future meeting dates were asked to be placed on committee members' calendars as follows: January 30, February 27, March 13, April 3, and May 1 for a final report to the Board of Education.

4. The Board's charge to the committee was framed as a question to be answered. This question was presented to the committee as follows: ***“What options, with related advantages and disadvantages, are worthy of the Board's consideration to provide swimming pool availability for district use?”***

5. The expectations of committee members were reviewed as was the role of the consultant (Bill). Criteria for assessing possible recommendations were also shared with the committee as follows: *Recommendations will-*

- *Benefit students*
- *Be sensitive to the unique cultural context of the school district*
- *Be independent of special interest groups*
- *Be educationally sound*
- *Be fiscally responsible and realistic*
- *Present options for access to a swimming pool for district use*

6. A number of vehicles to keep the public informed of the committee's work were shared including e-news blasts, posting of information on the district website, inviting observers to committee meetings, and asking committee members to serve as key communicators in their respective geographic areas with friends, family and acquaintances.

7. The committee was then divided up into sub groups to begin the brainstorming process of possible options for pool access in the district. After approximately 25 minutes each group reported out and the following list of possible options was generated:

- Continue current practice (simply have student swimmers use the Henninger High School pool for practices and LeMoyne College pool for swim meets)
- Build a pool onto one of the district's schools
- Rent a pool facility (consider the Mid-State Hockey grant opportunity)
- Building a pool on district land
- Work with the community to build a pool (such as the Town)
- Collaborate with an adjacent school district to construct a shared pool (such as Central Square)
- Collaborate with a local health club for pool access
- Develop a pool for year round aquatics

The sub-groups were also invited to begin brainstorming advantages (pros) and disadvantages (cons) to each of these options and generate questions that will need to be answered. Worksheets the subgroups developed and were collected and Bill said a summary would be provided at the next meeting.

8. The meeting concluded with an invitation to observers to ask questions or make statements. Comments included:

- Can the district pursue outside revenue to fund a pool?
- Perhaps to publicize the work of the pool advisory committee, local parent organization Facebook pages should be used to get the word out.
- One observer offered a personal story of why a pool would be beneficial to have for pool safety and also offered a nice history of the district's past efforts to develop a pool for district use.

I believe this covers the essence of the discussions at our meeting on January 9th. If you have questions with these notes, please feel free to contact me.

C: Annette Speach