

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Syracuse Swimming Pool Study Advisory Committee

FROM: Bill Silky

RE: Meeting Notes-Meeting of February 27, 2018

DATE: March 5, 2018

Attendance:

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

Consultants: Bill Silky

Observers: Don Keegan, Michael Shusda, Annette Speech, Brad Ranieri, Sandi Thorne, Paul Gill, Mark Narbaugh, Tris Lenweaver, Beth Williams, Gretchen Walter, Sarah Walter, Rich Walter, Jean Payrot, Bri Smith, Christine Dallmann, Laurie Petralia, Nick Payrot, Logan Petrana, Eli Ward, Karen Putt, Theresa Leonardi, Stayvis Ng

Location: District Office

1. Bill Silky opened the meeting by reviewing the meeting protocol and the dates of future meetings. He also asked if everyone had received the notes from the January 30th meeting and if there were any changes or additions. Everyone reported they did receive the notes and no changes/additions were noted so the minutes stand as written. He also pointed out again that the final report presentation to the Board of Education has been changed from May 1st to the 8th and encouraged all members to attend the meeting.
2. Using a Powerpoint presentation, Bill once again started by reminding the committee of the charge (critical question) the Board asked the committee to address. He then shared a slide that summarized the committee's feasible options to date and indicated that he had given each a letter (A-H) for ease of identification. Bill did ask again if one option (Develop a pool for year-round aquatics) was really an option or simply a request regarding any of the options on the table. The committee agreed that it was not an option but rather a request so it was removed from the list but the request will be included in the final report.
3. Related to the option of possibly working with the Village or North Syracuse or one of the townships in which the school district is located, Bill shared the a legal opinion the district received from its law firm (Bond, Schoeneck and King of Syracuse) regarding the legality of a school district and a town co-owning and operating a swimming pool. The attorneys concluded that "it is legally possible for a school district and town to co-own and operate a swimming pool-provided the town had the independent legal authority to won and operate a pool." He then reported the feedback received from the letter to the various municipalities the committee had him send regarding possibly collaborating with the school district on a pool project.

- Gary Butterfield, Mayor of the Village on North Syracuse indicated the Village would be willing to discuss the issue with the school district
- Mark Nicotra, the Town of Salina Supervisor said they would be willing to discuss the issue however having four pools already in the town they are lukewarm to the possibility
- Mark Venesky, Supervisor in Cicero indicated there was no interest in a collaboration on a pool project
- Damian Ulatowski, Supervisor in the Town of Clay said the Board was meeting on March 5th and he would let the committee know the Town Board's disposition after this meeting.

In addition and as it relates to another of the options under consideration (possibly entering a joint pool project with another school district, specifically Central Square), Bill reported that Thomas Colobufo, Superintendent in Central Square indicated the district was not interested in this as it has many other more pressing issues at the time.

4. The results of the survey of similar area school districts with a pool (West Genesee, Baldwinsville, Liverpool and J-D; Syracuse City has not yet responded) was shared with the committee. Key findings included:

- Most have 6 lane pools; B'ville has a 4-lane pool
- 3 of the 4 have a diving area; Baldwinsville has a smaller pool and therefore no diving
- Most have dedicated locker rooms
- All have spectator areas
- Management of the pool facility varies widely from district to district
- No clear answers were provided on the cost of owning and operating a pool from any of the districts
- All of the districts reported the pool was used for PE classes, however nearly all offered this only at the secondary level
- All four districts open their pool for community use

5. At this point in the meeting, Bill introduced Kirk Narbaugh, CEO/managing partner of King & King to share concept drawings of the most logical possibilities for the district to construct a swimming pool of its own (a copy of his slide presentation is available in the District Offices) and to answer questions of committee members. Some key points of the presentation included:

- Either the Junior High or C-NS are the most logical sites for construction of a pool; elementary schools or district owned land without a school building are not viable options for a variety of reasons
- He explained building aid units (the State Education Departments way to determine how much aid it is willing to give the district if it constructs a pool) and said he believed, despite the number of gym stations/school building requirement, a case could be made to aid a swimming pool at either the Junior High or at C-NS
- Should a pool be constructed at the Junior High, locker rooms would have to be constructed also. If C-NS was the be the site for a pool, no additional locker room space would be required, however two tennis courts would have to be removed for the construction.
- Kirk provided some cost estimates for pool construction at the Junior High (\$6,522,000) and at C-NS (\$6,026,000) and what the local share might be after state aid is received. (Junior High, \$5.33-\$5.9 million; C-NS, \$4.76-\$5.9 million).
- The estimated yearly operating and maintenance costs he shared was between \$150,000-\$250,000. Kirk did caution the committee that cost estimates are very tentative and until final plans are actually created more exact estimates could not be provided.

- A possible timeline for a pool project was also provided and showed it would likely take 2 ½ to 3 years to complete such a construction effort if the district had started immediately.

6. The committee then revisited its list of possible options and advantages/disadvantages and Bill asked if, in light of what the committee now knows, are some of the feasible options no longer either feasible or desirable for the Board to consider. At this point in time the committee agreed the following options should no longer be under consideration:

- Collaborating with another school district (Central Square) to build a pool
- Building a pool on district land with no school on the site
- Working with the Village of North Syracuse or one of the local towns to jointly develop and operate a pool

As the discussion continued the committee decided there were really just two categories with sub-options that should remain on the table at this point in time as follows:

Category A: The district constructs its own 6 or 8-lane pool

- At the Junior High School
- At C-NS

Category B: The district work with a local organization and continue to rent a pool

- Twin Rinks
- Aspen
- The YMCA

The committee felt that the current district arrangement (renting pool availability from the Syracuse City School District and LeMoyne College) should only be considered as a default position for the district.

7. The meeting was opened to observers to ask questions and/or make comments. Paul Gill, swim coach, informed the committee of the transportation problems given the current renting arrangement with Syracuse City and implored the committee to give serious consideration to the option of the district constructing its own pool. Don Keegan stated that it would be very costly to own and operate its own pool and stressed that the district cannot rent a pool to any for profit organization. A parent of district swimmers spoke about the importance of the swim program to all students and encouraged the committee to give due consideration to a district owned and operated pool.

I believe this covers the essence of the discussions at our meeting on February 27th. If you have questions with these notes, please feel free to contact me.

C: Annette Speach