

A Public Hearing of the Board of School Directors of the Williamsport Area School District of which all members were duly notified and of which due public notice was given as required by Act 84 of 1986, was held on Thursday evening, February 17, 2022, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium of the Thaddeus Stevens Primary School, 1150 Louisa Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

I. Call to Order, Statement of Purpose:

The President, Lori A. Baer, President, called the meeting to order with the following members and announced that a band concert is scheduled for 7:00 PM tonight at Cochran and we may have a couple of Board members excusing themselves early to attend their children's concert.

PRESENT: Lori A. Baer, Cody L. Derr, Jennifer Lake, Barbara D. Reeves,
Jamie L. Sanders, Adam C. Welteroth, Scott R. Williams.

ABSENT: Michelle L. Deavor, Patrick A. Dixon.

The purpose of the hearing will be for members of the administration and staff of the Williamsport Area School District to present information to the Board of School Directors, and to allow members of the public to express their opinions or present facts they believe are important to the Board of School Directors in making a decision regarding whether or not to close the school.

II. Solicitor Fred Holland provided a summary of the PA School Code provisions and the advertising requirements that govern tonight's hearing. He declared that all requirements have been met.

III. Administrative Presentations:

Timothy S. Bowers, Ed.D. welcomed everyone to the hearing and provided a brief overview of how the district engaged Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates in a feasibility study in 2019 describing the large community group involvement in the process as well as the smaller internal committee involvement. He explained that Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and district administrators will provide summaries of topics outlined on the agenda. Dr. Bowers introduced Scott Cousin from Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates.

Scott Cousin, AIA; Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates provided a presentation outlining the needs and issues at Thaddeus Stevens Primary School that were identified during the feasibility study. He outlined three construction options:

- Renovations to Stevens (estimated \$20.0 million to \$22.9 million)
- Construction of new building on existing site (estimated \$20.6 million to \$22.7 million)
- Close Stevens (\$0)

III. Administrative Presentations Cont'd:

The following district administrators provided information regarding the impact on the district should the Board decide to close Stevens Primary School and ultimately sell the building

Wanda Erb, SFO, Business Administrator – Financial Impact

Susan Bigger, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent – Educational Programming and Staffing

Richard Poole, Ed.D., Director of Student Services – Boundaries Information

Dr. Bowers reviewed the next steps noting that a public meeting on May 17, 2022, the Board will vote on a motion to permanently close Stevens Primary School. During the next three months, the administration will be working on plans should the Board close the building. Also during this time, the Board will be receiving public comments and responding to questions. A document of questions and responses will be available on the district website. We will have a comment box available at Board meetings. Comments will also be accepted via email at StevensComments@wasd.org.

Dr. Bowers encouraged members of the audience to come forward to provide comments.

IV. Comments from the Public:

Questions and comments were heard from several Board members and the following community members: Carl Fisher, Hannah Darrow, Sara Decker and Allison McCullen.

A stenographer was present at the hearing and a transcript will be on file at the district.

V. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Reeves, seconded by Mrs. Lake. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Wanda M. Erb, Board Secretary