

Meeting Minutes: Planning Committee – District Office Board Room**Date/Time:** December 20, 2022 – 7:30 a.m.**Start:** 7:30 a.m.**End:** 8:28 a.m.**Committee Members Present:** Jim Johnson, Katie Christensen, Nyamal Dei, Seth Holden**Committee Members Absent:** Tracie Newman**Board Members Present:** None**Staff Members Present:** Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Jackie Gapp, Tara Brandner, Missy Eidsness, and Robert Grosz**Guests:** James Hand**Recorder:** Amy Patterson

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions
Approval of December 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes	Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting.	Minutes will be posted on the Board's section of the public website.
Update on ECSE at Hawthorne	<p>Dr. Gandhi introduced James Hand, new Director of Maintenance and Operations. Dr. Gandhi discussed the assessment that was done during the interview process. Discussions were had about the significant increase in price and scope of the Hawthorne project.</p> <p>James Hand discussed this project and echoed concerns about the increase in price and scope of the Hawthorne project, as well as the lack of room for expansion. He noted that the project was originally estimated at \$8 Million, and it is now projected to be approximately \$12 Million. Due to additional projects being tacked on, inflationary costs, and other variables, the cost has drastically increased. In addition to the rising cost and scope, as well as logistical limitations with drop-off and congestion and lack of any expansion options, it is important that we look at and consider other options. We should hit the pause button at Hawthorne. Over the next few months, we will be assessing location options, size and scope, and room for expansion at different locations.</p> <p>Committee discussion ensued around challenges with this project and others, possible future solutions, and potential options available to us.</p> <p>Committee agreed that since the price tag has increased by about \$4 Million already, we should take it back to the full Board for discussion.</p>	
5-8-9 Building near Davies	James Hand identified this project as a priority. Discussions were had about some different options, potential solutions and timelines, as well as potential issues. James Hand laid out his suggested timeline for getting this project going. He explained that lead times are long and there are many construction challenges, as well as inflationary challenges. In 2020, this had a \$50 Million price tag, and now it has a \$62-\$70 Million price tag. It is important to get this going so we can get the best value out	

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	<p>of the project and have it run as smoothly as possible. Hand would like to target July 2025 for substantial completion which is doable. The key to hitting that date is proper planning and getting the project started off the right way.</p> <p>Dr. Gandhi discussed the history of this project and the task force work that was previously done. James Hand suggested going with a Construction Management at Risk delivery method, given the size of the project and its complexity, which is slightly different. Discussion was had on the differences and the benefits of going this route. Discussion was had regarding the increase in the budgeted price from 2020 until now and the difference in price for Construction Management versus Construction Management at Risk. James Hand explained the many reasons he believed were responsible for the increase in costs and the extra benefits of going with Construction Management at Risk.</p> <p>Committee discussion was had regarding the capacity to pay for this project and the many other building issues and needs the District is currently facing and will face in the very near future.</p>	
<p>Prairie St. Johns</p>	<p>Chair Johnson met with staff at Prairie St. John's. The process of serving students is a contract by Fargo Public Schools to provide education to Prairie St. John's inpatient and day program students. Their student population number is a floating number, but about 15% of typical students are Fargo Public Schools students and 85% are students of other districts or states. Our staff is currently teaching students from all over at Prairie St. John's.</p> <p>Discussion was had about the administration struggling to find special ed teachers we need in the District.</p> <p>Dr. Gandhi explained that we cannot justify providing services at Prairie St. John's anymore, and he is drafting a staff report on this. We need to end the contract and re-deploy our staff back into Fargo Public Schools into critical need areas, which is our priority</p> <p>Discussion was had about discussions had with the staff at Prairie St. John's and about offering reassurances that they would not be displaced and that they were needed within Fargo Public Schools. Prairie St. John's asks that they do receive notice when we are withdrawing so they can plan. Our focus must be on serving Fargo Public Schools students over other students. Fargo Public Schools is having a hard time filling our empty spots and that has to be our focus.</p>	<p>Staff Report on 1/10/23</p> <p>Notification to Prairie St. John's</p>

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Scheels Fireplace at Trollwood	James Hand gave an update that the fireplace has been planned to go in the Scheels living room. Scheels will cover the entire \$40,000 cost. Hebron is the contractor that will be installing. It is all-inclusive and grandfathered in as a project that is privately funded or fundraised. This is one of the last things that is pre-authorized. This was a previous request, and it is good to go. This does not require Board approval.	
2022 Audit Update	<p>The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 is now complete. They gave us an unmodified opinion with two little corrections. It will be presented at the first meeting in January for Board approval.</p> <p>Jackie Gapp gave an update on the report and thanked her staff for their hard work on this report. She pointed out the highlights of the report, as well as a couple of findings regarding the Davis Bacon project and Esser funding regarding prevailing wage rates. We were able to remedy and correct it, so it was not a finding in the report. The other correction related to how we were displaying some of our benefits and that it had not been done correctly in the past.</p> <p>Discussion was had on whether Eide Bailly should come and present the report to the Board. It was agreed that it would be beneficial since we have so many new Board members. It was agreed that we would request a short, 10-minute presentation be given at the January 10 Board meeting.</p>	Eide Bailly presentation to the Board on 1/10/23
Budget Review	Chair Johnson reported just a minor adjustment on the budget review document, which was just an updated number related to Adult Education.	
Next Meeting: January 17, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.		