Minutes of the August 13, 2020 Facilities Advisory Committee:

The Facilities Advisory Committee of the Board of Education of District Township High School District 227 met virtually at 6:00 pm on August 13, 2020 via zoom conference.

Attendees: Andrea Bonds, Tavia Allen, Andre Allen, Nicholas Hale, Marcus Chapman and Eric Perkins, Kevin Baffoe, Alicia Evans, Mike Taylor, Henry Brumel

Start - 6:03 p.m.

Welcome – Bonds welcomed the group and notified the everyone that Mr. Wiley submitted a letter to step down from the facilities advisory committee.

Rich STEM Stadium Update – The committee was told that the plan to build the stadium at the STEM campus was unsuccessful. The district administrators met with Olympia Fields Trustees in June and the parking variance request was denied. Now, the new plans for the stadium will be at the FAC campus. Preliminary discussion and planning have begun on moving the stadium to Richton Park. Comments were made by FAC. Mr. Chapman stated, Richton Park would be able to handle the larger crowds and was in favor of the change in location.

Progress Drawings (summer work) – The progress drawings were shown to the committee. The question was asked by Mr. Chapman about the progress of the projects and whether they were on time. Dr. Evans indicated that there were a few issues with the schedule, but that the projects were on schedule.

Conceptual rendering of FAC campus fieldhouse/other – The committee viewed the conceptual drawings of the concession stand and weighed in on their individual choice. However, the wasn’t any drawing the received much of the vote. There was discussion from the committee about two concession stands vs. one concession stand. Mr. Hale discussed reversing the visitor and home bleachers because of visibility and the sun. He also discussed changing the direction of the concession stand to an East/West direction. Dr. Evans indicated that the information would be discussed with district planning group.

District Requirements for Minority Contractors – Mrs. Bonds talked about a meeting with the district attorney about minority contracting. Based on that discuss, the district could not hold back a percentage of work for minority contractors in the way other municipalities can because
the procurement statue will not allow the practice. Additionally, the set aside would cost more and could be legally challenged. The District will go another route to include minority contractors, that is to partner with another firm as the general contractor. Mr. Chapman noted that the bids have been awarded already and there isn’t minority representation. Dr. Evans said only one phase is awarded. There are still opportunities for minority participation in future bid awards over the next few years. Mr. Chapman talked about Pepper’s communication with minority contractors and asked that we look at the amount of money being spent and the percentage of minority contractors. Mrs. Bonds said the Pepper is motivated to make sure they reach out to minority contractors and we are trying to bring more people to the table. Mr. Chapman wanted to say publicly that he is against monitory set asides. Mr. Hale said he felt the attempt to reach out to minority subcontractors by Pepper was generic and an afterthought. There should be guidelines and criteria.

A subcommittee was established to create guidelines and recommendation to the reviewed by the Board of Education. The subcommittee members are Chapman, Hale and A. Allen. The subcommittee will report on their progress at the next meeting. The subcommittee would draft a process for FAC to engage and recruit minority contractors. Mr. Chapman asked Dr. Evans to provide some guidance for the subcommittee report.

Other – Mr. Hale wanted to discuss the limited authority of the facilities advisory committee. Specifically, he wanted FAC to oversee the development of plans as he felt the committee was receiving information after decisions were made. Mr. Allen acknowledged the limited powers of the committee at its inception and asked why a change would be needed at this time. Mr. Hale referenced the charge that stated the committee would give recommendations to the Board. He also said the committee’s expertise should be used. Mrs. Bonds said the committee gets information before it goes to the Board to make recommendations, not oversee.

Mrs. Bonds talked to the committee and about feeling as if the committee was on opposite sides of the Board and wanted to know if something else was going on. She said she is taking the time to meet and that the FAC meetings matter. She stated that the FAC engagement should not put aside. Mr. Chapman offered acceptance of Mrs. Bonds statement and states that he is passionate about minority contractors. He wants to be more engaged to help get more results. Everyone agreed to work together and move forward.

Approval of the minutes – The minutes of May 14, 2020 were approved

New Business – Kevin Baffoe has resigned from the position of Director of Buildings and Grounds for Rich Township District 227. His last day is August 14, 2020.

Adjournment – 7:30 pm

Next meeting – September 3, 2020 at 6:00 pm