

From: **Michael Jon Dean** <deanM@gpschools.org>

Date: Thu, Mar 9, 2023 at 12:44 PM

Subject: Final Meeting Summary

To: Chad Hepner [REDACTED], Kathleen Smith [REDACTED]

Cc: Ahmed Ismail <ismaila@gpschools.org>, Brandon Wheeler <wheeleb@gpschools.org>, Information group email <info@gpschools.org>, Moussa Hamka <hamkam@gpschools.org>, Ben Matteson <mattesb@gpschools.org>

Dear Kathy and Chad,

Thanks again for meeting with us yesterday. The purpose of this email is to summarize both what led to our meeting yesterday and the results of our conversation at that meeting.

Background

Approximately 5 months ago Kathy reached out to Amanda Matheson and Ben Matteson to discuss concerns related to the potential elimination of the South Practice Gym due to the relocation of IA programming. Ben scheduled a time to tour South and meet face to face with Kathy. Additionally, several discussions with South Administration have taken place.

At the Facilities and Finance Board Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 7th Kathy attended and addressed the committee. During her comments she raised concerns regarding both communication about this project as well as the potential impact of this project on her programming and the South athletic program in general. At that meeting I responded by committing to reaching out to her to set a meeting to follow up on her concerns. Later that evening Kathy sent South Administration and me an email asking to meet. She also sent a separate email to the Board of Education raising a series of concerns.

On Wednesday, March 8th I reached out to Kathy via email requesting an opportunity to meet. We were able to schedule a meeting for 11:00 AM that morning. Brandon Wheeler, Moussa Hamka, Ben Matteson, Chad Hepner, Ahmed Ismail, Kathy and I were able to attend. We met for 45 minutes. During this meeting we reviewed the concerns she raised.

Below in italics are the concerns Kathy raised in her email. The portions in bold were bolded by Kathy. Following each item I've provided administration's response to each concern.

Concerns and Admin Response to Each

If the IA Building is shuttered how will my students in wheelchairs access the Fitness Center/Weight Room located in the basement of the Boll Center?

- *Currently they use the elevator in the IA building and enter through the rear entrance to the Fitness Center*

Admin Response: If the IA building is shuttered or torn down the elevator that currently serves both the Boll Center and the IA building will remain operable and in place.

It was mentioned some of the deficiencies of the existing IA building taken from information that was presented at the BOE Finance Committee meeting on 2-16-23 is as follows, my concerns are bolded:

- *The IA building's heating system is fed from the 1960's vintage main building steam boiler system – if the energy efficient boilers are installed, the IA will no longer have a heat source. **How will this affect the heat in the Fitness Center?***

Admin Response: A portion of this project is to add two condensing boilers to the IA building. These boilers will provide heat to the Boll Center including the Fitness Center.

- *"It is our understanding that wheelchair bound students currently do not take art classes due to the difficulty in accessing the building" **but students who do use the Fitness Center, will no longer have access if you take away an elevator.***

Admin Response: As noted above, the elevator will remain.

In the memo from the Department of Athletics regarding the restructuring of athletic usage my concerns are again in bold.

- *The Practice Gym is no longer utilized for instructional purposes or lunch during the day. **This is not true, PE uses this gym regularly during the day and often it is used for club lunches and testing.***

Administration Response: During our meeting today all of us discussed the PE schedule in depth. We all recognized that each year the PE schedule can change. This year only in 3rd hour are there two PE classes that require a gym (in other hours there are two PE classes scheduled, but one of those classes is scheduled for the Fitness Center due to the nature of the course content.) We will actually have 3 large spaces that can be used for gym activities if the Practice Gym is unavailable. We have the Boll Center Gym and the Main Gym which can be split using the divider wall. During our conversation we discussed how in many high schools, including North, the divider wall is used to create two gym spaces.

- ***For the Softball Cages in the Practice Gym: where will those be relocated?***

Administration Response: The softball cages will be moved to the Boll Center gym.

- ***The main gym dividing wall that will be used: is it currently working and what is the process involved for extending and retracting the wall?***

Administration Response: Ben will review the dividing wall mechanism and make any necessary repairs. This will be resolved prior to the Practice Gym being taken offline.

- ***There are four locker rooms in the Boll Center (two outside and two inside) which are currently underutilized which would absorb the usage of the Girls' Varsity Locker Room. Currently there are no lockers in the outside team rooms, and I believe there is no heating source - will this be a Varsity Locker Room with no lockers?***

Administration Response: The two 'team rooms' adjacent to the Athletic Plaza are currently used as locker rooms, meaning a place to change and lock student materials, for some sports teams that compete in the fall and spring. This practice will continue.

- ***Moving forward, the Girls Pit Locker room would need similar retrofitting and upgrades. The primary upgrades to this space would be moving the current lockers from the Girls' Varsity Locker Room to the Girls' Pit Locker Room. Again my concerns are providing lockers that will be able to function***

with purpose: Athletes need to be able to lock up their equipment, and the locker room is not ADA compliant.

Administration Response: The current lockers in the Varsity Girls Locker Room will be moved to the Girls Pit Locker Room. We will add a row of lockers that can accommodate student athletes that need larger lockers due to their specific sport. Regarding ADA compliance, the girls locker room is not ADA compliant, as is the case with the boys locker room. Other spaces discussed today, including the trainer locker room and ADA accessible gym restrooms will continue to be utilized to mitigate this concern.

- *GPS has a Varsity Locker Room (near the baseball field) that would be restructured by the Athletic Office to meet the needs of both boys and girls athletics during their seasons. **Have there been any funds allocated to make this happen?***

Administration Response: This space is currently used primarily by football, basketball and baseball. This space will be repurposed to be used by teams beyond just the above mentioned. This repurposing is a scheduling change, not a change that requires funds. No upgrades will need to be made to this space.

I really appreciate the opportunity to meet with you yesterday. As I shared at our meeting, we didn't do a good enough communicating with the two of you. We can and will do better.

Thanks and don't ever hesitate to reach out to me if I can ever be of help.

Jon

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Superintendent

Grosse Pointe Public School System

Pronouns: he/him/his

Our Vision: One inclusive community learning together

Our Mission: Cultivate Educational Excellence By:

- Empowering Students
- Valuing Diversity
- Inspiring Curiosity
- Pushing Possibilities

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