



FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mike McDonough, Deputy Superintendent
Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 3:00 PM, Central Office

HILLIARD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Committee Members

Brian Perry, Board of Education
Zach Vorst, Board of Education
Mike McDonough, Deputy Superintendent
Mark Dudgeon, Chief Operating Officer
Rich Boettner, Chief Technology Officer

Derek Farwick, Accountant
Mark Tremayne, Director Innovation & Extended Learning
Matt Middleton, Principal Hilliard Darby High School
Cort Hamilton, Assistant Principal Hilliard Bradley High School
Matthew Sparks, Principal Beacon Elementary

MINUTES

1. Project Review

Mark Dudgeon said we are in the final stages of planning our holiday break projects and now starting to get things in order for next summer.

Starting at the top, our big paving project for next year is Tharp. We had a revised estimate on that in the last month or so. They are in the final stages of design. We are hoping to take that project to bid in early to mid-January. Our estimate on that one came in at 1.1 million. That one has quite a bit of concrete repair associated with it, which is pushing that cost up a little bit more than what we saw at Hoffman Trails last year. We are also planning to do some district-wide concrete work, as well as continuing with the sealing and striping that we started on there last year. At Davidson, there is some paving that we are going to try to work in around the baseball and softball fields to get some additional hard surfaces there to become a little bit more ADA compliant in those spaces.

The big thing that is happening right now in building improvement, we had encumbered some money last year for the Heritage chiller. We did our first crane lift on that last Friday to remove the old chiller off the roof. All of the demo work is just about done. Now they are prepping the rooftop for the new chiller that will be lifted. That project is expected to go through February so we can have that back online for cooling season next year.

We are working on some plans to refurbish the air handlers at Hilliard Darby. That is in the works.

As far as furnishings go, we are in the planning stages right now for new carpet and paint at Heritage Middle School and Weaver Middle School. That project will include new flooring, just in the atriums to the double doors, new flooring in all the first-floor hallways, which will be a combination of vinyl and carpet, new paint in the front stairwells, new paint in the atrium and new paint in the first-floor hallways. We are gathering quotes on that. That is a summer of '24 project.

Some of the miscellaneous mechanical projects you see there are cooling towers and heat pumps. We are working on some field house paint for Hilliard Darby for next summer. We just wrapped up new paint in the guidance offices at Hilliard Darby. New furniture is scheduled to go in there on the 26th of this month. We will be coming back on spring break to repaint the clinic, the kitchen and the attendance office at Darby. At Norwich, we are doing some restroom floors there and doing some painting over the holiday break. Then district-wide, one thing that came up from our earlier fire

inspections from Norwich Township is we got dinged on some doors so we are planning some door improvements at Avery and Davidson to get mostly hardware replaced there.

In site improvement, Hilliard Crossing PTO, we partnered with their PTO to replace a large piece of playground equipment. That piece of equipment is scheduled to be installed in mid-February early March before play season.

We are working with Fanning Howey right now to get bid documents to the street for the first phase of the Hilliard Bradley roof. We had started that project and then realized that we needed to do our drawings a little bit different. We needed to have stamped drawings so Fanning Howey is putting that together for us. That will probably go to bid in early January with the hope to get that to the late January board meeting for approval.

Exterior gates and other fixtures around the district are going to get repainted in the spring.

We have some safety issues at Hilliard Station and JW on the playground. There are a few pieces on those playgrounds that aren't safe that we are going to need to remove. At JW, that very nice gazebo in the middle that has rotted to pretty much nothing. Pretty much all of the equipment behind Station is in really, really bad shape.

In our athletic bucket, at Davidson we are resurfacing and repainting the track. There is also going to be new coating on the Davidson track. The visitor side restrooms are going to get improved next summer to wrap up the restrooms at Hilliard Davidson.

Heritage Middle School is going to get a new coating on their track. Also at Heritage Middle School, we are removing the tennis courts that were no longer being used and we are going to remove all of the asphalt in that area and turn that into green space.

Then at Weaver Middle School, we are partnering with Rich and his team. They are taking what was their fitness room, they have gotten some support from a couple of their booster groups, we are putting new LED lighting in there, new paint, new wiring, improving the technology, cleaning it up a little bit and that is going to be a middle school weight room for that group. That is a holiday break project that we have already started the demo on.

Rich Boettner said his year we have some servers and storage spaces that need to be upgraded. We did a lot of computer replacement, desktop replacement at our high schools and our middle schools this past summer. We have some to do at our elementary levels. For staff who do not get a laptop, we typically provide a desktop somewhere in an office space. We have a lot of network upgrades. Every year there are some network pieces that need to be upgraded to keep our network in tip top shape.

Mark Dudgeon said a couple kind of other technology projects related to, as you recall, we had gotten a large safety grant a year or two ago, which was the funding source for the School Safe ID, our visitor management. With the remaining funds of that, we are going to upgrade phase one of three. We will be upgrading our NVRs which support our cameras. We have started to see some failures with our NVRs and obviously that is a critical piece of the camera system. That is a three-phase project that will spread over three years. The first phase this year will be about \$120,000. That will get one high school, two of our middle schools and about six of our elementary schools done.

In addition to that, our Ai Phones, which are at our entrances, all but five of our Ai Phones are set for replacement as well. We will use the remaining grant funds from the safety grant to do the NVRs and also the Ai Phones.

A couple other special projects, we are partnering with Aramark to do new serving lines at Britton and Norwich. That will be a summer time project.

One project that we are really excited about and maybe we will host our next facility meeting there, is at the Hub in partnership with Mark Tremayne and Rich's group. We are calling it our esports arena. I think it's 80 and 82.

Mark Tremayne shared that we did get some equipment donated. Game Arena, is owned by an alumnus of Hilliard City Schools. They shut down the location at Mill Run and asked if we would want that. We have been sending our esports teams there and he was providing a discount. He donated that equipment so we will be able to do it in-house. We are working with technology to be able to offer some after school esports leagues. Two rooms are getting reconfigured with electrical upgrades and paint. It's going to be great! We are going to run class out of there, the NextGen Changemakers class during the school day, talking about emerging technologies and some of the artificial intelligence, ethics, and digital wellness, all kinds of things like that. We are super excited about the academic part of that and then engaging students in esports after school.

Mr. Vorst asked how many kids participate in that?

Mark Tremayne said it is kind of a grassroots effort. Right now, we don't have any because we do not have a place to send them. Last year we had about 60 students that were on the esports team. We have a pretty cool mock up that we can show you two of what the space will look like. It's pretty awesome! We are hoping to grow it and get some more people actively engaged in that.

Mr. Perry asked is it interschool or intraschool, how do they compete?

Mr. Tremayne answered that it is interschool, statewide, there are two different leagues and even Ohio High School is trying to get their hands in some of that as well. As you know, some scholarships, they are popping up everywhere so for us to have a space in the district, again, academics during the day and then esports in the afternoons and weekends.

Rich Boettner said there are a variety of colleges across Ohio who are now providing scholarships to students for esports. It is another way to engage students at the university level. They are using that, so they have been very active with working with high school groups and stuff like that.

Mark Dudgeon said it is going to be a very nice space. We are repainting the rooms, putting new flooring in, putting new LED lighting in them and putting some dimmable lights in. That building has a little bit, its electrical infrastructure is a little bit antiquated so we are improving the electrical infrastructure in there too by adding an additional transformer and getting that space prepared then for the equipment. Once it is done, it will be a really, really unique space.

Mr. Vorst said so you guys are still in the planning phases it looks like for the camera infrastructure upgrades?

Mark Dudgeon answered yes, we are collecting, those proposals are out, we are gathering proposals for that right now.

Mr. Vorst asked have you engaged the SROs on how to best execute that? Because I know a couple of them had some thoughts on placement and the way that technology should all work.

Mark Dudgeon answered what we did, we sent out earlier in the fall, we sent out kind of a survey blast to all of our SROs and principals, had them submit back their feedback to us. We had them markup floor plans. Some of the feedback we got was just around repositioning certain cameras and relocating certain cameras. All of our principals and SROs weighed in on what their thoughts there would be. Obviously, the NVR piece is more critical right now than the cameras because we have to have the phone to support the system so we are focusing there. Once we are able to get the NVRs in place, then we will turn our attention to then adding the cameras and reconfiguring some places. We will be taking some cameras away where we have some redundancy.

Rich Boettner said those servers are six plus years old so they are starting to get long in the tooth for the kind of grueling work, that is recording security video every day, 24 hours a day. It is time, they are getting pretty old. We are very thankful that this grant actually was available to help with this project.

Mr. Perry asked was that also how you prioritized which schools?

Mark Dudgeon said what we have done is we, basically, we have lined out all of the schools with all of their cameras and have split them by interiors cameras, exterior cameras, so that one, we can make sure that we are staying somewhat consistent from school to school and that we are not getting out way ahead in certain locations or not. Part of that work too, then we went to other districts, other K-12 districts in the area to see what their camera counts were to see how we benchmarked against all of those. Then we broke it down per square footage by elementary, middle and high school. What we found is that we are actually ahead of many districts in our area as far as number of cameras that we have per square foot by the link type which was really good. Now we are working, like I said to establish some standards around what are the bare minimums of where we should have cameras. Playgrounds for example, we are lacking a lot of cameras on our elementary school playgrounds. Some we have adequate coverage and some we have no coverage. Obviously, that kind of rises to the top of the list for us, for camera priorities.

Mr. Perry said along those same lines of adequacy and parity, the Weaver weight room improvements, how does that look compared to say, Heritage, which is a similar footprint, building wise?

Mark Dudgeon said that is a good question. I am not really sure about that fitness room at Heritage, what the condition of that space is. This one came, this specific one for Heritage came about through basically the middle school boosters that wanted to have a place. But that is a good question that we will follow up on to make sure.

Mr. Perry said alright, so we will start with that. I think that needs to start being looked at ...inaudible.

Mr. Boettner said it was never a need before, but now it is a need. Like now they believe that they need to have a weight room in there.

Mr. Perry said Memorial has a weight room do they not?

Rich Boettner said I don't know that it is a full weight room.

Cort Hamilton said I wouldn't call it a weight room.

Rich Boettner said it's a fitness center.

Cort Hamilton said it's a little room with a couple cable machines and a couple dumbbells and a rower.

Rich Boettner said give it a couple years and that expectation will continue to grow and then pretty soon everybody will think that's part of what is expected.

Mr. Vorst said kids don't realize they want something until their sibling has it.

2. Master Facilities Plan Update

Mark Dudgeon said we met with the steering committee last week to go over the results of the survey that had gone out. We had 1021 respondents, less than 10 of the respondents were under 18, all schools were represented. Our largest segment of respondents were ages 40-49, parents of first through third graders, non-employees and folks who have lived in Hilliard for more than 20 years. Those were the demographics of those that had responded.

Of the responses, on question one, the majority of respondents were in support of a third sixth-grade center. There was very little support for a single, or one mega sixth grade center. Most of the respondents supported feeder patterns for a third sixth grade center. Responses were mixed between feeders for two versus three centers. Just hitting the high points here. As far as grade configurations go, there was good support for K-4 or K-5. There was little support for K-2 and a 3-5 type model.

In terms of ranking the options out, the third 6th grade center ranked the highest. Some of the comments they had summarized for us, a large number of respondents were opposed to closing Avery Elementary for various reasons. A lot of respondents wanted to make sure that as we work through the process that ADA and special education stays kind of at the top of our radar.

There were comments around cohorts. There was some detail or some comments related to cost and impact to taxes. There were comments back around whether or not we have considered a 6-8 type model. There were comments regarding the one sixth grade center and the traffic congestion and its proximity to the rest of the district.

Those are some of the high points of the survey that had gone out. Next steps, on January 11th and 12th, we are convening the Executive Committee back, pulling them back together for a two-day work session around defining the options. From that meeting, there will be more information to share with the board.

Mr. Vorst asked given all this, do you, or does anybody feel like there is a yearning from the community to change our model with the 6th grade school? Building a third one aside, are people generally happy and are they not willing to undergo the change and cost and headaches associated with changing our model from what it is?

Mark Dudgeon said from what I have gathered from it, the answer is yes. Their desire is to kind of leave it the way it is right now. But there were comments and there was feedback around possibly looking at or not turning a blind eye to that 5-6 model and what that would look like. In terms of

where we are right now, I don't think we have landed on exactly what that model should look like or what that model will be. I don't think we have those answers just yet.

Mr. Vorst asked do you guys hear anything, are people banging on your door saying we need to change the 6th grade thing?

Mr. Hamilton said no and I have been to all of the meetings here. I think that there is some curiosity around the K-4 and 5-6 but a lot of those questions come with, if you see the pros and cons of like cost and staffing and time sensitive, like is this something we can do in my child's duration? You know, am I going to see, a lot of the questions we get is when these things happen and we look at phases and cycles and people that are asking the question already have a vested interest for the most part. The ones that are asking me, it is like, what is realistic for us to move forward on and get the best quality for our experience for our kids and in a reasonable time frame and depending on what we are going to go to the ballot with. I think there is some curiosity about the 5-6 buildings though.

Matt Sparks said as unique as the 6th stand alone is, I think it is something our community is used to. We have explained it a thousand times to new people as elementary principals. I think the reality that it's not like we are going to magically appear 5-6 buildings and keep all the traditional schools we already have. I think people are also aware that it would, as interesting as a 5-6 building would be, the cost of it, the idea that obviously some of our existing elementaries would not be traditional. You know, your kid wouldn't go to kindergarten there anymore because it might be a 5-6 building someday. So, I think that is why, you know, most people don't love change. I think that is why keeping a 6th grade model, what I have heard from most parents, both in my building and around the district, is that idea of three, because that way, when I show up at Beacon Elementary, I know where my kid is going to 6th grade, middle and high school. I personally don't see why that's so much more secure than in your mind but that is because I have been here a long time. I see how a parent thinks like, I don't know if I am going to be a panther, or a wildcat or a jaguar. There are parents that is super important to. That is the one difference I have heard.

Cort Hamilton said the only other thing I have heard is a little bit of the appropriateness with as time changes and you know, technology is not going away, is some of the appropriateness, like when a student turns to 5th grade and you get that 5th - 6th grade group kind of grouped together in K-4, like is that a developmentally better format for kids and just social connections? Seems to be, regardless of your personal opinion, a lot of kids are getting devices, personal devices around that fifth, sixth, seventh grade level and kind of what that brings into our buses and our playgrounds. Those are just some of the things I am hearing parents say as another parent in the community as supportive looking at that model. Not anything against the 6th grade model, but just that maybe get those fifth graders with those sixth graders for another year, if that makes sense.

Mr. Sparks said I think one aspect that the 5-6 model would enhance that we don't have currently, and has always been one of the negatives to a 6th grade building is that they do not get a chance to develop leadership skills because there is nobody to lead. You are the end all and be all in one grade level. So, as you are developing young leaders, if you had that 5-6 where you could learn traditions and teach those traditions to the next grade level coming up. That may be an aspect, we don't know we are missing it, but it may be an aspect that would be an added benefit to the 5-6 model. Knowing sixth grade teachers, and you (inaudible) you have to reteach the culture every single year, because you don't have any kids to show that.

Mr. Boettner said one interesting thing I thought about as we were just discussing now was one of the largest comments we got back on the survey was don't take Avery away. We love our Avery school. People don't want to lose their neighborhood elementary. If we go to 5-6 buildings, we conceptually only need 12 buildings and that means two schools go away. Will people be, I know enough people thought about that with which schools would go away and will those communities be unhappy as well?

Mr. Perry said it's probably a full redistricting with...

Rich Boettner said yes it will be a lot of move...

Mark Dudgeon said while this is obviously the center of attention through the MFP work, in parallel with this, we have identified several other buckets that are of equal importance as well. We are right now working in our facility database to pull out kind of the high priority projects in those buckets. Those buckets include ADA, security, athletics, arts, technology, site, which is asphalt, drainage, concrete, our playgrounds and our deferred maintenance. We want to make sure that obviously, while this is very, very important that there are needs in those other buckets as well. A lot of these things we do through our PI fund right now, but obviously, to keep up with our facility condition index, there's a lot of things that we have to continue to improve throughout the district. We are taking a hard look at kind of what main priorities fall in each of these buckets and we are going to get those on paper and get some estimates for those, because that is part of the planning process also. As time goes on, we are in the very, very early stages of this and starting to pull some of these things together.

Mr. Vorst said do you guys still think the whole thing will be done late winter, early spring?

Mark Dudgeon said that is the timeline that we are trying to hang onto.

Mr. Vorst asked is it still on track?

Mark Dudgeon answered yes.

3. Transportation

Mark Dudgeon said our electric buses, we are continuing to use the electric buses but obviously as seasons change, so do some of the challenges associated with electric buses. We are learning that the cold weather has a really adverse impact on our electric buses, specifically in how much battery draw the heaters take. The electric buses all have auxiliary heaters in them. We are going through a training process with our drivers. For example, drivers have had a tendency here in the last few weeks to go out and turn on the auxiliary heater for a few minutes and instead of letting the auxiliary heater get warm for a few minutes they are flipping on the main heater in the bus which is taking the draw on the battery from 80% down to 35% which takes us from 120 miles to 35 miles. So, we are reconditioning our drivers. The seasons change, it is not a traditional diesel bus. From time to time we have had to leave the buses parked a couple of days and put our drivers in backup buses. The chargers we put in, we put in slow chargers. That was the recommendation at the time. We didn't put in the fast chargers. We are looking at the chargers. We are also working with the manufacturer of the chargers to make sure our technology is up to date and there is nothing different we should be doing. It is a learning curve for us. We are working to keep our driver's expectations tempered a little bit around the value they bring to the district. We will continue to keep you posted as the seasons change from winter to spring. It is not anything we see as being a detriment to the equipment or to the technology. We are confident we can work through all of the

challenges. It is just getting everybody to the table to understand what we need to do and how we need to do it.

Mr. Perry asked is it the same kind of situation with the AC in warm months too?

Mark Dudgeon said we didn't see it so much in the summer. Mostly because the buses don't have built in air conditioning, all the windows, right? We didn't see it so much in the summer months but in the last couple of weeks, when the temperatures really dropped, that's when we really saw a big change. One of our maintenance coordinators, Keith Rabley, was really instrumental in getting the power to the chargers and getting the right chargers selected. He had worked closely with Cliff and he is working closely with the mechanics up at the Davidson Road Transportation to help lead them through this process and make sure we have the folks from Nuvve, that's the charging manufacturer, make sure we have them there, make sure we have the right apps and the right programs on our computers to be able to see all the trends.

Back in November, we received our bus bids back from Meta. Bus prices went up about 40% this year. We are evaluating how many buses we are going to be able to purchase. Last year, for example, we purchased 15 new buses. This year it is looking like we are only going to be at 11 or 12 buses just because of the drastic increase in cost. The other thing too, last year we did not purchase any ADA accessible buses and we didn't purchase any spec-ed buses. This year, now we are due to purchase at least two spec-ed buses to keep up with the replacement schedule on those. The cost on those is up quite a bit too. We are hoping, before we go on break next week, to be able to get a letter of intent out to the manufacturers to hold our place for our buses. The other thing we are looking to do with our allocation this year is to add at least one or two nine-passenger vans to the district fleet to support our smaller athletic teams, our golf, our wrestling and some of the smaller teams because right now we can't support those smaller teams with trips. That is something we want to use part of our budgeted dollars to be able to do this year as well. Availability of those, they have to come as manufactured nine-passenger, but the availability of those is pretty limited so we are searching right now to see what is out there to be able to purchase.

Mr. Vorst asked how much does a spec-ed bus cost?

Mark Dudgeon said they are \$160,000, in the \$160,000's. The traditional 74-passenger this year are coming in around \$130,000 to \$135,000 or so. Last year we were around \$115,000, somewhere in there.

Mr. Vorst asked are we using the same manufacturer? Are there multiple options to choose from?

Mark Dudgeon explained on the Meta bid, Meta is the consortium we belong to, and they put the bid out. There are four or five different manufacturers represented. There's Blue Bird, Thomas, International. We are trying to stay with the Blue Bird buses because that is what we have in our fleet. It is what our mechanics are trained to. It is what our drivers, the type of bus our drivers are used to driving. When you look down the Meta bid, across all the numbers, they are all really close to each other.

Mr. Vorst asked do they give you a reason why the 40% increase?

Mark Dudgeon answered inflation and cost of goods. It is in line with everything else we are seeing right now.

Mark Dudgeon said another thing on transportation, we are continuing to actively recruit drivers, continuing to get drivers in here and continuing to get subs in here. You might have seen some recruiting materials go out last weekend. We have been really good this week. Last week we were running somewhere around 21-23 drivers a day that were out with illness. This week, I checked in yesterday with the group, we are running around 13 to 15 drivers a day right now out. We are limping to the finish line, counting down the stretch to our break and hoping to get some drivers healthy over break.

Mr. Vorst asked how many positions short are we?

Mark Dudgeon said it is hard to quantify how many short we are because right now we will hire as many as we can get. Obviously, the advantage is to be able to hire drivers that are already licensed because it is a quicker turnaround to get them in the seat. When we have to go through the process of getting them licensed and going through all the training, that takes a little bit longer. We are down on subs. We want to get our sub number backfilled as well because those subs can help fill in for our full-time drivers. As far as full-time drivers go, we are only three or four full-time drivers short as far as open headcounts go. We are really short on sub numbers.

Mr. Vorst asked do we ever consider staffing like, I don't know, 105% or 110% so we can be overstaffed and not be relying on subs when that pops up?

Mark Dudgeon said we gave Angelo and his group the go ahead earlier in the school year to be able to do that. Hire and hire above what our capacity is. The other thing, I know they are working, for example, we have several sub drivers that are also sub custodians. We are working to improve the lines of communication between our custodial leaders and our transportation leaders so custodians can default to transportation if there is a need there and then vice versa.

4. Around the Table

Mr. Perry said I don't know if it is safe to ask but are we seeing the same kind of numbers with aides as well?

Mark Dudgeon answered yes, we are short on aides. I think traditionally they try to run or maintain somewhere around 12 or 15 aides, bus aides. We are not as drastically short on aides as what we are on subs because we have the ability with the aides to get them in a building also. They can fill in in several different ways, which is pretty attractive for that position. All around, as far as all the positions in transportation, all classified positions, they are really working to keep their recruiting efforts going strong.

Mr. Vorst said so we have this issue with the Darby weight room. It kind of sounds like the best we can do right now is to just communicate with those folks and say here is where we are at and here is what we are trying to do. Obviously, there is no quick fix and it sounds like it went from a \$350,000 project to \$1.1 million in five years. We are in the wrong business. Is there any other solution?

Mark Dudgeon said last week Mike McDonough, we proposed a short term, kind of a gap strategy to the stakeholders at Darby to set up a temporary weight room using a portion of the field house. It sounds like those conversations went pretty well. They were receptive to the idea which means they would go ahead and buy the new equipment that would eventually go in the new weight room. We would set up a configuration in a portion of the field house. We have some temporary flooring and some temporary fencing to keep folks that are there for other activities out of the space. I just talked to Mike about it yesterday. We haven't gotten any further than presenting the idea to the

Darby leaders. It sounds like they were receptive to it. Next steps are going to be coming to the table to start to put a plan in place to be able to do that.

Mr. Perry asked when do you anticipate something like that if they, if everyone says fine, go ahead, I don't know, by the end of the school year?

Mark Dudgeon said I think the biggest thing to that would be dependent on lead times for that equipment. Our folks will obviously be instrumental in helping set that up and get it staged. We will stand ready to jump on it whenever that equipment comes in. I don't know what lead times are on that type of equipment right now but, best-case scenario I think would be by mid-spring. Worst case scenario, obviously would be by summer. I think once we are able to get some more details worked out and ironed out in that, then we should be at a place where we can start communicating out that this is the gap strategy, this is the short-term solution.

Mr. Perry asked is there anything we can do with our local manufacturers and (inaudible). We talk to Amazon all the time. We talk to Worthington Industries all the time. Can we reach out to them maybe?

Mark Dudgeon said I am sure it is an option. I would defer to these guys.

Mark Tremayne said ironically, that is where we were right before this meeting. We are getting just incremental donations. It used to be bigger amounts of money. We are now at like \$16,000 this time. It used to be hundreds of thousands. So, I asked point blank, what does that look like long term? Because, originally it was \$250,000. He said if we want to do stuff like that, we essentially would have to bank money. We are writing around STEM and STEAM, and Sustainability. We are writing for requests for funds around those things. He did not necessarily say we couldn't spend it on certain things like that but we would have to change how we write for that funding and then essentially bank it. But there are special projects too. The playground at Beacon, they are going to donate \$150,000 to that.

Rich Boettner said they are building a new facility in Beacon's backyard.

Mark Tremayne said it is slow. The fence has already been installed for how long? We just got the money allocated back to us. It is really initiated net 60. We will see that \$16,000 in 60 days from today.

Rich Boettner said we just got it signed. They just gave us the agreement.

Mark Tremayne said it is in the paid portal. It has been kind of wonky. They have been cycling through people quite a bit so you have to kind of reacclimate. I felt like we guilted him into even getting more money. It used to be this and now we want this. We would have to be strategic in that and it would change our writing for that. Every year we write a plan. It all has been centered around Stem and Steam and Sustainability.

Mr. Perry said I appreciate all the work you are doing with that. I have just been kind of following ideas here.

Mark Tremayne said no, it's great! The big one that we need to try to tap into and maybe through your connections too is Advanced Drainage Systems. They are building that innovation center here in Hilliard. We may even want to talk with folks at the city. We haven't met the right person there.

We have been there and done very little with them. That is the biggest company in Hilliard and they make billions of dollars.

Mr. Vorst asked what would we hope from them? Just a check or something specific?

Mark Tremayne said it's both, a donation for something like this, that would be the check, but access to internships, mentorships, co-ops, things like that. Experiences for our kids are the most important. Whether we are pushing kids to them or they are coming to us. We need partners like them that are forward thinking. The innovation hub is going to be the global hub for ADS in Hilliard being built right now. Those are the things we would love to have for our kids, accessible to those types of things.

Mr. Vorst asked what is the next Darby weight room? What is something in our district that one school has that another school doesn't have something close to the same thing? Is there something that we need to get out in front of to sort of try to prevent this kind of thing from happening again? The Heritage weight room?

Mark Dudgeon said that is what we are working to identify through that process of the buckets that I talked about with the MFP. Those are the things we want to identify. We know from a presentation to this group a few months ago, Davidson is fundraising right now for a hitting facility. Once Davidson has a hitting facility then Bradley is going to need a hitting facility. Darby fundraised for theirs several years ago. Probably not one but two hitting facilities are high on the list in addition to the Darby weight room. Those are the obvious ones that stand out. When you talk about athletics there are several other things that come into play. Our stadium lights, we are still using halogen lights in our stadiums and LED technology is at the forefront now. If we are going to do one, we need to do all three. That is going to bring our utility spend down so there is some ROI there associated with that. Those are the things that people see. But obviously, there's the bones, there's the back of the house stuff related to athletics. We need to start talking about locker rooms and those types of things, middle school gym floors. That is what we are trying to bring to paper right now with the exercise and our little buckets. Then we start talking about the arts and what we need to do for our theatre programs and our music programs as well.

Mr. Perry said we worry about actual hard concrete things being funded by boosters and PTOs because of the inequity that happens. Darby just doesn't have the funding pool that Davidson has. That's not just athletics, obviously. It's also the arts. It's also playgrounds. You just can't fundraise the same way at Horizon that you can fundraise at Washington. A kid deserves to slide at both places so how do we get that? I think we need to make sure we keep prioritizing. We are, but I think we need to keep focusing on that because (inaudible) for PTOs to fundraise for the actual equipment and things like that, it's not going to be the same.

Mark Tremayne said it's hard, with every new build, Bradley came out. It's got the best of everything. How do you quickly get everybody...

Mr. Perry said some of it's just reality. Some of it is prioritizing. When you put a two-million-dollar air conditioning unit in Ridgewood (inaudible).

Mr. Vorst said I can't remember, will the Davidson hitting facility be 100% funded with private donations?

Mark Dudgeon answered that is their plan. That is what they are striving to do, to raise enough, no

district supplementation there. Their goal is to raise it privately. Obviously, as part of the MFP, and as part of these buckets that we identify, if there is an opportunity to do a hitting facility for Davidson and Bradley, then that will be high on our list.

Mr. Perry said I remember when I was at that facility meeting, I remember specifically, I had a bad headache and I was cranky that day and I was a little too harsh on the person who was proposing the plan. My concerns from that meeting still kind of stand, which is we had another situation where they say well, we got three quarters of the way there, here is a quarter of whatever amount of money that we didn't ask to spend that we didn't initially plan on spending but they are now mad that we are not spending because they raised all this money and I was told it was going to be 100% funded. Well, you got most of the way there and now they want us to foot the bill for the rest of it and not just that one. We are going to end up footing the bill for the other two schools that we didn't plan on...

Cort Hamilton said we started that seven years ago at Bradley. We proposed a hitting facility, same thing, and we kind of convinced our people that, the ones that were real go getters at that time weren't going to see the end of the road so they kind of got cold feet. If we weren't able to take out loans through that 4013c, we couldn't do that and then we weren't going to get funds matched or anything within that timetable and obviously with inflation it became a pretty big dream without really a time sensitive thing on the backend so they kind of backed the push away from that and we went through three different head coaches in that time. That has been going on since Darby had their hitting facility, at least eight years.

Mr. Vorst asked do we have a general posture and policy towards this scenario? Like do we just, if they get it 100% funded, are we going to green light it and then we will give one to the other children when they get loud enough about it? Or is it no public funds at all? Is it just a case by case, we will see what happens? I can see this happening over and over and if we aren't consistent with how we treat it, I think that is when people have the biggest issue. That's not to place blame on anybody...

Cort Hamilton said I'm not the old guy in the room when it comes to athletics, but I have never seen the district come in and say because those other people raised it, we are just going to pay for somebody else to have it. You have to get approval, with these special projects you get approved, you come with the submission you have to make sure the zoning and all of that is approved by, usually in the past it was Dave Huston and Cliff and Mike and before that it was my dad and Mike, those people had to approve it. That money was money that was privately raised, it had to be approved. I have never seen that district say oh hey, they just spent, like Davidson, they just did this weight room which was when I first came back to the district as a basketball coach over ten years ago, and we were kind of limping across the finish line to get that finished and I don't know what it was, big spearheaded in that cog and we kind of stalled out in the end too and our sports boosters still needed to get the equipment. That was like never going to be like hey they raised it, they just spent three or four years and got all of this momentum, all this energy and sweat equity in it and now we are going to turn around and say well now Darby is the only one not happy with their weight room, we are going to give to them. That has never been a practice. Now, I am not saying it is right or wrong. I am just saying in the years I have witnessed it I haven't seen that.

Mr. Perry said essentially, it's a chicken egg situation. You have to almost green light something for them to start fundraising. The district says it's going to be fine we raise the money we get the thing. If we don't do that, they are not going to fundraise (inaudible).

Cort Hamilton said it's a moving target with prices too.

Mr. Perry said right, because I think they raised like seventy five percent or whatever of their goal at the time and now they are not even close because of inflation. The money they have raised hasn't changed but the cost of the facility has absolutely changed.

Mr. Vorst asked is there an angle for this kind of thing to be done on private property, district wide and all of our kids would have access to it?

Mark Dudgeon said to be a partnership, it would be limited on what type of district funds. We would not be able to contribute district funds to something like that but I am sure there would be partnership opportunities out there.

Mr. Tremayne said we tried to do stuff with the Bo Jackson facility but they wanted big money and we were interfering with making money. That was the biggest challenge. We didn't want to put our kids in the position where they had to pay.

Mr. Perry asked do we still have partnerships with the Y for swimming and what not?

Cort Hamilton said we still spend a lot of money there though.

Mark Tremayne said we pay for that time.

Mark Dudgeon said as more evolves and comes to light on the Darby weight room you guys will be the first to know.

Mr. Perry said I talked to them and Zach talked to them yesterday too. I think we made it clear that we can only, one we can only do what we have now. In 2018, I don't think anybody in the room other than Rich was here, not a single board member, different superintendent, different assistant, different deputy I believe at the time, a different CFO, different treasurer. We are getting a legacy I think from that that we didn't have anything to do with. But also, we can only do with what we have now. We are deficit spending. We are deficit spending. So, if we want to stop deficit spending, we have to pass a levy at some point. I don't know that it is a good idea to say we are going to spend a million dollars on a weight room and then go and say see look we are broke. It's again, how does this whole thing work? We would be dangling something in front of them. That is not our goal but the reality is just simply the funding may not be there until after a levy. That's something I am not willing to do beforehand. I don't think it is responsible to do beforehand when we are in deficit spending. But afterwards we may have the flexibility to look at some of this kind of stuff. I want to make it clear that it's a timing thing. It might just be a thing where we can't do that right as immediately as they want it to be done. It should have been done ten years ago or whatever. But the reality is it wasn't. All we can do is what we have now.

Mr. Perry said and being transparent about it and we have been. Being transparent with the folks at Darby. I think seeing something will be phenomenal. To see look we are prioritizing this. We set aside a third of the auxiliary gym, something that is tangible that progress is being made. They keep saying oh next spring they are going to do the ground breaking. They have been saying that since 2018. That's how it has been proposed for them, reality or otherwise, it's actually going to be reality. If it's how they perceive this running joke, lets do something tangible that way we can actually say look now we are serious. We are not just saying ground breaking is in the spring and put a shovel in the ground. There is something that is happening. We are noticing.

Mr. Boettner said the district never said it is going to happen in the spring every year. That is not coming from the district.

Mr. Perry said exactly. It is the perception and that is the communication part where we probably never said that. I am totally with you.

Mr. Boettner said I am sure we have never said that. I have never heard that from any of our former CFOs or assistant superintendents over operations when I have been around.

Mr. Perry said it is misconstrued all the time. Convincing them now, I don't know what you have heard or what they said before but this is what we are saying now and we are not going to lead you on. We are going to do something or we are going to tell you we can't.

Mark Dudgeon said the good news is, if there is a silver lining, all the drawings are ready. Everything is teed up. We have talked to the City of Hilliard. We have researched water taps. We have located utilities. Our architect, Fanning Howey has the schematics ready to go. In that regard, we are not behind the eight ball. Hopefully over the next month or so, obviously the holiday break, we can meet with the folks at Darby and come up with a plan that we can get rolling to come up with a short-term solution and take some of the pressure off.

5. Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2024 at 3:00pm.