

**Camden County Board of Education
Camden County High School Media Center
February 25th, 2020**

The Camden County Board of Education met in a Special Called Session on February 25th, 2020, in the Media Center at Camden County High School at 6:00 p.m. Board Members in attendance were: Christian Overton, Chairman, Dr. Jason Banks, Vice-Chairman, Board Members Sissy Aydlett, Kevin Heath, and Chris Purcell, and Superintendent Joe Ferrell. Others who attended the meeting were Amber Davis, Carol Overton, Ross Munro and Anita Cuthrell.

The Special Called Meeting was called to order by Chairman Overton at 6:0 p.m.

Mr. Overton introduced Rick Ott, Sr. Executive Vice President for M. B. Kahn.

Mr. Ott thanked the Board for scheduling tonight's meeting. He did not want to go into the Commissioners Retreat on March 5th without having first gotten the Board's input on the project. Feedback he has gotten from administrators has been incorporated in tonight's presentation along with some small modifications he made. He would like for the presentation to be interactive and invited Board Members to ask questions or make comments throughout the presentation. Mr. Ott advised as follows:

There are approximately 430 students at Camden County High School (CCHS) plus the students at Camden Early College High School (CECHS). He has established a program for a core group totaling 800 students, not including Early College. He has classrooms for 600 students. He is building additional capacity into the school. CECHS has approximately 180 students. Administrators and staff said a safe and secure campus was a priority. Flexibility will be a common theme throughout. He said the way students learn has changed but Camden has not had the opportunity to change because it is constricted in this current facility. In the new facility, there will be tremendous flexibility in education options for students for the next 40 or 50 years which is extremely important. M. B. Kahn has been working on technologies and strategies to improve safety. One safety measure is to set the academic spaces separate from public spaces (theater, gym, potential meeting spaces, general administration where public will be coming in, etc.). Individual student restrooms will be in the learning centers. There will be group toilets in some of the core facilities. The open area will provide better visual site lines for monitoring students.

Furniture has changed. Considering the number of hand-held personal devices used by students, charging stations must be available. Charging stations are now integrated in the furniture. Large rollup doors add flexibility but can be looked at more closely as the design progresses. A lot of the new instructional components are going into the large open spaces. In absence of walls, there may be three different instructional programs going on in a large space. A competition gym and an auxiliary gym have been incorporated in the facility. This facility has been designed around becoming a public emergency shelter for which there are some small grants available. He shared visuals of other facilities and pointed out some components for Camden's design. He said some of the learning areas could be pushed outside to become optional instructional spaces. These areas also provided an area to walk off the sand and dirt before coming back into the building. Large flexible learning centers provided multi-use spaces (seminars, tech programs, team teaching, labs, etc.) which can be changed quickly. The design is integrating the exceptional students and CTE spaces into the learning centers. There will be several collaboration spaces and then extended instructional areas. Mr. Ott said the purpose of tonight's meeting is not to decide on the design of the facility but to identify the space needed so an estimated cost of the project can be finalized. He described the Fine Arts Center and a full media center. The media center can be reduced to a distributed media center to save square footage which is a new trend in most high schools. The location and multi-purpose of the cafeteria was discussed. Public spaces will include toilets for visitors to eliminate the need for the public to wonder in the building looking for a toilet facility. Gathering centers can have stadium-like seating which have proven to be used extensively. The athletic component will have everything to control the public as they are coming in from purchasing tickets, going in and out, and parking. The academic learning centers and multi-purpose flexibility were discussed. Trends in education currently in high schools were incorporated in the academic centers. Audio and video production areas will be included which are becoming key components in student instruction and hands-on learning. An administrative office has been incorporated into each of the learning centers. He noted these spaces were not included in the first draft but were added to give principals or assistant principals some flexibility. The number of toilets will vary depending on code requirements. Storage and custodial areas were discussed. Hand and eye wash stations would be located throughout the learning centers.

CECHS will be a separate academic center with its own entrance. It will be away from CCHS so it will have its own identify depending on site layout. He reviewed multi-purpose academic and administrator spaces for CECHS. Space is approximately 12,500 square feet and will house approximately 225 student stations. Considering there are currently 180 CECHS students, this space will allow for some growth. This may be an area for the Board to consider adding additional space.

There was discussion about an auditorium or a black box. A black box would be a cheaper option. The gym and competition gym were discussed. The gym would provide 1,200 seats. The confines of the two gyms would be opened up for an emergency shelter area when needed and would be conveniently located close to the cafeteria area. Food service and the dining area were programmed for two feedings which can be changed to three feedings as student population grows. At this point approximately 159,000 square feet of space had been proposed. Options to save square footage were discussed. For example, square footage could be saved by having a black box instead of an auditorium, or by having an auditorium with seating capacity of 400 instead of 600 and eliminating the auxiliary gym. Reducing the size of the media center was another option to save costs. All options were discussed at length. Mr. Ott advised Board Members that the next 60 days will be critical to the success of the high school project. Mr. Ott has built 500-600 high schools and suggested reducing the media center to save square footage. He favors a gym and an auxiliary gym and a 600-seat capacity auditorium. The proposed media center is approximately 5,310 square feet. He is suggesting changing the proposed media space to a distributed media center. This would reduce the 5,310 square feet by 2,500 square feet. Mr. Ott said we are looking at a hard deadline on the referendum resolution being passed. A lot of work must be done prior to voting such as working with the LGC (local government commission), and financial studies and models must be completed. He must have some direction from the Board going into the March 5th Commissioners Retreat. Right now he is building 25-30 public libraries around the southeast and those buildings have changed completely because delivery has changed. He said the key to a successful project is to make sure there are adequate funds within the bond referendum meaning the amount of space must be decided now. Black boxes are usually seating capacity of 400 seats or less. A conceptual design (what the building will look like and general floor plan and layout) will be part of what is utilized in a referendum campaign. There are some legal components of running a referendum campaign which must be developed. He suggested we establish a committee and speaker groups to hold public forums. However, right now everything depends on what happens during the next 60 days. Mr. Ott's objective is not to provide space around a specific program but to provide a space which will house multiple programs. He needs to know how many square feet and what type of square footage so he can estimate the costs.

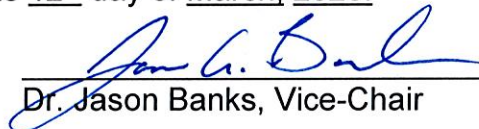
After much thought, the Board asked Mr. Ott to provide cost information on the 159,000 square feet proposed in his presentation. Depending on the costs, they could then consider alternate add-ons or other cost saving options. Mr. Overton asked that Mr. Ott price each scenario discussed during his presentation before the Board makes a recommendation.

Mr. Ott said soil borings have not been done on the school site. The primary delay has been weather. He reiterated that the Board wants costs based on the 159,000 square feet and cost on three alternates. The Board asked Mr. Ott to eliminate pricing a black box.

Mr. Ott suggested that the Board visit some schools. He will put together a list of schools he would suggest. He reminded the Board that the first objective is to get the resolution on the ballot for the fall. Since there are some minor revisions, he will revise the presentation and send a digital copy to Superintendent Ferrell so that he can distribute the file to the Board.

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. Overton entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Aydlett. Motion was seconded by Mr. Purcell. There was no further discussion, all voted ayes and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of March, 2020.



Dr. Jason Banks, Vice-Chair



Dr. Joe Ferrell, Secretary