I. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Board of Education Member and Committee Co-Chair, Mrs. Lauri Doyle

The attendance sheet was used in place of an official roll call.

Members in Attendance: Robert Allison, Mike Barr, Derrick Berlin, Christine Jaegle, Danny Kenyon, Russell Pietrowiak, Mindy Renier, Jennifer Smith, Allison Sulkson, Amy Underwood, Heather Warner, Dan Wons

Board Member Co-Chairs: Matt Bauman and Lauri Doyle
Dr. John W. Sparlin, Superintendent
Mr. Ali Mehanti, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

Mr. Bauman arrived at 5:55 p.m.

Guest in Attendance: Dr. Judith Minor, Dr. Lisa Smith, Valerie Patterson, Joe Hoffman, Jessica Wade, Akiva Carson, Kristen Bonie, Melissa McDowell, Andrew McCree, Terri Anderson, Clayton Haldeman, Jeff Kleinmaier, Dustin McNichols, Edna W., Vicki Roberts, Sean Reppy, Sue Miller, Angela Paravole, Charles Parisi, Kathy Mandel

Members Absent: Douglas Pfeiffer

Recording Secretary: Ursula Coan

II. Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2016

A motion was made by Allison Sulkson to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2016 meeting. Derrick Berlin seconded the motion. All members in attendance agreed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.
III. Rationale for Convening

Dr. Sparlin explained to the committee that we are having some challenges with the current location of the Transition Program and the district needed to look at other options. Due to the financial state of the district, President Bauman asked for another option to be presented to the committee, other than the previously approved plan (board approval 5.9.16) for the East View Kindergarten Center.

IV. Current Reality – “Brock House”
   a. Successes
   b. Challenges

Joe Hoffman and Jessica Wade shared a presentation with the committee to show what the Transition Program is and the successes and challenges with the current location.
- The program serves 18-22 year old young adults
- Currently there are 20 students in the program and the projected enrollment for 2020-21 is 37
- The post-secondary goals consist of Training, Education, Employment and where appropriate, Independent Living

Successes:
- Natural home setting
- Students are part of a community
- Learning of daily living skills
- The home is ADA compliant
- Leased two vans to support transportation
- Parents and students love the house

Challenges:
- Transportation (home is in a court)
- No small wheelchair bus
- Increased traffic in court
- Neighbor’s angry due to noise and traffic of various vehicles as well as parking
- Inappropriate comments by neighbors

V. Vision for Future: Location/Needs/Costs

Vision for the future is to create a course catalog that rotates students, allows for 1-4 year plans and supports staffing. Also, to have more than one location to accommodate growing program & individual needs and to create a transportation plan based on program needs.

The Special Education Team presented the committee with three possible scenarios.

Stay at Current Location:
The home is perfect for our needs and is already ADA compliant, but neighbors continue to have concerns.
**Sell Brock House and purchase a similar house at an alternative location:**
This option would give us all the pro of being in a natural community setting and we could be proactive in talking to neighbors beforehand and make sure that there is adequate parking and room for the busses. Approximate cost $38,000

**Sell Brock House and purchase a Pre-fab house at 100 Plank Road:**
This option would address the concerns of the neighbors and have instruction in a home setting, but it would not be a part of a neighborhood/community.
Approximate cost $55,000

The committee discussed the possibility of encountering the same issues with the purchase of a different home regarding the reaction of neighbors. Mr. Hoffman explained that the district would approach the scenario differently (talking to neighbors prior to purchase). Mr. Bauman stated that going back into a neighborhood would pose similar problems regardless. We could avoid push back from neighbors with scenario 3 (pre-fab house on district property) or perhaps a home located adjacent to a school so we could utilize the parking lot. The committee agreed, that the home setting is ideal for the educational goals, even though not all districts currently provide that. It teaches them to be part of a community. Mrs. Doyle raised the question of whether the district wants to continue to invest in ways to minimize the impact on this court or give the students a fresh start in a place where they can feel welcome.

- The negativity from the neighbors on Brock Court does impact the quality of the Transition Program.
- Best practice is to be in a neighborhood for this type of program.
- Option two would provide that with a fresh start.
- There is a home available for sale that is attached to East View that would be better suited to our needs.
- Ideal location for busses, parking for staff and any services needed from the school if necessary.
- Mr. Mehanti stated that a construction fund can only be used towards capital projects, nothing else. We have funds available that we could allocate.
- Mr. Hoffman told the committee that being in town would be very beneficial in order for the students to get to work, get to the store etc. Being further out would complicate transportation.
- Mrs. Doyle suggested to perhaps show a future house to the committee before purchase. The decision on which house to purchase can’t be rushed.

**VI. Recommendation to BOE regarding Special Education Transition Program**

The committee was in agreement that option number 2 would be the best option moving forward. Mr. Bauman asked about a timeline and was told that it would be possible to remodel a house during the summer if we were to find a suitable property. If not, the school year would start out at the current location.
VII. Building Discussion – East View and Brokaw

Dr. Sparlin reminded the committee, that under the current plan, Early Childhood would be moving to East View and the Opportunity and Goal Program would be located at Brokaw. This plan was recommended by the Facilities Committee to the Board of Education and approved in May 2016. With the district facing a budget deficit, Dr. Sparlin was asked by Mr. Bauman to present an alternate plan to the committee. Clayton Haldeman from Kluber architectural firm presented an option, whereas Early Childhood would remain at Brokaw and the Opportunity and Goal programs would be moved to East View. This option would allow for Central Registration, district staff now located at Murphy, Technology Department and our Copy Center (both located at Old Traughber) to be housed at East View, which would have all district offices in one place. There would also be enough space to have a board room, therefore eliminating having the board meetings at Oswego East High School.

- This plan B would address the future need of taking offices out Oswego East and Murphy Junior High School, since they will need the classrooms in the near future.
- We would not need any space at the Old Traughber building and therefore could look at selling that property.
- This plan would save about $2.3 million.
- Drawback is that the Early Childhood Program would not be expanded at this time.
- Currently Brokaw consists of 4 villages with a 5th set of classrooms located at Old Post. It is a possibility to move the extra classrooms (needed at Old Post with the boundary change) to Prairie Point instead.
- There is a proposed professional development space at East View for staff that would cost roughly $400,000. This could be put on hold and added late on.

A discussion followed the presentation. The following questions were brought up:

- Does this option provide enough space for Opportunity and Goal to expand if needed. Dr. Sparlin answered that there would be the same amount of space as they would have at Brokaw (more than they do in the current facility).
- Valerie Patterson explained that while we do not have a requirement to expand the Goal Program, we would like to continue to meet our students needs and would be better able to do that with the program being located at East View.

Dr. Sparlin summarized that in order for the current plan to be completed in time for the 2017-18 school year, the construction bids would need to be approved by February 27. This plan B will be discussed at the next board meeting. If it does get approved, the district would need to solicit bids for construction at East View. Plan B very likely would not be in place by August of 2017, other than the placement of the early childhood students currently at Old Post.

The committee was not comfortable approving this plan, considering that much time was spent at the committee level to come up with plan A.
Dr. Sparlin let the committee know that East View would serve the administrative offices well. Most important, all offices would be in the same location.

- If the professional development center would be eliminated from the plan, the savings would be around $2.7 million
- Currently the plan does not include any kind of fencing around the playground
- The committee was disappointed that Early Childhood is not able to expand with plan B
- If the board approves plan B, other than moving the EC students from Old Post to Prairie Point, the rest of it would not need to be in place by 2017-18. It would give the board more time to make decisions on the East View Building
- The committee agreed, that it needs to be a priority to move Opportunity and Goal out of Old Traughber
- The money for the previously approved projects is available, making this change would be a cost savings measure for the district
- The bonds that would be used for this project, can only be used for capital projects, not our operational budget
- The space provided with Plan B would provide the same number of classrooms as if we moved ahead with the original plan to move Opportunity and GOAL to Brokaw
- Currently this plan does not include any fencing for safety, but plan B is in the beginning stages and will be more detailed once we decide to move forward with it
- The committee expressed the concern regarding not being able to expand Early Childhood, but above all feel that it’s most important to move programs out of the Old Traughber building.

VIII. Public Comment

Mr. Charles Parisi addressed the committee to let them know that the Special Ed Team has protected his child through the last 18 year while in their care. He stated his deep concern and sadness regarding how the residents of Brock Court reacted when they learned of the Transition program moving into that home, making the students feel unwelcome.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned: 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: TBD