

**NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
SUMMIT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETING of June 12, 2018**

A public meeting of the Summit School Committee of Nether Providence Township, duly advertised and posted in accordance with law, was called to order at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, Township Municipal Building, 214 Sykes Lane, Wallingford, PA 19086.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Ward 1 – Bob Kelly  
Ward 2 – Dana Pickup  
Ward 3 – Caity Kennedy  
Ward 4 – Justin Henzel  
Ward 5 – Jessica Mudrick  
Ward 7 – Marty Malloy  
Parks Committee – Steve Henry  
Planning Committee – Robert Linn  
Commissioner McKenzie-Fiumara (4th Ward)  
Commissioner Garson (2nd Ward)

EXCUSED: Ward 6 – Patricia Robinson Linder

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of May 22, 2018 were approved with no revisions.

**PUBLIC**

5 persons in attendance.

Cindi Clark, COO and Jessie Shaw, Director of Community Development from CADES. Mission is to improve the lives of kids and adults with mental and physical disabilities. Specifically with respect to the Summit School they have their early intervention program in mind, and more specifically the mom's morning out program. This program used to be purely special education with no typical students. In 2007 they were pushed to provide inclusive opportunities. This was successful and they expanded it to a mom's morning out that serves 87 students age 2 to 5. They have 80/20 ratio which mirrors the US census bureau for the portion of individuals with a disability living in the community. They have exceeded capacity at the current location in Swarthmore on Rutgers Avenue. Summit is located 2.7 miles from existing base. They would operate on a school schedule so wouldn't be an issue with the fields. They would want a minimum of 2 pods but are interested in the whole building. They leased and later bought their current building from school district, purchase happened in 2008. They want full day kindergarten starting in 2019 and this would also help with the space. They would probably also bring the infant toddler program to Summit location.

Q&A:

*Would you be interested in 3 pods?* - 2 is minimum. What about the main building? We are interested in as much as possible. We've grown 15% over the last 5 years.

Would you be okay with just leasing? We'd be interested in whatever the committee feels like would be the best option.

*Did the School district ask you to purchase your current building?* It happened organically.

The county has been very supportive of their program.

*With respect to funding, would you be able to do the work that's needed in the building?* We feel confident that we are in a position to run a capital campaign to do what is needed.

*How large is current facility?* Not sure, they have at least 60K and really need more.

*Pods just for pre-school and pre-K?* Yes

*Could you co-exist with another program?* definitely, maybe. We're open to discussing it.

*What's your timeline?* We have been actively looking. Hopefully move in next year.

*How many children are WSSD?* 80% WSSD with some Ridley and some Springfield

*Would you create a similar playground inclusive and open to the public?* yes.

---

Lynn Falk, President of the Board Swarthmore resident, and Lisa Oster, Director, Middletown resident presented from the Creative Living Room. They have 2 year olds to 10 year olds. They have after-school programs where kids get bussed in around 4 from all three elementary schools. Founded in 2008 and opened in a store front in Swarthmore. Dance, theatre, martial arts, STEAM classes, yoga are the focus. They also want to engage middle schoolers and multi-generational classes. They offer summer camp in addition to their school year classes. They were for-profit and became a non-profit in 2015. They pushed hard for the township to buy the property because they thought it was an asset to the community, they still do, and want to be a part of it. 6,000 individuals have used the program in 10 years and 2,200 active individuals over last few years, also serving about 700 residents of Nether Providence. They use the outside space as well at Summit, especially during camp. They want one pod. They think they have the funds or can access the funds to completely renovate a pod. Their school year class size is 12, summer camp groups are about 15. The average class size is about 8 because some classes are much smaller. They're also working on adding some adult programming.

Q&A:

*Could you run whole program out of one pod?* Yes with a small office area

*If Township gave you a lease for a pod - can you get the financing to renovate a pod?* Yes. We have yet to need a line of credit but we would do so. We feel confident about launching a capital campaign.

*Looking for full tenancy?* Yes.

*Average class size?* - We don't go over 12 - a group of campers is 15-16 and if we had to average it's about 8 as some go to capacity and others not so much.

*Do most families take multiple classes?* Yes.

*In two classrooms currently?* Yes, plus common area and an office.

---

Alfred Hurd of Stage One was in attendance and expressed encouragement to the programming of CLR. He stated that he completes the continuum for the kids who got started at CLR, kept going in school and then Stage One adds to the life cycle for creative spaces for adults and the arts overall for the community.

## **UPDATE ON EACH SUB-COMMITTEE WORK GROUP**

*Renovation of Existing Structure Work Group - M. Garson and C. Kennedy*

- C. Kennedy brought a drawing that showed changing the middle pod to an outdoor amphitheater, adding an outdoor basketball court to the back of the auditorium, and a playground in the middle of the parking lot. There is also enough space to add a little

league baseball field that would overlap slightly with the soccer field and a walking trail could go around the entire lot.

- D. Grady reached out to Aston and Middletown. See attached bullet points from D. Grady.

*Demolition/Rebuilding Work Group – S. Henry and D. Pickup*

- S. Henry presented on an auxiliary gym that he is familiar with, and explained that it is used often and for a mix of different activities by the community. It is 92 feet by 60 feet. The space can be used for batting practice down one side and then divided into two small gyms so three groups can be using the space at the same time. He also showed how the same space could be divided into a municipal room, rec room, kitchen and two group rooms.

*Open Space Work Group – P. Linder and B. Kelly*

- No update.

*Public / Private Partnership Work Group – J. Mudrick and M. Molloy*

- B. Linn spoke to Mike Ranck who is the head of the Ridley YMCA and they love the building and are very interested. The YMCA would use it for a child care focused purposes and would be happy to coordinate with Stage One and Create Living Room.

*Building and Construction Expert Work Group - R. Linn and J. Henzel*

- B. Linn brought a floor plan showing a common lobby, multipurpose room. Basketball court. Bathrooms, kitchenette. He will send electronically. The plans he showed were from Trainor.

*Other Available Community Space in Township – K. McKenzie-Fiumara*

- No update.

S. Henry said we are naïve to think the township wouldn't have to spend anything if this were to transformed into a community center. J. Mudrick commented that we could coordinate with the lease holders to still use the space to some degree, and this may be the more financially viable option.

D. Pickup noted that she loves the programs that are currently at the Summit School but they don't necessarily have to be the ones we build our plans around. That being said, they may not have to go anywhere if it's a combined sports area and community space. Also, Open Space is the unanimous answer for what I'm getting from people. We want a park. Then there is usually a sports component. What we do with this building doesn't have to take into account the programs that are currently there. They will find space in other parts of this community. Combo platter is the way to go - combining most of the areas. Later on with flexibility.

M. Molloy/J Murdick going to organize a subcommittee to come up with the points we need for the organizations that are interested in leasing/purchasing.

*Next Steps:*

1. Leasing - Sub-committee meeting to discuss specific bullet points - focus on the residents, financing

2. September deadline to present
3. Layered option - Justin and Bob to give basic numbers

**ADJOURNMENT**

As advertised, the Committee will reconvene in 2 weeks, on June 26. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.