



MEMORANDUM

TO: Team and File

FROM: Andrew Stoll, Esq.

DATE: July 30, 2019

RE: July 29, 2019 Community Meeting on Clifton Heights Middle School Project

On July 29, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Westbrook Park Elementary School, we held another community meeting on the School District's proposed middle school.¹ Those in attendance for the School District were Andrew Stoll, Esq., members of Pennoni Engineers, and members of KCBA Architects. The meeting was publicized after the District mailed over 200 letters to neighbors living in close proximity to the proposed middle school. Approximately 15-20 community members attended the meeting. Some that attended prior meetings also attended this meeting, while there were also new community members at the meeting.

Though previous community meetings were held at the Upper Darby High School, this meeting was held at Westbrook Park Elementary School in Clifton Heights. The location of the meeting was selected in response to feedback from community members. That is, community members advised that the meeting would be better attended if it were held at a location in Clifton Heights.

Similarly, this meeting began at 7:00. The prior community meetings began at 6:00. The start time for the meeting was changed because community members advised that the meeting would be better attended if it were held later in the evening.

This meeting was well-attended. While there was not an overwhelming amount of community members at the meeting, it definitely had the best attendance of all of the community meetings.

The meeting was structured similar to those held in June. Dr. McGarry opened the meeting by introducing members of the School District's team (*i.e.* members of the District, Fox Rothschild, Pennoni Engineers, and KCBA Architects). Dr. McGarry then informed all those in attendance that the purpose of the meeting was to disperse information about the project, interact with neighbors, answer questions, address concerns, and dispel any rumors about the project. Thereafter, Dr. McGarry provided a brief overview of the project. Dr. McGarry's presentation included, among other things, the history of the project, what other sites were considered, why/how it was determined that the Clifton Heights site

¹ Minutes from the meeting are enclosed.

was the most viable for the project, and the current status of the project. The majority of the meeting consisted of Dr. McGarry, Dr. Manfre, KCBA, and Pennoni answering questions from community members.

Like the June community meetings, this meeting was very productive. During the meeting, community members stated that the meeting was beneficial, informative, and changed their views on the project. The meeting allowed the School District to continue building a relationship with the neighbors, overcome certain emotional barriers/grudges that the community has towards the School District and the project, and lay the groundwork for a more interactive and productive process moving forward.

As we did at the previous meeting, we requested that those in attendance “spread the word” for future meetings.

We have the following “action items” moving forward:

- Post Pennoni’s traffic study to the “tab” on the District’s website designated for the Clifton Heights project.
- Now that some adjacent neighbors have responded to the District’s outreach for individual meeting, await additional responses, and begin to schedule the adjacent neighbor meetings.
- Plan the next community meeting.

Enclosure as stated.