

PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
Perry Schools Discussion Notes
December 10, 2015

PTEC Room 210, 4:10PM-5:00PM (Approximate Time)

ATTENDANCE

Administration: Barb Brouwer (SHS), Rhonda Jones-Jointer (PTEC), Vicki Carpenter (EC), Rolland Abraham (PMHS), Dave Rohl (PMMS), Whitney Wilkowski (ALE), David Henriott (RPE), Marc Westfall (PTEC), and John Ralston (PMA)

PEA: Sue Buscemi (WV), Kyle Hanefeld (GV), Matt Henninger (PMHS), Neil Linville (PMHS), Mark Madden (ALE), Rebecca Rissel (GV), Nancy Tatum (PA), Steve Dawson (PMHS), Cathee Cullison (SHS), and Diane Turpen (PMHS)

I-69 Expansion Project

Administrative staff and Dr. Little have been involved with INDOT talks concerning the proposed building of I-69. In one plan, INDOT (Plan #6 on INDOT website) proposes to use Highway 37 from Perry Township to Martinsville as part of the I-69. The proposed I-69 / I-465 interchange would be west of the current Highway 37 / I-465 interchange. This plan is touted as an economical plan for the state (20% cheaper), but it will be extremely detrimental to Perry Township as it will cause property values to go down, a loss for the tax base for public services (including schools), increased traffic jams, loss of jobs and/or relocations, and more dangerous routes for school busses and student drivers. The west side of the school district will be cut off from the east side of the district. Construction would cause traffic headaches for several years. Mark Westfall calls the effect of the suggested plan to Perry township homes, traffic, schools, and business “tremendous.”

PreservePerry.com is a community group of business owners, educators, and residents who are concerned about the negative impact that Perry Township will experience if State Road 37 is chosen as the route for INDOT to build Section 6 of I-69, connecting Martinsville to Indianapolis. They are voicing community thoughts and anxiety concerning the I-69 construction. Preserve Perry has worked with local media, like Matthew Tully of The Indianapolis Star, to publicize how the proposed route would negatively impact Perry Township.

INDOT meetings have been held recently at Perry Meridian High School, Mooresville High School, and Martinsville High School. **Public comment is open on the INDOT website through December 17.** According to school district policy, staff is encouraged to write comments on the INDOT website, **but they should not to use school computers to respond to do so.**

Currently, there are five proposed plans, and INDOT will reduce the list to three routes. All possible routes are posted on the INDOT website. Marc Westfall suggests that the route coming in from I-70 makes more sense because traffic would dissipate before entering I-69. Also, he reports that sink holes have already been found on Highway 37, which will present additional cost and complications if used as part of I-69. He also suggests that it would be cheaper for the state to buy farmland than houses and businesses. In Perry Township, 670 homes and 72 businesses would be affected by the proposed route.

According to the original plans, the only overpass in the township would be located at Southport Road, which would become the main traffic flow for the township. Adding overpasses at Edgewood Ave. and Wicker Road have been suggested to balance traffic better. According to Marc Westfall, this has been planned for 10 years. However, he also reports that the state has no money for these additions at this time but would probably find it.

One of the biggest concerns for the school district is how to move students safely in a timely and cost-effective manner. One hundred Perry Township Schools’ bus routes cross Highway 37 every day, so the proposed change would definitely affect time, cost, and safety in moving students.

INDOT makes a final decision about the route in Sept. 2016.

Building/Construction Update

Marc Westfall gave a construction update.

WV - Construction is underway at WV after a short delay in beginning. Construction is now back on schedule with the following areas of construction on the east side of the building: 8 classrooms, new office, new LGI, a temporary entrance on the west side, and a retention pond for drainage. WV is scheduled to be finished May 2016. Neil Linville appreciates Marc Westfall and Vicki Carpenter meeting with WV staff to address concerns.

Kindergarten Centers - The kindergarten centers are in the final design stage and the bid for construction will go out in March. A kindergarten committee with one kindergarten representative from each building is tweaking construction plans. Fourteen classrooms will be used for the kindergarten center at Douglas MacArthur and sixteen classrooms will be dedicated to kindergarten center at each of the other kindergarten centers.

Holder Field - At Holder Field, new sod and a drainage system is in place and will be ready for use in April. Bleachers will be raised because the dugouts were raised. Donation funds paid for this project.

Professional Development

Many teachers have voiced their concerns about holding PD during the shorter weeks, such as Thanksgiving week and the last week of the semester. Neil Linville has discussed this issue with Mr. Bohannon and Mrs. Carpenter. Though schools may not have a normal cluster session, teachers will continue to have cluster-related activities, for example completing a survey during short school weeks.

TAP Update

In many of the elementary buildings, volunteer lead teachers are giving input concerning building cluster strategies to ensure that cluster is relevant to classroom needs. Lead teachers, who join the building leadership team, don't evaluate teachers and DO NOT have access to evaluation data; they give the Principal and Master Teachers input for cluster and serve as building leaders.

Next PEA Discussion meeting will be held January 21, 2016 at 4:10 PM in room 210.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Turpen