

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Education
Tonawanda City School District
Re: Recommendation of Clint Small Task Force
Date: 12/15/09

Background:

The Clint Small Task Force is an appointed ad hoc committee of the Tonawanda Board of Education. The specific charge of the Task Force was:

- Review current legal status of property of existing Clint Small site.
- Work with Tonawanda City to determine Long Range Plan for this property.
- Review site work necessary for potential relocation of Clint Small to existing High School Property.
- Develop timeframe for community input and Board of Education action.

Membership and Meetings

The membership of the Clint Small Task Force represented multiple stakeholder groups including community members, parents, faculty, staff, and administration.

The following persons participated on the Task Force:
Larry Badgley, Robert Breidenstein, Augustine Beyer, Shawn Callahan, Lynn Casal, Karen Delp, Linda Foels, Gary Miller, Roseann Nuccio, Karen Russell, Lisa Schroeder and Sharon Stuart.

The Task Force met on the following dates: September 9, October 1,6,13,26, November 4,16, and December 8, 2009

Meeting generally lasted two to two and one half hours in length.

Task Activity

- Review current legal status of property of existing Clint Small site.

The Task Force met with the attorney for the school district. The attorney was unable to provide the Task Force with specific answers related to property ownership as documented by specific title. At the time of the meeting arrangements were underway to have the property title examined by title experts.

The Task Force determined that they were not positioned to determine the exact legal status of the property.

- Work with Tonawanda City to determine Long Range Plan for this property.

The Task Force met with representative of the City of Tonawanda to determine if the City of Tonawanda had an interest in the Clint Small property. The Task Force was also interested in determining if the City might have interest in land swaps that might have a mutually beneficial impact.

As a result of the meeting the Task Force learned that certain representatives of city government had a positive outlook relative to exchanging land as may be mutually beneficial. However, the representatives were not empowered to speak for the entire Council. Further, the City representatives were unable to provide any information related to specific long range plans for land usage.

- Review site work necessary for potential relocation of Clint Small to existing High School Property

The Task Force reviewed documents related to the Clint Small site footprint as well as the current site maps of the high school complex. A determination was made that the space currently exist at the high school to relocate the Clint Small stadium area. However, it was also determined that such relocation would require the moving of other fields currently in use.

Ideally, if additional land (owned by the city) directly adjacent to the school (little league area) were available, Clint Small could be relocated.

In reviewing the necessary site work the Task Force met with Mr. J Tripi, Project Manager, Turner Construction and with Mr. J Giarrizzo, School Business Administrator relative to cost of relocation, and potential state aid. As a result the Task Force learned that state aid would not be available to move the stadium with out it being included in a building related project. In addition, it was established that such a project would need to be substantial to generate "incidental expenses" sufficient to off-set the cost. Given the aforementioned it was concluded that relocation of Clint Small Stadium in the absence of a building project was most likely not fiscally prudent.

- Develop timeframe for community input and Board of Education action.

Given the information the Task Force reviewed related to state aid it would appear that the District should consider moving forward as soon as may be practical. Approval of the New York State Education Department involves is a rigorous process that in part is based upon time of submittal.

Final Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the Clint Small Task Force that the Clint Small Stadium Complex be moved to the current high school area campus.

However, this recommendation is contingent upon the following:

1. That the move only takes place in conjunction with a necessary and fiscally prudent related building project in order that state aid may help reduce the cost associated with such a move.
2. That the Board of Education does a cost analysis of current cost against projected cost of maintenance and determines that it is financial beneficial to the district.
3. That as much of the character and historical significance of Clint Small be maintained.
4. That the best possible facility be considered by the Board of Education, within the limits of what is financial prudent.

Further, as a suggestion, but not a direct part of the above recommendation; in the event that the Board of Education is unable to move Clint Small Stadium per the conditions of the aforementioned recommendation, then consideration should be given to public input into conditions and remaining alternatives.

Task Force Request

The Task Force members have put in a considerable number of hours, time and efforts in studying this matter. Our recommendation reflects our best effort given the scope of our mission. Should the Board of Education make a determination to move forward on the recommendation, each member of the Task Force would like to be considered for further participation on any design committee efforts, or decision making team related to Clint Small.