

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Joint Meeting of the Brainerd City Council and ISD181 School Board was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President Pritschet.

Upon roll call, the following members were noted present: School Board members Nelson, Kern, Haglin, Nystrom, and Campbell. Council members Stunek, Bevans, Badeaux, Johnson, Hilgart, Lambert, Pritschet, and Mayor Menk. School Board member Robinson was noted as absent.

Council President Pritschet opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Discussion and Updates Regarding Parking in Brainerd

The Brainerd School Board reviewed the updated plans highlighting the changes to the individual facilities.

Harrison Elementary – The original 14 properties to be acquired has decreased to 12 parcels with eight owners. The parking has been eliminated from the west side and all parking will now be only on the east side at the corner of Oak and 16th Street. The original plan proposed 42 spots that have now decreased to 38 spots. The bus loading and unloading is to be located on Norwood Street on the north side at the new entrance with the parent pick up and drop off on 15th Street. The proposed street plans will vacate 16th Street and 15th Street will become a one-way only street.

Brainerd High School – The original four properties to be acquired has decreased to two parcels with one owner. The parking spots decreased from 320 to 284, plus 15 spots designated as accessible parking. This lot will be close to the estimated 300 spots needed for the new performing arts center. The proposed street plans will vacate Pine Street between South 5th and South 6th and traffic calming efforts will be made on South 5th Street.

Lowell Elementary – The original five properties to be acquired has decreased to three. The parking lot proposed on Third Avenue between H and G Streets decreased from 58 spots to 37, plus two spots designated as accessible parking. The plan also proposed to change G Street to a one-way and add a lane for parent pick-up/drop-off to eliminate the children being dropped off on the opposite side of the street to cross.

Garfield -The original four properties to be acquired has decreased to two. The parking lot proposed near the corner of 11th Avenue and L Street decreased from 65 spots to 27, plus two spaces designated as accessible parking. Two more accessible spaces would be added to L Street. All other plans remain the same.

Mr. Tim Ramerth, from Widseth Smith Nolting (WSN) stated the changed being proposed on 5th Street are traffic calming measures, such as a serpentine drive implemented to slow traffic and raised median crossways for pedestrians. There are other options that may be incorporated, such as landscaping.

Ms. Laine Larson, superintendent for ISD181 stated the main entrance to the high school will remain on 5th Street. She explained once the school day begins, all the entrances

around the building, except for the main entrance on the east side, will be locked during the day for safety and protection. At each of the entrances in all 12 facilities, there will be a standardized controlled entrance that will consist of entering a first set of doors into a vestibule which a person would check in with the executive assistant staff member to obtain a visitor badge. This is one of the safety measures being taken at all facilities.

Council Member Badeaux indicated the number one concern is the pick-up and drop-off procedures. The plans for Harrison Elementary appear to show a lot of congestion on Oak Street heading north. Ms. Larson stated with the buses now relocated to Norwood Street, the parents will not be in the traffic lane on Oak Street which is safer than having large buses there for pedestrians.

Council Member Badeaux asked about the current parent drop-off procedures, specifically at Harrison and Lowell where staff and parents have witnessed seeing students dropped off in the middle of the road and if the discussion with parents have taken place about the dangers of doing so. Mr. Haglin stated although it is hard to enforce but would improve with the designated drop-off areas and correct signage.

City Administrator Torstenson advised the school district to work with City Engineer Sandy on road configurations and design ideas that could assist in the project.

Ms. Laine Larson stated she commends the board for spending a great deal of time to look at these properties, to take into consideration the issues that the Council has brought forward and the needs the district has. She said she is pleased to hear some of the things that have been said tonight and wants everyone to understand the good faith effort that the board of education has put forth to try to find a consensus.

Additional discussion took place.

Council members agreed to vote on the school district's plans during the Budget Workshop public hearing taking place on Monday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Cassandra Torstenson
City Administrator