

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 immediately following the Public Facilities Authority Special Called Meeting. The Work Session began at 6:12 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Invocation - Rev. Dr. Bill Murray, Holy Innocents Episcopal Church

II. Staff Discussion Items

There were no Staff Discussion Items.

III. Public Works

There were no Public Works Discussion Items.

IV. City Council Discussion Items

A. 2021-271 Fulton County Schools E-SPLOST Presentation

Julia Bernath, District 7 Representative for Fulton County Schools and Board President introduced Chief Operations Officer Noel Maloof to present the upcoming education special purpose local option sales tax (ESPLOST).

Noel Maloof, Fulton County Schools Chief Operations Officer discussed the District-wide Bricks and Clicks Capital Plan 2027 which was by the School Board in June of 2021. The phrase "Bricks and Clicks" illustrates the way Capital Plan 2027 investments will integrate to ensure Fulton County Schools (FCS) facilities (BRICKS) are safe and well-maintained while supporting students and staff with the technology resources (CLICKS) needed to learn, teach or work. Plan Elements and Priority Areas are (1) Facility Master Plan; (2) Technology Plan; and (3) Safety & Security, Transportation, and Furniture & Equipment. On the November 2, 2021 ballot, Fulton County voters will be asked if they would like to continue to ESPLOST, the penny sales tax designated for education, as a funding mechanism for the schools capital needs and the Capital Plan 2027. Riverwood High School and its feeder schools look to received needed infrastructure and technology improvements. North Springs High School and its feeder schools look to receive infrastructure and technology improvements as well, including major renovations in several schools. Capital Plan 2027 includes plans to replace the North Springs High School building. The Capital Plan 2027's total cost of \$1,213,397,340 was reviewed, which includes the Facility Master Plan (53%), Technology (25%), Reserves/Operating Expenses (15%), Transportation (2%), Safety and Security (2%), Furniture and Equipment (2%), and Long-term Obligation (1%).

Council Member Jody Reichel thanked the presenters for their hard work and expressed how important it is for this to pass. What is the timeline to replace North Springs High School.

Board President Bernath informed the Council that the Riverwood project started more than five years ago. Construction projects take a long time. After constructions plans are drawn and approved, the average time of active construction for an elementary school is 12 months, for a middle school is 18 months, and for a high school is 2 years. There may also be unforeseen circumstances that can extend that timeframe.

Chief Operations Officer Maloof added that they are currently working to begin public input with the school community and design work which should accelerate the project.

Board President Bernath shared FCS Board has already selected Architects. ESPLOST has been in place for the past 25 years. It is not a new tax but a continuation of an existing tax. The needs will continue and the option with the least burden on property owners is the ESPLOST. The last Fulton County Schools bond was prior to 1997 and was finalized last year. Anything that requires interest or raising a millage rate will be a long-term expense.

Council Member John Paulson asked how much did the last ESPLOST raised.

Chief Operations Officer Maloof estimated it was would be about \$200,000,000 less than what is expected for the future ESPLOST.

Board President Bernath believes the last ESPLOST was just under \$1,000,000,000. FCS worked with Georgia State University and others who helped FCS adjust their Capital Plan timeline and projection.

Council Member John Paulson asked where the students will be while North Springs High School is being rebuilt.

Board President Bernath shared three examples as potential options:

- Riverwood High School and Ridgeview Charter Middle School were built in sections allowing the students to use the open areas.
- Sandy Springs Middle School's new building was being constructed while the students continued to utilize the older building.
- Four elementary schools in South Fulton were converted into two new elementary schools. Students were placed into two of the existing schools while the two new schools were being built.

B. 2021-272 TSPLOST Communications Plan

Dan Coffey, Community Relations Manager presented the TSPLOST 2021 Communication Plan, including the website, social media platforms, e-newsletters, print/digital ads, mailers, and posters. There was a review of public information meetings, including virtual events, Farmers Market, Leadership Sandy Springs Day, pop-up meetings, and email communication with local partners.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Approved: November 2, 2021


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Raquel D. González, City Clerk