

APPROVED



# Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

## Minutes

### Long Range Infrastructure Planning Task Force

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#### Date and Time

Monday January 22, 2024 at 5:00 PM

#### Location

PVPA Conference Room 304

<https://meet.google.com/gjo-djpa-dvn>

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#### Committee Members Present

Alyson Miller, Austin Clark, Brent Nielsen (remote), Frank Newton, Jay Winter, Jennifer Santerre (remote), John Kulas, Loris Bjorkman, Marcy Conner (remote), Martin Bridge (remote), Mindi Winter

#### Committee Members Absent

Thom Vreeland

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Call the Meeting to Order

John Kulas called a meeting of the Infrastructure/Facilities Committee Committee of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School to order on Monday Jan 22, 2024 at 5:04 PM.

#### B.

**Record Attendance**

**II. Infrastructure/Facilities Committee**

**A. Old Business**

John Kulas made a motion to approve the minutes from Long Range Infrastructure Planning Task Force on 12-18-23.

Frank Newton seconded the motion.

None

The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Martin Bridge     | Aye    |
| Mindi Winter      | Aye    |
| Jennifer Santerre | Aye    |
| Thom Vreeland     | Absent |
| Jay Winter        | Aye    |
| Austin Clark      | Aye    |
| Loris Bjorkman    | Aye    |
| Marcy Conner      | Aye    |
| John Kulas        | Aye    |
| Alyson Miller     | Aye    |
| Brent Nielsen     | Aye    |
| Frank Newton      | Aye    |

**B. New Business**

Hear from everyone with thoughts, comments concerns about the proposed conceptual Plans

Frank - Spoke with Dance department about dressing rooms - in 201 they would like to explore curtain-based rooms that can be removed.

John talked to the department head and expressed concerns with the privacy accidental opening of curtains and that they would not lose space with the placement of the rooms in the existing storage location.

Loris - Second Floor bathroom we have not explored enough options to determine that this is the only option - can we try some other variations on how the bathrooms are designated rather than create the new bathroom configuration.

Bathroom spaces have been discussed extensively, but we can return to what the options are instead - we would have to discuss with the Admin Team.

Frank - prefers the bathroom with the door connected to the Faculty lounge rather than the bathroom being open to the rest of the bathrooms. More direct Faculty-only access.

- Need to check on the configuration of the cabinet/counter that is against that back wall currently to make sure that it is possible to place the door there.

Austin - Faculty lounge access preferable with the teachers he talked with as well.

Brent - how will the door swing in the pass thru affect these measurements. John says that there is enough clearance and we could remove the heater that is in that space.

Would cost more to put a door in the Faculty room.

Agreement that the open second floor restroom is fine.

#### Dance Department Discussion

2x3 walls with felt pads for dressing rooms - almost freestanding walls with full size closet doors with locks.

Dance department worried about space but curtains are not private enough, and the space is not utilized currently.

They do currently use that space to exercise and mock up the theater wing space.

Dressing rooms are critical to allow classes to start on time rather than having to wait for kids. to go to the bathrooms and change then get to class.

Hanging curtains is problematic with the windows and area

Brent asking to get student feedback so that we make sure they are comfortable with the space, in case they would not use a curtain room.

#### Nurse Room and Music Department Move

Current move Music rooms will need to be used for Middle School students.

Noise control - this summer we will be spraying the ceilings with insulation foam and putting in some walls.

Allison - very concerned with putting middle schoolers on top of Dance or African Drumming. Concerned that developmentally the MS students are not able to focus with noise coming from the bottom. Worried about teachers satisfaction.

Brent - What happened to exploring the jimba mutes for drumming.

John - could do accommodations around controlling noise volume within the classrooms especially during MCAS and other events.

Martin - Muting the Jimbas is not possible to do every day they will not be able to hear how the drum should sound when played. If you want to shut down during MCAS then you need to plan your Production Calendar properly around the testing and other noise constraints.

Allison - understand that Production class needs to make noise we just need to find a better spatial solution

Austin - In going through the music move, could we shift the middle schoolers to the other end of the hallway instead of the new penciled-in space? Acknowledges that there is more limitations than solutions with the existing space.

John - Now we need to work on how to make things better with sound dampening

Question - Sound attenuation is a science, real studios utilize that science in a closed space if you have a music school it would seem that it would be better. How much effort has been put into that science.

- We hired an acoustical engineer that looked at the sound in the Dance Rooms and Theater. The best way to mitigate sound travel would be to install a second ceiling underneath the duct work and it takes a large amount of money to install all of the recommendations of the Engineer.

Ball park of \$300k just for the Dance Studio rooms for a lowered ceiling which did not include the wall treatments and blown ceilings.

Music Move is a viable solution but more work needs to be done to make sure that the Academic Class interests are protected while accommodating the Music Department.  
Second Floor Addition to the East Annex

Lunch Area on 1st floor - could house prep and store food in the future.

Second Floor would bring the current MS classes on the 1st floor to the second story.

Jenn - Would we be using a Company like Sodexo or hiring kitchen staff - This would be longer-term down the line.

Brent - Dont know how much room is needed for a kitchen that would prepare food fresh vrs a kitchen that would provide a warming facility. Other places to put a cafeteria would be allow for additional entrances and exits this option only has one and that could be a problem.

What is the square footage required per student for the Dining area?

- 4.5 sq ft per student in the planned space using all 400 students at the same time.

How will the workflow be with the kids to move through the space.

Allison - is not comfortable with destroying the newly renovated Annex spaces. The renovation is planned for every 6 years to be redoing them again by the time this starts and it was primarily a cosmetic and furniture update.

### **III. Closing Items**

#### **A. Closing Statements**

Next meeting is moved to the 26th to accommodate the Holiday and School Break.

For the next meeting would like to get a prioritization or schedule tentatively set for these items. Something to move forward with to continue these options.

Feasibility Study for long-term space utilization and what could we accomplish with our existing plans/ideas, how can we make these things happen, and what would the approximate cost be to accomplish these goals?

- How can we make this happen or how could we accomplish this, and with whom?

Marcy knows consulting firms that advise schools on how to move forward with plans/proposals and bidding.

#### **B. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mindi Winter