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Andy Livingston introduced today's program featuring a presentation about the upcoming Upper Arlington Schools bond and operating levy.

Superintendent **Paul Imhoff** and District Treasurer **Andy Geistfeld** spoke about the recommendation and the process that was followed to reach this point. We saw a slide presentation entitled "Facilities Master Planning".

Throughout the process and its various phases Paul emphasized that the long term best interest of Upper Arlington's students remained the top priority.

The process actually began in earnest 2.5 years ago with an assessment phase. There followed an options phase and finally a decision phase. The result is the current recommendation to present a combined 3.75 mil operating levy and a 5.17 mil bond issue to the city's voters in the November 2017 election. The last operating levy request in UA was in the Fall of 2013.

Upper Arlington's school buildings average 60 years old. Currently, the systems in the nine buildings are nearing the end of their useful life. At this point the district is on a path of "fix it as it breaks" for those systems. This approach is not the best long term solution for the district and would ultimately begin to drain operating funds from the system's educational endeavors.

During the first phase (Assessment) the State of Ohio paid for an independent assessment of the district's facilities. Paul emphasized the independent nature of this effort and the fact that none of the organizations involved in the assessment would receive any work as a result. The conclusion was that, while the buildings have been well maintained, the ongoing cost to maintain them would be \$188 million over the next 15 years.

In addition to the cost to simply maintain the existing facilities the District will need to deal with projected enrollment growth in the years ahead. Upper Arlington Schools are in the top ten in projected growth in the state of Ohio over the next ten years. The current student enrollment of about 5,800 students is projected to grow to 6,700 during that time. Already crowded schools will become even more so in the years ahead.

In the options phase building teams were formed to investigate, develop and discuss what options might be available to the district. In October, 2016 the preferred options for each building were selected.

The decision phase included the creation of a Financial Advisory Board comprised of experienced executives (UA residents) from a number of business disciplines. The Financial Advisory Board's focus was on the costs associated with the recommended options and the accompanying budget discipline that would be required. We saw a video featuring members of the F.A.B. discussing the process.

Paul emphasized that throughout this entire process – from the assessment phase through the decision phase – community members were

GREETERS

September 19

Joe Berwanger
Jim Nicklaus

September 26

Larry McVey
Telanda Sidari

October 3

Wendell Ellenwood
Matt Rule

REGISTRATION DESK

September 19

Larry McVey
Milt Lustnauer

September 26

Ted Foster
Brendan King

October 3

Jeanine Hummer
Dick Stone

CALENDAR

September 19 (Scioto CC)

*Anniversary of the U.S.
Constitution*

Hosts: Jeanine Hummer & Brad Frick

September 26 (Scioto CC)

*Scott Stevenson
Cyber Fraud*

Hosts: Andy Livingston & Milt Lustnauer

October 3 (Scioto CC)

*Vocational Lunches
See Notes and Announcements
section for locations*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

September 19
Scioto Country Club

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



Paul Imhoff and Andy Geistfeld

Upper Arlington Schools

engaged and involved to the greatest extent possible. More than 200 “coffees” in residents’ homes have been held throughout UA. In combination with community-wide meetings and surveys over 8,000 points of contact have been made with UA residents.

Ultimately, the recommendation calls for a two phase approach to addressing facilities needs. Phase I includes the construction of a new high school and new or renovated elementary schools. Phase II, ten years down the road, will address the middle schools as well as Burbank school. The issue on the ballot (Issue 43) would fund Phase I.

To date there has been no money spent on designing the proposed facilities. No such money will be spent until after the November election.

Should the issue pass, the design process (with maximum community input) will be followed by groundbreaking in early 2019. Elementary school construction/renovations would be completed by Fall, 2020. The high school building would open in Fall, 2021.

The estimated cost to UA homeowners would be about \$312 per \$100,000 of market value as determined by the Franklin County Auditor.

In terms of relative tax burden in UA vs. other local school districts, we saw a chart showing that Upper Arlington currently has the 10th highest



tax burden among the 15 central Ohio school districts. If Issue 43 passes the result would be UA moving into 4th among the 15 districts.

The decision to move forward at this time rather than waiting is based in part on the assumption that building costs will only rise in the future and that interest are likely to rise also. In addition, a delay would necessitate incurring the cost of providing temporary facilities for the growing number of students at the elementary schools. Those schools are simply running out of room.

The Meeting

First Vice President **Brad DeHays** presided at today’s meeting. He asked **Price Finley** to offer the Invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Kevin Brown introduced visiting Rotarian **Don Turner** from the Columbus Rotary Club. We had a number of guests today. **Price Finley** introduced his wife **Alice**; **Dave Hammond** introduced **Jim Keim**; **Herb Gillen** introduced **Scott McKenzie**.

We were also joined today by several members of the UA Board of Education including **Robin Comfort**, **Carol Mohr**, **Matt McClellan** and **Nancy Drees**.

Next week’s meeting (at Scioto Country Club) will feature **Brad Frick** discussing the anniversary of the United States Constitution.

Brad reported that the club’s Board approved two grants at its most recent meeting. They included \$4,660 for the YWCA Family Center and \$6,400 for a joint learning project between Windermere Elementary School and Columbus’ Livingston Elementary School.

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Notes and Announcements



Don Leach reminded us of the upcoming vocational lunch program on Tuesday, October 3. He distributed sign-up sheets. The five options (hosts) are: UA Schools Graf Center (**Paul Imhoff**), UA Municipal Services Center (**Ted Staton** and **Dan Ralley**), The Commissary (**Brad DeHays**), Kimball Midwest (**Dave McCurdy**) and ODW Logistics (**John** and **Bob Ness**).

Jim McGovern announced that the next two Senior Service Saturdays will be October 14 and November 4. The time commitment is from 8:45 to 11:00 AM. Sign-up sheets were available. This is an excellent opportunity for community service for members and their families. Contact Jim if you have any questions (614-214-9495 or jamesmmcgovern@yahoo.com).



Dan Ralley announced a community discussion about UA Parks planning on Tuesday evening September 19 at 6:30 PM. The discussion will take place at the Amelita Mirolo Barn.

Alan Yarletts reminded New Generation Committee members of their meeting immediately following today's club meeting.

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