

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Request from the Clark County School District to Waive Construction Project Size Limitations Set Forth in Section 304 of the School Facilities Planning Manual, Incorporated by Reference into 702 KAR 4:180 and 702 KAR 4:160, in Order to Construct a Gymnasium Project

Commissioner's Recommendation:

The Commissioner recommends approval of the requested waiver, which will allow the district to proceed with plans for the construction of the gymnasium to complete the new George Rogers Clark High School.

Rationale:

A waiver from the regulation limiting the size of school construction projects is necessary to permit the construction of the Gymnasium for the new George Rogers Clark High School. The district's plans for the use of the gymnasium are sound and support the waiver requested. Due to funding constraints, the new high school (1,900 student design capacity) is being constructed in three phases. Phases I and II are complete. Phase I provides the academic and support spaces and an "auxiliary" gymnasium with limited seating that serves as a physical education/practice facility. Phase II, the Area Technology Center, provides spaces for career and technical education. Phase III is the proposed gymnasium project.

The gymnasium project will create a facility, at the high school, capable of accommodating the entire student body, one that is suitable for hosting athletic events, graduation ceremonies, proms, and other activities. Currently, the high school cannot accommodate the entire student body in one space and large events are held at alternative locations in the cities of Lexington or Richmond. Home basketball games are played at Campbell Junior High School (JHS), the former high school. The project will free the Campbell JHS gymnasium for exclusive use by that facility. The proposed gym's mezzanine will also provide space for additional athletic and program spaces. This includes space for JROTC, health, arts, humanities, archery, and wrestling programs. The construction of two gymnasiums for a facility of this size and the need for a waiver from the KBE is not unprecedented. The new Frederick Douglass High School in Fayette County (1,800 student design capacity) received a similar waiver approval from the KBE in February 2015.

Action Question:

Should the KBE approve the request from the Clark County Board of Education to waive the requirements of Table 304.7.3 Model Program of Spaces of the School Facilities Planning Manual, as Incorporated by Reference into 702 KAR 4:180 and 702 KAR 4:160 6(1) 4c.ii,

regarding the allowable size and efficiency for the proposed renovation and addition to the new George Rogers Clark High School?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 702 KAR 4:160 and 702 KAR 4:180

History/Background:

Existing Policy: The Kentucky School Facilities Planning Manual is incorporated by reference into 702 KAR 4:180. The Planning Manual establishes the space and efficiency requirements for schools. 702 KAR 4:160 6(1)4c.ii requires a middle or high school to be limited to 120 percent of the total gross area of the model program of spaces. KRS 156.160 allows the KBE to approve a written request from a local board of education to waive an administrative regulation when the school district demonstrates good cause.

Summary: Phase I of the George Rogers Clark High School was constructed in 2012-2014. Phase I contains 256,477 square feet. It includes an 8,991 square foot “auxiliary” gym with ancillary spaces totaling 14,322 square feet. When interpolated for a 1,900 student high school, the KDE Model Program of Spaces (contained in 702 KAR 4:180) provides 18,393 square feet for the Physical Education component for a school totaling 230,893 square feet. The 20% allowable increase per 702 KAR 4:160 6(1)4c.ii raises the total allowable area to 277,072 square feet; therefore, Phase I is 20,595 square feet under the allowable total.

The gymnasium with ancillary spaces and additional program spaces, as proposed through schematic design, add an additional 62,401 square feet resulting in a total of 318,878 square feet. This is 41,806 square feet (or approximately 15%) over the allowable maximum.

For the reasons stated above, KDE staff recommend that the waiver for this facility be granted. A copy of the Clark County Board of Education’s request is attached to this staff note.

Representatives from the Clark County Board of Education will be available at the KBE meeting to answer any questions.

Budget Impact: There is no budget impact at the state level.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The Clark County Board of Education voted 3-1 to request a waiver of this requirement (See attachment).

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

February 2017