



## Bond Task Force: Recommendations Working Sub-Committee Meeting 2 Summary

February 13, 2018

Meeting #2, Tuesday, February 13, 2017, Horizon Middle School

**Attendees: Task Force / Recommendations Sub-Committee members**

Name	
Joy Born	Joe Lupo
Faye Britt	Joey McAlpine
Michael Britt	Sandi McMillan
Kristie Edwards	Steve Menefee
Edwin Elefson	Jamie Plenkovich
Rusti Elefson	Nicole Smith
Connie Faria	Shauna Torretta
Maralise Fegan	Tony Torretta
Dustin Griffin	Jeremy Vincent
Kathy Hopkins	Erin Williams
Bud Larson	Candice Wilson
Wendy Lawrence	

### Staff:

#### ***Ferndale School District***

- Mark Deebach
- Linda Quinn
- Erin Vincent

#### ***EnviroIssues facilitator***

- Penny Mabie

### Welcome and Introduction

Penny opened the meeting and thanked all the Task Force members who came out to the working sub-committee meeting to continue the discussions from the previous evening. She reminded the group that the purpose of the meeting was to continue to refine and seek agreement on the draft recommendations for presentation to the School Board on February 27.

### Recommendations discussions

Penny introduced Steve Menefee, Director of Bands, to speak to the group about the Performing Arts Center (PAC). Steve shared that he is in a choral group that tours around the country and so he has toured many, many school performance facilities. He said that of all the facilities he toured, he would put Ferndale's PAC in the top 20. He noted that many of his colleagues around the state are envious of Ferndale's PAC. One notable feature is that there are no parallel walls which contributes to good acoustics. Steve also noted that the current practice around the state is to build music/arts facilities that are smaller and serve multiple purposes. He added that the PAC is a very important community asset.



Penny reviewed the progress the Task Force made the previous night. Agreements reached included:

- No group recommended to completely rebuild the high school so that option was removed from consideration.
- Every group included the bond community oversight committee, so the full group agreed to move that recommendation forward into the draft recommendations.
- Every group recommended funding needed safety and security improvements across the district, so the full group agreed to move that recommendation forward.
- Every group recommended keeping the current PAC at the high school, although one group did not want to recommend remodeling it.
- One revised option for the high school was suggested. The suggestion was keeping the PAC and the gym, but not the cafeteria.
- There were numerous suggestions for how to address mechanical/electrical/plumbing and other facility needs at other buildings across the district. After discussing all the iterations, the group agreed they needed more information to determine their approach. They requested the District work with their staff and consultants and develop a prioritized list of the most critical needs across the district. The group agreed to further discuss the issue when that list was provided to them at their next full Task Force meeting on February 26.
- There was not agreement on whether to include remodeling and reopening North Bellingham.

Penny led the group in a discussion of the items still needing agreement.

***High school recommendation:***

Penny checked in with the group on the issues still needing discussion. She asked whether there was support for the new option introduced at the previous meeting about the high school – retaining both the PAC and the cafeteria. Everyone but one person agreed not to keep the cafeteria. Penny asked if that option could be left behind and all agreed. The agreement was to move forward with rebuilding the entire high school except for the PAC, which would get some upgrades and renovations. The group did not determine what level of funding to apply to the PAC upgrade.

***Other recommendations:***

Penny validated that the entire group agreed to include all needed safety, security and exterior lighting improvements identified by the district, and all agreed.

**Critical needs:** After some discussion, the group agreed that there would not be a separate line item for mechanical/electrical/plumbing (M/E/P) needs. Rather, those needs would be folded into the list of critical needs. The district will provide a prioritized list of critical needs at the next Task Force meeting that includes M/E/P, roofs, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and other structural needs across the District. At that time, the Task Force will more fully discuss how much budget to allocate to those needs.

**North Bellingham Elementary School:** The group continued their discussion of whether to include the remodel and reopening of North Bellingham. There was no agreement in the room. Issues discussed in favor of the remodel/reopen included geographic location (east of I-5), adding capacity to system for future growth, drawing bond support from that segment of the district's voters, and providing additional classroom capacity to the District which could support smaller class sizes at the early grades. Issues discussed in opposition of the remodel/reopen included adding cost to the bond package, adding complexity to the bond package, putting too many demands on the District in terms of managing multiple major projects at one time, and alienating community members who would prefer to see Mountain View

Elementary reopened. The Task Force did not arrive at an agreement on including North Bellingham or not, but they did agree to reconsider the issue on February 26th after they receive the prioritized critical needs list from the district, so the decision could be made in the context of the priority needs.

**Community oversight committee:** Penny validated the Task Force agreed to include a recommendation for an oversight committee and to include the draft scope presented at the last Task Forced meeting in the recommendation.

### **Bond Task Force Website**

Penny noted that her team is developing an additional page for the Task Force's website that will provide an overview of Task Force discussions and share the draft recommendations with the community. New survey questions will also be developed. The Communications working subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, February 21, and Penny will share the beta version of the new page with them.

### **Closing**

Penny noted that the Task Force had spent six hours discussing the district's needs over the last two evenings. She observed the group had had a lot of dialogue and discussed a lot of options. Both meetings were extended from two-hour meetings, so she commended the Task Force for putting a lot of thought and dialogue into this process.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

