



## Bond Task Force – Meeting 6 Summary

February 12, 2018

Meeting #6, Monday, February 12, 2018, Cascadia Elementary School

### Attendees: Task Force members

Name		
Joy Born	Michael Britt	Faye Britt
Riley Cornelsen	Kristie Edwards	Edwin Elefson
Rusti Elefson	Connie Faria	Maralise Fegan
Rob Fickeisen	Hugh Focker	Dustin Griffin
Greg Heyne	Kathy Hopkins	Bud Larson
Wendy Lawrence	Joe Lupo	Joey McAlpine
Sandi McMillan	Amy Nysten	Jamie Plenkovich
Nicole Smith	Shauna Torretta	Tony Torretta
Jeremy Vincent	Wendy Wasisco	Erin Williams
Candice Willson		

### Staff

#### *Ferndale School District*

- Mark Deebach, Assistant Superintendent
- Linda Quinn, Superintendent
- Tammy Bengen
- Erin Daniels

#### *EnviroIssues facilitator*

- Penny Mabie

### Welcome and Introduction

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues facilitator for the Ferndale School District (abbreviation: FSD) Bond Task Force (abbreviation: Task Force), welcomed Task Force members and observers to the meeting. She provided members with an overview of the meeting agenda and outlined the primary purpose of the meeting: continue to refine project packages and work to develop consensus on preferred project package or a list of prioritized projects to recommend to the school board.

### Report out from community conversations

Task Force members reported out on conversations they had with community members. Key themes were:

- People are concerned with accountability regarding how the district managed previous bond funding and associated projects.
- There was concerns that the district would be taking on too much if all that was being contemplated in the project list was undertaken.



- People in the Custer community highly value and would have to feel confident that Career Technical Education (CTE) was included either in a specified building or called out as a program if the high school were rebuilt.
- People become more open to discussions and consideration for a bond measure when they heard that the person they were speaking with is on the Bond Task Force
- There is support out in the community that needs to be harnessed
- Maintenance – and what the district has or hasn't done – is a big issue
- People discussed whether benefits justified building new instead of remodeling

Discussions with Terry Brown, Zervas, and District staff about community input included discussions about maintenance, the difference between day-to-day maintenance, and preventative maintenance which includes replacing or upgrading system components before they wear out. Terry noted that utilities for schools were the second highest expense to a District after staff and that new construction improves utility efficiency and reduces utility costs.

Linda Quinn, District Superintendent, noted that during the recession, the District made the choice to defer preventive maintenance and diverted that funding to ensure school programs remained funded, teachers were kept on staff, and the eight-period day was funded.

Other questions about new versus remodel included an inquiry about what sustainability features would/could be included in a new building. Terry noted that Washington State mandates new school construction meet Washington Sustainable Schools Program requirements so there would be more green elements in a new building than in a remodeled building.

### **Project Option Updates**

Terry shared additional information about what was contained in the new high school construction, and remodeled Performing Arts Center (PAC), gym and cafeteria and in the remodel at North Bellingham Elementary, if it was included in the bond package.

Terry noted the new high school would be two stories, have limited access/egress, would include necessary facilities to support all current programs including career technical education (CTE), a new artificial turf football and soccer field, new stadium, and grass playfield.

The work at the PAC would include remove and replace the sound system and lighting, install energy efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, new interior finishes and surfaces, and readdress acoustical performance. There would be less work done on the exterior than the interior, although the exterior would be blended to match with the new high school building. The seating was installed in 2006, so it would not be replaced. Air handling in the art rooms would be addressed.

North Bellingham Elementary upgrade would include a new section of roof and exterior walls over current open spaces to enclose and connect the five separate buildings, adding usable square footage and creating common space. New efficient windows would be installed. The 1938 building would be demolished. Classrooms would not be remodeled.

Tax rate estimates for the three high school options were provided to the Task Force:

- Option 1: All new Ferndale High School would result in a tax rate of \$1.30 per \$1,000 assessed value or \$390 annually on a \$300,000 house.
- Option 2: New high school, retaining and remodeling the PAC, cafeteria and gym would result in a tax rate of \$1.10 per \$1,000 assessed value or \$330 annually on a \$300,000 house.

- Option 2b (introduced at end of Task Force meeting #5): New high school, retain and remodel only PAC would result in a tax rate of \$1.24 per \$1,000 assessed value or \$372 annually on a \$300,000 house.
- Option 2b2: New high school, keep PAC as is (with no remodel) would result in a tax rate increase of \$1.17 per \$1,000 or \$351 annually on a \$300,000 house.

Questions from the Task Force:

- How many students would be at North Bellingham if it were reopened? *Response: Unknown until elementary school boundaries were redrawn.*

### **Project Recommendations Small Group Discussion**

Penny asked the Task Force to divide into smaller groups and provided a worksheet for the groups to use to select the project package they would recommend for the high school and for other projects across the district (i.e. safety and security, mechanical/electrical/plumbing, remodel and reopen North Bellingham, establish a bond community oversight committee.

### **Project Recommendations Full Group Discussion**

Each small group reported out on their recommendations package, including the reasoning behind their choices. Several agreement points emerged:

- 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 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 forward.
- Every group recommended keeping the current PAC at the high school, although one group recommended not remodeling it.
- One revised option for the high school was suggested. The suggestion was to keep 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. The group agreed to continue to discuss that issue.

### **Next Steps**

Penny noted the next evening, February 13, was a Recommendations Subcommittee meeting. She emphasized that all Task Force members were invited and welcomed to attend, and further discussion would occur, to inform the draft recommendations that were due to the School Board on February 27. Penny closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

### **Handouts:**

Meeting agenda  
Revised Summary of Capital Projects  
Security Upgrade and Budget Estimates  
Small Group Recommendations Worksheet

