



CITIZENS' PHASE 2 FACILITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

October 19, 2016

Wenatchee School District Office

6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: No. 10

Those present (who signed in):

Consultants and Administration:

David Zeitlin, Hill International

Brian Flones, Superintendent

Jon DeJong, WSD Deputy Superintendent

Les Vandervort, WSD CFO

Gregg Herkenrath, WSD Director of Facilities

Traci Thompson, WSD Facilities Secretary

Jim Tweden, WSD Technology

Board Members: Walter Newman, Robert Sealby

Committee Members (principals, employees, students & community members):

Kris Cameron, Brigid Chvilicek, Chris Ferrians, Peter Jelsing, Joy

McCallum-Clark, John McQuaig, Graham Stansbery, Brian Vertrees

Items Discussed:

1. Opening Remarks – Brian Flones

- a. Accept meeting minutes from September 21st Meeting No 9.

2. Discuss Board Presentation

- a. At the board workshop on Monday, October 17, 2016 there was discussion regarding running a levy alongside a bond. The school district does not intend to run a tech levy at this time.
- b. School District Board Presentation:
 - All board charges were discussed along with the committee recommendations. The board expressed appreciation the thorough investigation and feedback presented by the committee.
 - The board will consider the recommendations over the next few weeks. The preliminary feedback is that they support the committee recommendations.
 - The board inquired about how the Foothills Middle School HVAC project would be funded. They asked for more

investigation by the consultants to help inform decision making.

- The board inquired about:
 - ✓ What questions can we anticipate from our community?
 - ✓ What would be the best means to get the word out to the community
 - ✓ How will the district get feedback from the community?The board would like to get more feedback before making a final decision.

3. Capital Technology Levy Presentation by Ron Brown

- a. Ron Brown gave a presentation on the districts vision of rolling out new instructional technology to classrooms and students. Some of the key points outlined are:
 - Giving the students a new vision of online learning
 - How technology use in class can enhance student learning.
 - Teachers and students agree it's more engaging to have newer technology.
 - The goal is one to one computing whereby personal computing devices are put in the hands of each student. The students would get to take the computers home each day to work on homework and bring them back to school each day for classroom work.
 - Parents are very supportive of the tablet device thus far in use and the enhanced learning that takes place.
 - Blended learning and getting things online need devices and internet access. Many teachers are already accessing online learning.
 - Supporting this type of 21st century curriculum requires new instructional techniques. Therefore a major component of the tech plan is to support teachers with both classes and building mentors. While there is still a long way to go with to introduce new approaches to education, there have already been success stories in the district. The district leadership has noticed an improvement in teaching techniques at the two newer schools.
 - We are technology "rich" and are trying to keep up within the educational technology industry.
 - Our buildings are built to last 30 years but the technology needs to be refreshed on a much shorter interval.
 - The district is upgrading district computing bandwidth and internet speed as often as is practical, but it is an additional expense.

- The cost to replicate our technology vision for all students is estimated to cost 3 million dollars per year. This would cover the following broad categories:
 - ✓ Individual student devices for 4th - 12th with a refresh cycle with new devices every four years. 1:2 shared computing at grades K-3rd Teacher devices with a refresh cycle every 4 years Laptop or tablet devices would be procured depending on the need at each grade level and for staff.
 - ✓ Software and systems for curriculum
 - ✓ Support and training for teaching and learning staff
 - ✓ Classroom/building infrastructure
- Technology Planning:
 - ✓ Ready our systems prior to a Capital Tech Levy
 - ✓ Newer schools have classrooms that are outfitted with technology devices. A typical classroom costs \$10,000.00 for the technology infrastructure to operate the electronic devices. This does not include the cost of the electronic devices such as computers, projectors and document cameras.
- As funds become available the district will expend them on 1:1 computing for each student. The district has done a great job getting students ready for 21st century learning. Our next step is to get the technology in the hands of each student.

4. Cost Scenarios prepared by Piper Jaffray

- a. The assessed property value of Wenatchee is about 4 billion. The State allows a school district to issue public bonds up to 5 percent of the assessed value. District has an AA3 bond rating which is good. After subtracting out the outstanding debt Piper Jaffray calculated the current maximum bonding capacity at \$115 million. The current cost per household is about \$4.44 per \$1,000 of assessed value. With the new bond the assessment will go to \$6.97 per \$1,000, adding about \$1.90.
- b. The Tech levy (estimated at \$0.67 per \$1,000) and the M&O levy (estimated at \$3.05 per 1,000) do not count against the district bonding capacity..
- c. Foothills HVAC needs to be overhauled and it may come out of the capital funding.
- d. Work at WVTSC is funded directly by State grants for both minor and major projects. This work is not paid for by the school district.
- e. The numbers prepared by Piper Jaffray could be viewed as conservative. If we passed both the Capital Bond and the M&O Levy the district would be at the high end of the millage rate

compared to school districts in northeastern and central Washington.

- f. People focus on the total amount of the bond millage rate and wonder how it will affect them.
- g. We need to sell to the community how important this will be for our high school students.
- h. For the survey how do we ask the public what they are willing to support in a bond measure?

5. Next Steps

Communication Plan - Community Survey & Feedback

- a. Two forms of surveys.
 - Thought Exchange (online survey) \
 - WSU Extension (telephone survey)
- b. The purposes of these surveys are to get community feedback on where voters stand and what they would support in a bond.
- c. Both organizations need to be asked what type of reports come back to WSD. Statistically how will people vote? WSU will provide more statistical information and is more reliable with how people will vote.
- d. Both surveys can be done in English and Spanish. There are approximately 8,000 - 9,000 voters in Wenatchee.
- e. Thought Exchange would be targeted at specific challenges and benefits that would be beneficial for WHS. The results tend to show the strengths and weakness of the target school with the primary focus group being parents and staff. This is best used to help position the district and see where the high school stands in the minds of the community. This gives the district a stronger message to work with when discussing the bond initiative in the community.
- f. It may be best to run the Thought Exchange survey first to get the feedback and then run the WSU survey.
- g. Each survey will take at least four to six weeks to complete. While the survey work is being done, the board will be deliberating on a bond resolution. The district needs to file their intent to place a bond for the April 25th election by no later than February 24.
- h. The bond committee needs to have time to run a good campaign.
- i. Part of the intent of the communication plan is to get information out into the community addressing what the committee has looked at thus far.
- j. A powerful tool would be to have committee members be interviewed as part of an informational video regarding the data we have discussed and the importance of passing a bond. Talking points might include addressing spaces that are inadequately sized, acoustically poor in addition to the need to alleviate overcrowding; why the committee came up with the specific recommendations.

- k. Brian Flones and Teri Fink have been discussing the need to have committee members at various meetings over the next several weeks to discuss the committee findings and recommendations. Focus on the message and the content. Newsletters and videos are great tools but we need to have representatives go out and talk to different groups within the community. Talk about the reality and the “elephant” in the room. Invest in your community’s future by passing this bond. It will be helpful to have photos of the building components that need to be repaired.
- l. Viewed a video from Cascade School District and they put their video into the movie theaters to show prior to the movie and on their website. The district leadership also went to a lot of meetings to get the message out.
- m. A bond committee needs to be formed as soon as possible.

Meeting was adjourned

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the District Office