



BOARD WORK SESSION
and
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 19, 2005

BOARD WORK SESSION, BUDGET
5:30 p.m.

The board work session was convened in the district board room at 5:40 p.m. Purpose of the work session was the continuing review of the 2005-2006 budget preparation. Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Donaldson, who was out of district. Dr. Carter introduced the new Union-Bulletin education reporter, Luis Gomez, who will replace Cathy Grimes during her absence participating in a Harvard Fellowship during the coming year. Mr. Rausch reviewed the preliminary budget, unchanged from that provided the board in early July. He reviewed the summary of General Fund Budget, Revenues, Expenditures, anticipated enrollment, and expenditures by program. Anticipated expenditures are \$49,280,112, and revenues are \$48,279,022, which will reduce the ending cash balance to \$1,752,476 to balance the budget, Mr. Rausch said. He said he and district administrators will continue to trim expenditures whenever and wherever possible in order to return and maintain a required board mandated cash reserve. The budget will be presented for adoption at the August 22 board meeting (changed from August 23, see page 314 of these minutes).

The work session concluded at 6:30 p.m.

BOARD WORK SESSION, FACILITIES
6:45 p.m.

The board work session was convened in the district board room at 6:45 p.m. by President Richard Jacks for the continued discussion of the proposed Facilities 25-Year Draft Plan. Approximately 20 were present including staff, administrators, four board members - Mr. Donaldson was out of district - some community members, and Luis Gomez and Cathy Grimes of the Union-Bulletin.

Dr. Jacks explained the purpose of the work session was the continued review of the proposed 25-year Facility Plan Draft, particularly the first phase of the plan in preparation for a 2006 bond issue, for a proposed total of \$30,170,000, with the highest cost items proposed for improvements being Edison at \$12 million; Paine-\$4 million, Wa-Hi-\$9.8 million, and a new support services building-\$2 million. Mr. Rausch distributed copies of the draft plan and suggested timeline for employment of an architect in preparation for a bond issue.

In response to the Request for Proposals (RFPs), Mr. Rausch stated several proposals have been received and a small committee representing the board, administration, and community will screen those and select three for interviews. Following that process, one architect firm will be recommended to the board for employment. Dr. Carter said there may be a need for a special board meeting before the regular August meeting so that the architect can begin the design and ed specs work. Input will be sought, he said, from as many sources as possible, after which the architect will have about seven months to prepare and disseminate the bid plan documents. Dr. Carter felt the sooner the architect was employed, the better, in order to prepare actual designs and figures.

The composite page showing the four phases - 2006-2011; 2012-2017; 2018-2023; 2024-2030 - was displayed which outlines the costs delineated for each building and department in those phases. Dr. Carter acknowledged it is a significant plan for major and minor remodel/new construction with safety and security foremost throughout. While adjustments will be made as necessary throughout the timeline, Dr. Carter said the tax rates will remain the same for the entire 25 years.

A very good discussion ensued among board members. Comments, questions, and concerns included recognition of and support for all the needs in the projects included in the first phase for a bond issue; flexibility within the plan, program-driven planning; what the amount for Paine will provide; concern that a higher allocation of funds was necessary for improvements at the 40-year old overcrowded high school; some concern regarding the number of projects and working on all of them at the same time; adequacy of the timeline; and a suggestion to hire professional pollsters to evaluate public sentiment.

Dr. Carter reminded that the "draft" is a proposal to use in open forum meetings to encourage discussion and receive input for prioritization and reiterated that the continued stable long-term tax rate will remain unchanged and that reprioritization will be a topic for discussion every five years.

Dr. Carter introduced Steve Moss, Director of Blue Mountain Action Council, who also represents other community agencies interested in working with the school district, specifically with the Paine Campus project. He mentioned several ideas for a community cooperative venture for the board's consideration as options within the facility - possibly a community center; a youth center; an educational facility for adult learners; a satellite office for the police department. If such a joint venture could be realized, Mr. Moss said, several million dollars in capital funds could be provided by other community agencies that would have access to the campus for the suggestions outlined. Mr. Moss concluded that there are several non-profit agencies that assist families and children who are extremely interested in working with the district on a Paine project and applauded the board for studying this long-range approach. There was discussion indicating that the community may support demolition and reconstruction at Paine because of its age and the tremendous cost to bring it to code - elevators; fire protection; ADA access; utilities; technology - though some areas may be salvaged.

Dan Johnson questioned Edison being given a lower priority and pointed out the expense of maintenance costs if the building isn't replaced for several more years. Dr. Carter noted the many itinerant teachers at Wa-Hi who don't have regular classrooms or homerooms because there is no space capacity for them and said that information needs to be shared with voters in open forum discussions.

Mr. Higgins reminded everyone of the many faithful school supporters in the community who will provide a great deal of momentum for district program success. The work session concluded at 7:30 p.m.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
7:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Richard Jacks, President
Mary Go Geidl, Vice President
Anne Golden
Toni Rudnick

ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. Richard Carter, Superintendent
Linda Boggs, Asst. Supt./Curriculum-Instruction
Dr. Bill Jordan, Deputy Supt./Personnel
Aron Rausch, Business Manager

AUDIENCE

Mark Higgins
Brian Pendleton
Ron Higgins
Connie Taylor-Randall
Lowell Schneider
Jackie George
Janis Barton

Luis Gomez, U-B
Kirk Jameson
Karen Fuller
Donna Painter
Brandon Jensen
Jennifer Douglas
Marilyn Brown, Recorder

Jim Russo
Anne Swant
Aaron Randall
Dan Johnson
Steve Hagen
Andrew Maheras
Pam Milleson

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Board President Richard Jacks called the regular board meeting to order in the district board room at 7:35 p.m.
- II. FLAG SALUTE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The flag salute and pledge of allegiance was led by Toni Rudnick, Board of Directors.
- III. ROLL CALL
Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Donaldson, who was out of district.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Mrs. Golden moved, and Mrs. Geidl seconded, approval of the agenda as presented, with the addition of an intermission following special introductions. The motion carried.
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 21, 2005 meetings
Mrs. Rudnick moved, and Mrs. Golden seconded, approval of the minutes of the June 21 board meetings; the motion carried.
- VI. CONSENT AGENDA
Mrs. Golden moved that the consent agenda items be approved or authorized as appropriate, including items #1-3: 1) Personnel and Out of State Travel Report; 2) Purchase of two school buses; and 3) Payment of July Bills and Payroll. Mrs. Geidl seconded the motion and the motion passed.

VII. SPECIAL PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS1. Introduction of New Administrators

Dr. Jordan introduced three new district administrators employed recently whom the board had not opportunity to meet and welcome: Brandon Jensen, Assistant Principal at Walla Walla High School; Ms. Donna Painter, Head Start/ECEAP Director; and Connie Taylor-Randall, Principal of Blue Ridge Elementary School. Dr. Jordan provided summary background information on the professional preparation and experience of each and welcomed them to the administrative team. Dr. Jacks and Dr. Carter announced a 15-minute recess to provide opportunity for the board and audience to greet and welcome the new administrators, and refreshments were enjoyed. The meeting resumed at 8 p.m.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS - noneIX. REPORTS1. Design Team Reports

Mr. Rausch noted that principals of the three buildings that are presently the top priorities in the facilities plan had each been requested to appoint design teams to study and consider program and facilities needs for their individual buildings. They were then, he went on, to develop a design incorporating plans to address the needs they determined. The architect, he said, would work with that as a "jump start" for preparation of educational specifications.

Karen Fuller, Andrew Maheras, and Anne Swant individually reviewed the work done by the design teams of Edison, Paine, and Walla Walla High School respectively. Each speaker described and discussed their team's membership, meetings, and preplanning for school visitations and shared resulting information for ideas for building design and aesthetics. All teams plan follow-up meetings in the near future.

Edison's neighborhood school climate of a supportive, family environment with parent and community involvement remains a top priority, and Ms. Fuller discussed the importance of curriculum and assessment driven instruction aligned with GLEs and known and applied best practices. Paine team's visit to like schools emphasized individualized instruction and need for moveable space for changing needs and program. Community involvement was significant in the schools visited -- one included a youth center - as was planned flexibility in the construction.

The high school team collected all manner of documents from the 13 schools visited. Program, philosophy, access, and organization were significant factors in preparatory study before high school building or remodeling, and the classrooms were organized for, built around, and ready for new technology with careful thought to furniture and equipment. Ms. Swant concluded that the staff who were happiest were those who obtained input in advance that was listened to and carried out.

Dr. Carter and Dr. Jacks thanked the speakers for their reports and asked that their appreciation be conveyed to their team members for their work and efforts in this planning process.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

1. Request to Change Date of August Board Meeting

Referencing a board member's schedule conflict, Dr. Carter requested the board consider changing the August 23 board meeting to Monday, August 22, at the usual time, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Geidl moved, and Mrs. Golden seconded to change the scheduled board meeting from August 23 to August 22; the motion passed.

2. Proposed New Policy No. 6700, Nutrition and Physical Fitness

Food Service Director Pam Milleson and Health Service Director Jennifer Douglas presented for second reading and adoption proposed new Policy No. 6700, which had been reviewed at the previous board meeting. There had been some additional discussion, Ms. Milleson reported, following the first reading, with the resulting suggestion that a sentence on the second page be removed as it duplicated a statement in the first page and was unnecessary regarding providing nutritious foods and addressing the sale of all foods not just those in vending machines. With that one change, Ms. Milleson, on behalf of the committee who had worked on the policy, recommended board adoption of Policy No. 6700.

Dr. Carter pointed out that even though the board is being asked to adopt the policy, it won't be implemented on the first day of school. A task force is being formed to develop the accompanying procedures for implementation of the policy over a period of time. The task force, he continued, will work this fall to take into consideration the very comprehensive policy approach toward making schools a healthy environment for students. takes in nutrition and fitness, all the groups, lunch program, etc. He reminded everyone that the 2002 entire policy revision took a year to complete, then the procedures took the entire following year, so he expects the task force to take several months to finalize the procedures for policy implementation. Ms. Milleson reviewed the membership of the committee that had completed the policy, which was a very comprehensive representation of school staff of all levels and departments, community, PTA, parents, medical, etc. Mrs. Golden expressed her appreciation to this group and the task force being formed and their input.

Mrs. Golden moved, and Mrs. Rudnick seconded, that Policy No. 6700 be adopted as presented; the motion passed.

Board members and Dr. Carter thanked everyone for their efforts and good job and committee members present received a round of applause.

XI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Committee Member Jim Russo asked for clarification regarding delayed implementation, asking if an individual principal might work toward certain steps during the year. Dr. Carter explained that a consistent district approach is desired. While the changes won't be immediate at the start of school, he continued, administrators will discuss this at a pre-school meeting, then with their teachers. Then, he said, when the task force presents a recommendation for procedures, they will be implemented uniformly throughout the district.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jacks declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes to be presented for board approval August 22, 2005.

APPROVED:

Richard Carter, Superintendent
and Secretary of the Board

Marilyn Brown, Recorder

Richard N. Jacks
President of the Board

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
 Wednesday, August 10, 2005
 12 noon

PRESENT:

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Richard Jacks, President
 Mary Jo Geidl, Vice President
 Tim Donaldson
 Anne Golden
 Toni Rudnick

ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. Richard Carter, Superintendent
 Dr. Bill Jordan, Deputy Superintendent
 Linda Boggs, Assistant Superintendent
 Aron Rausch, Business Manager

AUDIENCE

Mark Higgins
 Lowell Schneider
 Marilyn Brown, Recorder

Janis Barton
 Len Taruscio

Dan Johnson
 Oscar Graybill

No media representatives were present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Richard Jacks called the regular board meeting to order in the district board room at 12:05 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The flag salute and pledge of allegiance was led by Mary Jo Geidl, Vice President of the Board.

III. ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

IV. ACTION ITEM1. Employment of Architect

Mr. Rausch introduced Jim Christensen, principal of Architects West, the firm being recommended to the board for employment. Mr. Christensen distributed some print materials about the architectural firm and reviewed the information therein including projects completed and designation of the team which would be appointed, if employed, to the district project(s): John Evans, Dave Teater, Gary Johnson, and Mr. Christensen, who have worked together for 15 years, he said, and were on the Sharpstein project. Mr. Christensen described some of the technology, engineering, and electrical work and reviewed a page in the handout regarding potential eligibility to receive state matching funding, rules for which have changed recently and are advantageous for modernization and in-lieu of new construction. He reviewed those in some detail for specific grade-level construction. The estimated funding for the three initial projects -- Edison, Paine, and Wa-Hi - could be \$30 million; added to the local bond for \$27 million would total \$57 million for the total project monies available, which would permit increased funding to address the needs at Wa-Hi, in addition to the recognized needs at Edison and Paine, and in a much quicker fashion. An initial step, Mr. Christensen said, will be to develop a strategy and process for passage of the bond. He would like feedback from the board and administration, he said, for the team to strategize and bring back a plan.

Dr. Carter questioned the guarantee on state matching money as far as timely receipt of the funds to progress on construction; Mr. Christensen said that currently all the projects in the state that have requested money have been funded and that has been the pattern for some time. He said the Paine and Edison projects would be top priority and when the state money was assured, the high school would be next. If the funding were to not be received, a decision would need to be made whether to continue with the high school.

Dr. Jacks noted that some combining of funds from outside community sources has been suggested for Paine for community use of the building, and Mr. Christensen said sources of construction money was not a concern of the state, if the purpose remains educational.

Mr. Rausch noted the original funding plan for the high school needs was \$9 million; if a revised plan for use of the money would increase the funding to \$39 million, that would allow considerably more needed improvements. Dr. Carter reminded that Edison parents would like to keep a small image, family oriented, and the tentative plan would accommodate 400-450 students; however, the architects, he said, have the ability to maintain a family atmosphere while accommodating that capacity. Taxpayers, he said, would probably question a large sum for a 200-student school. There was some discussion about the multiple bond issue, Edison remaining on the same site (general preference) and funds set aside for purchase of property as necessary, including parking areas, as planning progresses. Much of that information is in the handout, Mr. Christensen said. He continued that the community embraced the Sharpstein concept and process, knew what they were paying for, and felt they had been heard in the community meetings. Dr. Carter said there has been contact with other school districts that have posed multiple-issue bond proposals and, in response to board questions, said that all the projects were presented together, not separately. Mr. Higgins added that a constant theme in the other districts' meetings was "Excellence for All," so that community members knew that every school in their neighborhood would benefit eventually by the bond, and some districts posed their levy and bond proposals at the same election. He further reminded it is not just three projects, it is a 25-year plan. Mrs. Geidl encouraged providing all information to all groups at the same time; Mr. Christensen said there will be a Facilities Committee for each project, and they will promote all the projects as one and present rationale for each individually.

Following the thorough discussion, Mrs. Rudnick moved, and Mrs. Geidl seconded, that Architects West be employed as the district's architect for the proposed Phase I projects of: Edison Elementary; Wa-Hi remodel; and Paine Alternative School new construction. The motion passed unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jacks declared the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Minutes to be presented for board approval August 22, 2005.

APPROVED:

Richard Carter, Superintendent
and Secretary of the Board

Richard N. Jacks
President of the Board

Marilyn Brown, Recorder