



**Meeting Minutes
Plant Facility Levy
Monday, August 3rd, 2009**

Those in attendance: Dr. Lonnie Barber, Lynn Askew, Janet Askew, Rich Bauscher, Mike Chatterton, Susie Reese, Jeff Neel, Matt Murray, Howard Royal, Julie Dahlgren, David Naccarato, Jenny Davidson, Paul Bates, Sue Galgano, Juan Salamanca, Molly Michalec, Millie Reidy, Heather Crocker, Jerry Hutchins, Rob Lonning, Theresa Castellano, Joan Davies, Darlene Kisler

1. Welcome & Introductions: Lynn Askew

Lynn Askew welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and for his or her support and participation. He asked if there were any new members, there were none. Rich Bauscher will start by helping us get the committees grouped and officers established. We will also try to get some of the prioritization work done.

2. Passing the Levy Discussion: Rich Bauscher

Rich Bauscher opened with the need to get the timeline in focus and what we as a committee need to do to make that levy voter date. We have a couple of public meetings scheduled in October and will need to determine if we need to have both or only one. We need to hold the meetings closer to the voter date. Rich believes that a 12:00 to 9:00 voter date has been shown to be more effective.

Dr. Barber asked Lynn if we could as a committee vote on the voter time.

Lynn Askew said we could entertain the motion to give this as a recommendation to the board. All committee members agreed on the time.

Rich Bauscher said that poll watchers are a positive to the process. Some people have said they thought they were being watched (big-brother). The poll watchers should be clearly identified and should not participate in any way with the process. This allows us to get together around 5:00 to see who on our yes list have come into vote. Susie has compiled a voter registration list and this list we will use to distribute information with the committee and we can start there with dissemination of our information. Are there any questions on the timeline? Now we can discuss officer duties. Who will take each position and a description of the positions (handout)?

Chair person(s): Lynn and Janet Askew have already accepted the position. This position sets agenda and keeps to the timeline.

Treasurer: The treasure is a person who keeps the monies separate between the committee and the school district. Lynn Askew asked if Jeff Neel would be the treasurer because of his background in accounting.

Jeff Neel said he would be happy to do this.

Rich Bauscher said with Jeff having confirmed he would take on this position he will keep a record of all funds and what they have been used for. This will keep the district safe from any comment that the district is using district money for this election.

Jeff Neel said he had to register the committee with the state and the name he used is Blaine County 2009 Facilities Levy Committee.

Rich Bauscher talked about the voter please vote card that the committee would need to fund the card. The card has the voter location sites and the voter date. There is also a place for the voter to let the committee know if they are a yes or no voter.

Promotions Officer: This is a position that we feel Heather Crocker would be perfect for because of her connections with the community and connections with groups who are advocates for the community and the school district.

Jeff Neel asked if there would be any conflict because Heather does work to a certain extent for the district.

Lynn Askew said that when they were going over names this was brought up. Heather is the director for the Education Foundation and this is where she will use her expertise. The position she has with the school district should not be a conflict. Lynn asked Heather if she would be the promotions officer.

Heather Crocker said she would be happy to.

Secretary: Lynn Askew felt that John Gaeddert would be a good secretary. He is not here today however I feel he would really be good in this position, because of his connections with the community.

John Gaeddert arrived to find he had been selected as the secretary and he accepted the position.

Voter Registration: Lynn Askew asked Sue Galgano if she would chair this position.

Sue Galgano accepted the position for the voter registration drive.

Rich Bauscher discussed the voter list and what (r) for registered voter means and (nr) non-registered voters. We are a little higher on the non-voter group than other districts. For those persons who are nonregistered parents we have a form that will help you to identify them and to help them register and find out if they would be a yes vote.

Lynn Askew asked if this would be the committee's responsibility and if they would be handing these forms out.

Rich Bauscher said yes that is how it works. When cards come back in from a committee member they will be given to Susie Reese who will log them in to an excel spreadsheet. After she gets a bundle she will turn them into the Blaine County to get them registered. You want a person to be registered first before asking them if they would be a yes vote.

Dr. Barber said that we would also have more people that can help us on contacting people. We are asking the BCEA to invite 25 teachers to be a part of the phone calls that need to be made. We are having an administrators retreat and I have already asked that each of our administrator's be involved. They are going to each be responsible for making 5 calls.

Rich Bauscher said that I will have a script available for each person as they begin to make calls. This is something you may or may not want to use.

Telephoning person/Election PM Activities: This position needs to have a person who will really track the phones calls that will need to be made more than once. This person will also identify if there is a need to make new calls or whether certain locations need to be called. This person will set up the logistics and put together the list, and keep track of 20 to 25 people to make sure that everyone is on task with their phone calls.

Lynn Askew said the follow-up phone calls would be to put together for this position. We thought Millie Reidy might be a great person, although we have not talked with her yet.

Millie Reidy said she would do it.

Theresa Castellano also asked if she could help Millie with this project.

Lynn Askew said he hoped that someone would volunteer to co-chair this position and is grateful for Theresa volunteering to co-chair for this position.

Yes Identification Coding: This is a position where during the first phone call for voter registration the caller will have a chance to ask if a person is a yes vote then if they are a registered voter.

Lynn Askew asked if Rob Lonning would be interested in this position.

Rob Lonning said he would do it. I will be the enforcer.

Door To Door Canvassing: This is a person who like the telephoning group may be a group who would do door to door canvassing, if necessary.

Lynn Askew mentioned that we thought this might be a good for the PTA groups.

Sue Galgano said she would ask the president Nicole Ching if she would be interested.

Poll Watching: This person will find 5 poll watchers who will be able to perform those duties during the election. This will give us a watcher for each site.

Lynn Askew asked if Joan Davies would be interested in this position.

Joan Davies said she would.

Rich Bauscher said this is a very important process. This will allow you to know which of your yes voters have voted. Then those who have not voted can be called and asked if they would be able to vote before the end of the night.

Election Steering Committee: If there are people who are helping in these sub-groups we want to keep track of all the people who are helping. Please give all this information to Susie Reese for tracking.

Heather Crocker said that before a levy she had helped with for another organization they sent a card asking if they would be interested in volunteering. Would this be helpful to get volunteers to help with this levy? We could then in some way thank all the volunteers for their help.

Rich Bauscher said that we could add an additional line on the yes voter call list and ask if they would be interested in volunteering for the process. This may be another indicator that the person is really a yes vote. However, some people may not want their name on any type of ad or even a thank you.

Rich Bauscher said I will be happy to answer questions about any issues. We need to get moving on this because we only have 88 days left.

Jeff Neel asked if we should ask for a yes vote for both husband and wife.

Rich Bauscher said yes. You can also ask if there are any kids of age who may want to vote. If they are gone to college they can ask for an absentee ballot. We must have 3000 yes votes. If we do not follow each of these processes exactly in sequence you may fall short. So everyone who has said they will be a committee officer must follow through to be successful. If you fail the first time it is harder the second time around.

Lynn Askew said there is one item not on the agenda that I would like to discuss because you all have worked so hard on this. Thank you so much for all your help. Rob Lonning and others have worked on the press release that was sent for a Wednesday release. I thank you all for your comments and I thought the end product was really good.

3. Research Size of Schools:

Mike Chatterton

Mike Chatterton said he would turn this over to Matt Murray. This is a discussion we had during the last strategic plan and I felt it would be good to revisit this information again during this strategic plan.

Matt Murray said that there is a definition of smaller school vs. a larger school. A handout was distributed to the committee that showed the background and research

results. The philosophical difference between larger schools and smaller schools is as follows. (*see attachment*)

- Big schools are more efficient
- Smaller schools engender connectivity and offer more curricular opportunities
- Small school students perform as well or better than large school students
- Small schools have higher graduation rates
- Small schools have higher attendance rates
- Small schools have lower incidences of all types of negative behavior, including truancy, class disruption, vandalism, aggressive behavior, theft, substance abuse, and gang participation
- Small schools have higher extra-curricular participation
- Measures include all conventional means of assessing academic achievement

Sue Galgano said as a parent of a fourth grade student who had a class size of 24, that other parents and I began to feel that these classes were too large.

Mike Chatterton showed the class size chart and where each school student population was at and each class size.

John Gaeddert really felt that as a committee we all need to agree that 22 is the largest class room size, and that the school size does not exceed the ideal size of 2.5 percent before we begin construction on a new site.

Lynn Askew felt very confident with the 20 years worth of data we have. We can show that a levy is the way to go based on that information. We can also show that even during economic down turns school sizes continue to grow.

Rob Lonning felt we really need to keep this information in the public eye, so they are aware of where we are and where we have been.

Lynn Askew said that as a good business practice the levy is the only route to take so that we do not raise tax payer money. Also, that we do not need to collect those funds if they are not needed. Are we expecting an increase in students because of the Community School raising their tuition fee?

Dr. Barber said he has heard there is a possibility of maybe 40 students. We however will not know until we do a hard count of students after school starts.

Millie Reidy asked if we would use the community campus for a new Middle School.

Dr. Barber said that we are currently getting prices on building a new school and retrofitting the community campus. However, we do not feel that using the community campus is a good use of the community's money. We do not want to take away the good that that campus provides for the community.

David Naccarato said that there is no way you can ever retrofit a building to meet all the current standards for schools. We see this all over the country. You can never make it as efficient as a new building.

Rob Lonning feels that this is important information for the community to have. Many people feel that we have a building already and we should use it. They need to be aware of the down side to this assumption.

Dr. Barber said he could not imagine giving up a college presence in this community.

Jenny Davidson said that the strategic plan clearly showed the need for higher education which we give through CSI.

4. Choice and Priorities Discussion: Lynn Askew and Mike Chatterton

Mike Chatterton suggested we really take a look at this spreadsheet and look at technology and security first before buildings.

Lynn Askew would like this exercise to start with the understanding that this is the first round. After we go through all three of these strategies we will look at our priorities. We will begin with technology.

Dr. Barber felt that it was very important that we let the community know that we will have first class technology.

Sue Galgano felt that as a parent with a student who had a class with a smart board it was very important that every classroom have this same access and the same technology available. As a parent and being on the PTA it is strongly recommended.

Dr. Barber said that if we fund 10 million and put away 4 million this is not out of line, because technology changes so rapidly.

Lynn Askew said that my business is technology based, and we do not even allow technology that is 3 years old. I believe that we are all on the same page, that technology needs to stay current.

Jeff Neel asked are we being judicious on how we purchase equipment and software. Are we trying to buy in bulk to get the best prices available?

Dr. Barber said that the all districts are trying to come together right now and are trying to find out if there is a way we can all get a better price.

Technology: High Priority List

- **Enhanced technology classrooms**
- **Fiber optic local area network & high speed internet access**
- **Create and maintain organizational infrastructure**
- **Following the “Enhanced Technology Classroom” initiative, this task force would identify additional technologies for implementation based on their impact on student outcomes in terms of 21st Century Skills.**

Sue Galgano felt based on what she has heard from parents that they would not have a problem with the 10 million dollar price tag to keep current on technology and to get all rooms equipped with the same technology.

Julie Dahlgren wanted to be sure that we could answer questions from the community in regards to whether this technology really help students learn better.

Jerry Hutchins said there are reports that show that students in class rooms that have promethean boards in them students learn at a much faster rate and retain the information.

David Naccarato said that there can be ways to bundle this into curriculum and we can possibly access additional monies.

Safety and Security: High Priority List

- **Perimeter security, door hardware, access controls**
- **Interior and exterior cameras**
- **Door Hardware and Improvements UPS backup upgrades all sites**
- **Generator for Tech Center**
- **Radios 700 MHz**

Howard Royal said that the radios would be the only means to communicate if we had an incident that involved even only one school. The calls we would get would

overwhelm the system almost immediately. Our servers and phones systems would be the first to go down.

Lynn Askew said this is about the safety of every student. This is most definitely a high priority in my mind. I would have a problem sleeping at night if we did not do this.

Rob Lonning said that if we did not do this and something happened, the first question would be why the district didn't do everything possible.

Dr. Barber said it is only prudent that we do what we can and 3 million is really nothing when we are making sure every student is as safe as possible.

Lynn Askew asked if there would be personnel to monitor these cameras.

Dr. Barber said these cameras are for after the fact. It allows us to be able to know exactly who did what.

Howard Royal said that this allows the police the capability to monitor an incident offsite. He also mentioned the incredible resolution these cameras have.

Facility Improvements: High Priority List

- New Middle School Additions

Lynn Askew asked what would be the first school we would need to build.

Mike Chatterton said it would all depend on what the community decides is the maximum class room size they are willing to live with. If they want to continue with the size class rooms we have now then we will need to build several within this levy.

John Gaeddert felt that if we show what it is really like in the schools and how it feels right now is important. I know that there are many principals who are already feeling the effects of their schools being too small now.

Dr. Barber said that the only one way to put off school building is to increase class size to 28 or more.

Rob Lonning said that the stories are an important way for this committee to show the community the need.

Mike Chatterton said that the numbers on this spreadsheet show the needs now.

Rob Lonning asked how long would a new middle school last before we would need another one.

Mike Chatterton said that it should be around 15 years, if we did additions around 11 years.

Lynn Askew said we need to make a decision on whether it is better to collect the money upfront or do we only ask for the money for additions. This business has been very successful in looking to the future instead of asking for it when they tell us they need it.

Mike Chatterton said if we only do the addition as opposed to building a new middle school this would allow us the resources to fund all the upgrades for all the schools. Then this would also allow us to try for grants from the government.

Lynn Askew asked if we could agree that we are not raising taxes today.

All members are in agreement and with the possibility of even lowering the taxes.

Dr. Barber said that if we can go to the public and say we are reducing their taxes that would be the best possible solution.

Lynn Askew asked if the assessed value is the basis for the tax base.

Mike Chatterton said that is correct it is not based on assessments.

John Gaeddert said that this is on a 5 year rotation and we were just assessed last year.

Mike Chatterton said we don't levy on a rate we levy on a dollar amount so the tax amount stays the same. I feel that at this time in this economy it may be prudent to ask for school additions instead of a new school.

Jeff Neel said that if the need arises and parents come to the district saying that they want a new middle school, we could always ask for a bond.

Rob Lonning said there has been much talk about no new schools.

Lynn Askew felt that new schools should be asked for through a bond issue. This is the only district I know of that has had sound financial planning for the future and I want to keep us that way. Lynn asked if David's group (McKinstry) had a chance to get the amended figures.

David Naccarato said that they have not got all the data put together yet.

Dr. Barber asked if the 33 million is the total amount for everything.

David Naccarato said yes it is and this price will go down some but I don't believe it will be a lot. If you use this figure you can then take any extra money and use it toward other improvements.

Lynn Askew said we really need to get a closer figure and what is the potential for the money we may be able to get in grants.

David Naccarato said as of today what is being funded out of grants across the board is the upgrading of technology, sustainability and energy conservation this is what is used to get more leverage. If we can and we will tie it into curriculum we will get more money. I am thinking around 10 million total, of course I cannot promise that. I can only say that this is the process we can use.

Lynn Askew asked if 6 to 10 million is something we could use as a figure for these items. I think our bigger bang is to not build that middle school and use the money to improve our current schools.

David Naccarato said he agrees and feels that everything they propose should be directly tied to curriculum. I feel that this is something that every student will benefit from not only in the learning environment but also they will be a part of this and take this process with them and its importance for a life time.

Mike Chatterton these numbers are high budget numbers. I believe that they did not think that this would be a project that would be done all in one time. We have also agreed that we intend on using local contractors for these projects. These are zero interest projects and they can be front loaded.

Lynn Askew asked if we are to a point we can make a decision on the middle school.

Dr. Barber said that he feels that if we take the middle school out of the picture at this point we will have much more success.

Paul Bates felt this was what would break the levy. Meaning if we propose the middle school in this levy it will fail. I feel the elementary schools are a different thing because they are almost at capacity now.

Howard Royal asked what is the difference in the value of the money that we asked for in 1999 vs. now.

Mike Chatterton said that a new school is now 60% more money in today's dollars. If we were going to ask for the same amount it would be up around 110 million.

John Gaeddert asked what happens if we get to a point where we have to have the school.

Mike Chatterton said that in five years you could re-run another levy for another 10 years and ask for the additional monies.

Lynn Askew asked when can we expect the final McKinstry study results.

David Naccarato said he has asked for this information to be done by the end of this week.

Lynn Askew said he thinks we need to meet again for a couple hours and really chew through the updated numbers and a clear figure that we can work with. When we can see what is redundant we will have a better figure to work with. Can we meet within the next two weeks to go over this information thoroughly? When do we need to have this information ready for the board?

Dr. Barber said September 8th is the levy approval date. August 11th is the Strategic Plan board approval date.

5. Adjournment of meeting at 4:40:

6. Next meeting on August 14th at 8:30