



Blaine County School District # 61

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**Meeting Minutes
Plant Facility Levy Committee
Monday, June 22, 2009
District Office**

Those in attendance: Dr. Jim Lewis, Dr. Lonnie Barber, Lynn Askew, Janet Askew, John Gaeddert, Howard Royal, Rob Lonning, Jim Laski, Kate Heinecke, Susie Reese, Mike Chatterton, Jenni Davidson, Jeff Neel, Spence Ellsworth, Matt Murray, Sue Galgano, Paul Bates, Steve Guthrie, Darlene Kisler

1. Welcome:

- **Lynn Askew** welcomed the group and expressed that he would be moving right along so we could cover everything on the agenda. He welcomed Spence Ellsworth who will be representing Carey, Paul Bates and Steve Guthrie new BCSD board members. Lynn turned the discussion over to Dr. Lewis for committee review updates.

2. Review of Committee Membership and Recent Developments in District Leadership:

- **Dr. Lewis** discussed that he had recommended that new board members should be invited to observe the committee meeting, not only for the opportunity for them to understand this process but also to be able to take information back to the board and to answer questions from their constituents. Dr. Lewis said he would like to hear Dr. Barber's comments.
- **Dr. Barber** said he didn't have much to add, but that he was glad to see the two new board members attend the meeting and felt it was very important for them to be part of the process.
- **Lynn Askew** asked and felt that all members should attend each time. He also felt we strongly needed Hispanic representation.
- **Matt Murray** said that Molly Michalec was trying to find Hispanic representation.
- **Janet Askew** said that there should be at least two people to cover each city or boundary.
- **Dr. Barber** stated that he is trying to contact a number of people, and is waiting for a response. There was discussion of many people that will be contacted.
- **Lynn Askew** congratulated Dr. Barber on his new position, and said thank you to Dr. Lewis for all he has done for the kids in Blaine County.

3. Review of Mission Statement:

- **Lynn Askew** wanted to reiterate the need for each member to go over the mission statement to remind us that this is our mission defined. It will keep us on track as a group.

4. Website presentation:

- **Lynn Askew** commended Kate Heinecke on how quickly she put this website together. He feels she has done a very good job and that it is very easy to use. As we scroll through the site there is already a lot of information. She feels it is very important for us to again review our mission statement and those we keep on track.

5. Communication with Constituencies:

- **Lynn Askew** wanted to take some time to talk about this levy and that it is important that we are consistent in our approach as a group. That we provide consistent and accurate messages to the public.
- **Jim Laski** said that the website should reflect a place to comment not just a line that says you can. He felt that maybe an add in the paper might be beneficial. He really felt it would be nice to be able to have community members come but that it is difficult to maintain order in a meeting and move forward.
- **Lynn Askew** said that the website was really great and felt that the information we discussed was out there for the public. There is a place for them to go to and look at all the information and a place to respond.
- **Steve Guthrie** thought it might be nice at a later date to have a community forum.
- **Rob Lonning** suggested something like a town-hall meeting at one of the school locations once we have some information to give them.
- **Kate Heinecke** mentioned that we had discussed that we had looked at a date in August for the community.
- **Susie Reese** said the date should be moved back to September when all parents would be back in town.
- **Jim Laski** said that a meeting after the fact, meaning the group takes the information to the public that the committee puts together that it may be to late for community input.
- **Dr. Lewis** mentioned that during the last levy committee meetings the group as a whole really tried to look at all the possible things the community might have concerns about and tried to address them before they met with the community. When they did meet with the community most all issues were addressed.
- **Sue Galgano** said she had been hearing from the public that they had things to say and would like their ideas to be heard, especially in regards to technology.
- **Lynn Askew** mentioned that this sounds like a sound approach and would like to move forward so we can cover our agenda.
- **Paul Bates** wanted to know when the deadline was and when it would be presented to the board.
- **Dr. Lewis** said that we need to present this to the board in September so we have a fall back if it doesn't pass so we could then again go in November.
- **Mike Chatterton** said he would be interested in having a small group that would go over enrollment projections and numbers so the committee could better understand the needs for new schools and the timelines.
- **Dr. Barber** said we should really try to get the community to come to the next school board meeting to really see Strategic Plan Goal 9 that will show where we really are at with the need for new schools.
- **Sue Galgano** really wants to have a time that people could come and get solid information on enrollment projects and building capacity so they can truly understand the need for new schools.
- **Dr. Lewis** said that it is imperative for the public to be educated.
- **Jim Laski** said that even if we go through with this does not mean that we will be pouring the concrete for the next school.

- **Dr. Barber** said we have low class sizes now. We do not have a need for a school right now. We will have a need as soon as class sizes become too large.
- **Rob Lonning** is encouraged by what Dr. Barber and Dr. Lewis said about trying to save taxpayer's money by saving for the future now and not raising their taxes. He feels this is a very compelling case for the community.

6. Prioritization of Projects & Spreadsheet Presentation:

- **Lynn Askew** asked the group to go over the projected expenditures and information on the spreadsheet that Mike Chatterton put together for us to really get down and do our job.
- **Mike Chatterton** explained how the spreadsheet works. He mentioned that as you get into a cell you can click on the plus sign to the left and get more information.
- **Lynn Askew** only wants to talk about things that this levy committee can include on the levy, being technology, safety & security and facilities. Some items from the goals committee are O&M items that cannot be funded by the levy.
- **Mike Chatterton** talked about the fact that the general operational budget is not open for discussion. We will only be reviewing the needs clarification and the new levy budget columns. Each goal was discussed and clarification was made on items in both columns.
- **Dr. Lewis** wanted to make sure that people could see both sides of the board. He felt it was important for them see the general budget even though this is not part of the levy.
- **John Gaeddert** would like to see comments or another column so we could track where things are at in the identification process.
- **Jim Laski** asked that all members get a revised copy.
- **Dr. Lewis** wanted the group to know that when you look at the technology money being asked for that they should not be afraid of the number. During the last 10 years the school district spent 4 million out of the general budget for technology. The community needs to be educated to the fact that technology has changed drastically and this is 2 million less than what we have already spent.
- **Rob Lonning** said this went right along with what Sue Galgano has been hearing from the community in regards to technology and we have a real opportunity to help the community understand the big picture.
- **Dr. Lewis** explained that the cameras in the school are a priority. They have been requested by the community as well as the police.
- **Dr. Barber** explained how important it is to have these cameras so that there is clear evidence of what happened after the fact, and that this is important for all persons trying to keep our schools safe.
- **Howard Royal** mentioned how that it is also a deterrent for students. They become aware of how these cameras show everything with such clarity. Research also shows that schools that have a security officer on-site are not targets by shooters.
- **Jim Laski** asked if it was important to have this type of security in elementary schools.
- **Dr. Lewis** expressed that in many cases elementary schools are the first targets. There is always a bigger chance for success in an elementary school.
- **Dr. Barber** said that every school should be equally safe.
- **Lynn Askew** asked that each member go over the strategic plans they have received so we can really go into more depth next meeting.
- **Mike Chatterton** continued with the discussion and the need for a middle school in the future, and the different options. A new middle school or add on to the existing school. If we add on the school becomes very large and the classrooms will have upwards of 30 students per classroom.
- **Paul Bates** asked if that was possible for the elementary schools.

- **Dr. Lewis** said that the existing schools are already over populated in regards to acreage and the recommended state standards.
- **Jim Laski** wanted to know how we would budget the amount we could save if we do it now as opposed to the time we need the building.
- **Mike Chatterton** explained that we do not collect all of the levy money up front. So, we have to start putting money away now to defray the always increasing cost of building.
- **Lynn Askew** said we would have to discuss what the cost vs. savings are so we could see if we should start saving now or if it could be put off. We will go over in depth that discussion.
- **Dr. Lewis** stated that we saved 13 million dollars on the WRHS by starting with the levy and a savings plan.
- **Dr. Barber** said that this is the purpose of this committee so we can come together as a group and determine that best action.
- **Jeff Neel** suggested that if the growth were more located in the south valley that there may be options of bussing to Carey because that school is not full.
- **Dr. Barber** stated that it that the cost to build cost less money that adding additions.
- **Rob Lonning** said that this is important information for the public to know about.
- **Mike Chatterton** also made the committee aware that any addition building would usually require a retro fit for the entire school to have sprinkler systems.
- **Jim Laski** asked where the next elementary building would be built.
- **Mike Chatterton** said that we are looking at building in the Hailey city limits. We feel it will need to be in between the current high school and middle school. Mike stated the next middle school would be in the Bellevue area. Mike said that the McKinstry estimate would probably go down by as much as 20%.
- **Dr. Lewis** asked Mike if the McKinstry information could be sent to the committee.
- **Mike Chatterton** said it could. He also let the committee know that there are some zero percent interest rates and grants for many of the projects we have to do.
- **Lynn Askew** asked for that information to be sent to the committee next week.

7. Coordination with Strategic Goals Committees:

- **Lynn Askew** mentioned that we have two out of the three pertinent goal areas (Howie with Safety and Mike with Facilities) represented on the Levy Committee. He suggested that we add Jerry Hutchins from the Technology goal area to the levy committee so we have equal representation.

8. Approaches to Promoting voter Turnout:

- **Dr. Lewis** said that we came up with a plan that would meet with three major parts of our community that then could take all the information to the rest of the community. We need to really get to the 31 percent of our community. This committee should really start to reach out and connect to the community. This is how this group continues to grow. Rich Bauscher will be back in August and will let us know how we group together to make sure we get to our yes voters. I believe that we need to speak to all the Rotary clubs, PTA, s, and our city government officials. We have to thoroughly cover this valley.
- **Dr. Barber** wanted to let people know that this is not Lonnie Barber's school district nor was it Jim Lewis's district, it is the communities, and it is our duty to inform them to the best of our ability.
- **Dr. Lewis** said that Twin Falls school district made each school a place for voter registration.
- **Paul Bates** feels that it is very important that we really involve the community and put all information on the website.

9. Revised Meeting Timeline:

- **Susie Reese** was talking about voter registration laws and that there is a conflict with parent teacher conferences. Susie is afraid we will loose voters if we go into November. Rich Bauscher has suggested that we stay away from November elections. Susie has suggested we look at October 29, 2009.
- **Lynn Askew** asked if there is any objection to this date. There was none.
- **Paul Bates** asked for a board notice posting in the event that other board members might want to attend. The group felt this would be a good idea.

10. Q & A - Wrap-up:

- **Lynn Askew** mentioned that our time is very short, and that we should meet again possibly before July 20. The committee discussed various options and decided to lengthen meeting times, with a possible extra day in August if necessary.

11. Agenda/Meeting Dates - ext Meeting , Monday July 20, 2009 from 12:30 – 5:00 p.m:

- **Lynn Askew** would like to continue the talk in more detail about a public meeting.
- Will change the August 3rd meeting to 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- Possible August 24th meeting from 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- Will have an August 25th public meeting from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Notation on spreadsheet to facilitate the next meeting.

12. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.