

**Facilities Planning Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2013**

**Attending members:** Leslie Adamson, Mike Anderson, Pam Behee, Alex Brede, Patrick Brown, Steve Clarke, Paul Clement, Ron Cowan, Missy Ferguson, Marilyn Grams, Hale Hanaway, Laura Johanson, Jay Jordan, Mary LeDonne, Rob McElroy, Teri McIntyre, Mark Peterson, Vicky Reardon, Evan Schmitt, Phyllis Textor, Tom Venable, Rachel Williams.

**Co-Chairs:** Jim and Linden Darling

**Ex-officio:** Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Tanya Rowe

**Union Representatives:** Kris Craker, Peggy Shepherd, BASE; Bill Stuckrath, BAO; Matt Read, SEIU; David Vanderyacht, Teamsters

**Welcome:** Jim Darling welcomed the Task Force. He discussed the agenda and mentioned the next steps moving forward after the recommendation is complete.

**Individual Reflection/Reading Time:** Executive Director of Communications and Communications Tanya Rowe asked members of the Writing Team to stand and be recognized and thanked them for their work. She asked the Task Force to review the recommendation draft memo and to make notes for discussion.

**Whole Group: Reviewing the Recommendation:** Assistant Superintendent Ron Cowan asked if the Task Force had questions or comments regarding the recommendation.

The Task Force members discussed:

- A Task Force member suggested that it should be mentioned that Larrabee Elementary should be repurposed for community use. He said it is important to maintain the historic building.
- Another Task Force member disagreed adding that it is not the objective of the Task Force to decide what the community may want to use the building or site for in the future.
- There needs to be more information about why Happy Valley needs to be rebuilt.
- Some language needs to be changed regarding Options High School to include the need for a visionary process regarding how to serve Options and more students in different ways in the future. It should also be mentioned that the projected enrollment for the project would be 350 students.
- Parkview needs to be more prominently included.
- There should be more information about how Options High, if it were located next to Bellingham High, could share facilities and fields.
- The language for District Office and Options needs to be changed to say “potentially” tied together.
- More pictures should be in the brochure that represent the condition of the facilities that the Task Force has seen.
- Synthetic fields should be highlighted since these new fields were highly supported by the community.

- The information in the brochure should be written for a wider audience since the community has different focuses and interests in different projects.

The Task Force discussed if they should amend the recommendation to include the \$11.3 million for projects at Sunnyland, Columbia, Carl Cozier, and additional fields in the next bond, along with the other six priorities.

- A Task Force member felt it is up to the district to decide the tax capacity of the community. How can we minimize this impact?
- A Task Force member said our job is as a Facilities Task Force, not a Bond Task Force. We have prioritized projects but do not need to decide how the financing plan is done if it will be one or two bonds, for example.
- A Task Force member asked if the original \$146 million in projects could be considered Tier 1 of importance and the additional \$11.3 million be considered Tier 2?
- A Task Force member said this list is getting too long. He said it seems insensitive to the community to be asking to do everything right now.
- The group agreed that the recommendation should go forward as long as the language addresses that all of these projects be completed in the next 10 years. The projects are recommended in priority order.

**Next Steps (Advisory Sounding Board to Superintendent and Citizen's Advisory Committee):** Tanya Rowe explained that Superintendent Greg Baker could not be at this meeting today since he is a co-chair for an early childhood education committee at the state level. Dr. Baker expressed his appreciation to the Task Force at the last meeting and looks forward to receiving the recommendation. He wanted to ask the Task Force members to act a sounding board for him as he reflects on their recommendation and seeks additional input in the coming weeks.

Ron Cowan asked if members from the Task Force would like to be involved in the Citizens' Advisory Committee. Tanya explained it would be a citizen-led group meeting separate from the district. The work done by the committee is volunteer only.

**Recognitions:** Paul Clement's class from Bellingham High School engraved marble plaques for the Task Force members. The marble is from Whatcom Middle School.