



Facilities Planning Task Force

April 27, 2017
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Welcome

Co-Chair and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Steve Clarke welcomed everyone to this second meeting. He noted that there is a lot of information to be shared again today.

Review/Approve April 20, 2017 Minutes

Co-Chair and Executive Administrator of Special Assignment Rob McElroy asked that a few minutes be spent reviewing last week's meeting minutes. A motion was made by Parkview Elementary Principal Mylo Allen to approve the minutes as written. Task force member Matthew Read seconded that motion and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

Respond to Inquiry Questions/Issues Raised by Task Force Members

Rob directed everyone to the inquiry questions at the end of the April 20 meeting minutes. The team of Rob McElroy, Steve Clarke, Communications Manager Jackie Brawley and Executive Director of Capital Projects and School Facilities Ron Cowan responded to those questions:

1. There was a question regarding whether there will be community outreach or an opportunity for broader community input. Committee and task force recommendations are shared publicly, typically by the superintendent, prior to the formation of a bond resolution. Jackie added that there likely will be a scientific survey to gauge community support once a recommendation is made by this task force.
2. A task force member asked if there is a cost estimate for everything on the list. As the process moves forward, there will be projected costs discussed with this task force.
3. On the question regarding whether the district is aware of storm water regulations that will be in effect at the state level in 2018, Ron stated that storm water regulations do change and the 2018 bond measure would include an increased contingency to allow for changes in regulations.
4. There was a question regarding whether the 2018 bond amount is fixed, or will the task force have a say in how big it is. Rob answered that the task force will have construction and financial information that will guide them in making its recommendation to Dr. Baker.

Roadmap of Our Work – Leading to Early June Bond Recommendation to Dr. Baker

Rob noted that today task force members will be presented with information regarding the need for a bond; next week they will get more detailed information regarding the schools that may be considered for the next bond. Future meetings will include presentations regarding athletic fields, covered play structures, reader boards, safety improvements, possible technology and buildings and grounds improvements. The last two meetings will focus on preparing and refining the task force's recommendation to Dr. Baker.

Revisit 2012-13 Bond Recommendation

Ron noted that today's packet of printed information includes the recommendation put forward by the 2012-13 task force. He reviewed a summary of the projects that were included in the bond, as well as some "Tier II" projects that were deemed by the task force to be necessary, but were not recommended to be included on the bond.

Ron talked about additional funding needed for the remaining 2013 bond projects and explained some of the reasons for the cost increases for the bond projects.

K-12 Facility Physical Condition and Functionality Analysis

Rob introduced Doug Nichols of Nichols Consulting, who will talk about some of the work that was done 4 years ago by the 2012-13 Facilities Planning Task Force, as well as some current information about our facilities. Doug explained that district facilities were rated in 4 different ways: physical condition of physical space; functional adequacy; site condition and a combined weighted score when the first three scores are combined. He noted that physical scores below 70 usually indicate that a school is in need of significant facility work. The scores for Parkview Elementary and Lowell Elementary were on the old buildings (they do not include the latest improvements).

Bellingham City Growth Projections

Steve introduced Chris Behee from the Planning Department of the City of Bellingham, who has some information to share regarding growth projections. Chris reviewed information regarding the City's comprehensive 20-year plan and highlighted some of the items that were a focus in the development of that plan. He then shared information about Bellingham's population, including age of residents, household sizes and housing types (single family, multi-family and mixed-use multi-family). He reviewed maps that show the developable land in the city and anticipated growth areas. Based on current projections, it is anticipated that in 20 years there will be approximately 2,700 new students in the Bellingham Public Schools. He also shared some maps that showed free/reduced lunch rates and highlighted some specific areas where current and near-term development activity is occurring. A few minutes was spent discussing the city annexation process.

Our Schools – Current and Projected Enrollment and Capacity

Doug Nichols talked about future elementary, middle and high school enrollment projections. He also shared information on the permanent capacity vs. enrollment at elementary, middle and high school.

So Where Does This Lead Us?

Steve noted that there has been a lot of information shared today that will be used to guide the task force's work. He talked about the 6 elementary schools that, from the data presented today, need some work. He asked the task force whether they feel that more information is needed about the condition of schools other than those 6. There was a question regarding whether all 6 could go onto one bond, and that recommendation would be up to this group. There was some discussion regarding whether Lowell Elementary should be considered for improvements or replacement. Rob then asked the group whether they believe, with the information presented at the first two meetings, that the focus is on the right schools, and all agreed that those are the schools that should be further discussed. In addition, more information will be provided on Lowell's condition, capacity, etc. at a future meeting.

Field Trips to Schools

Rob asked the task force members if they would be interested in touring the 6 identified schools (likely on a Saturday morning, or in the alternative principals would designate time at the end of a school day when they could drop in to tour the schools).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

*Next Meeting: May 4, 2017 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Central Services Office*

Inquiry Questions to be addressed at next meeting:

1. How long would it take to build a school from scratch (i.e. 15th elementary school on the north side) versus rebuilding an existing school on-site?