



## **Facilities Planning Task Force**

May 25, 2017  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### **Welcome**

Co-Chair and Executive Administrator Rob McElroy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Review/Approve May 18, 2017 Minutes**

Rob asked that a few minutes be spent reviewing last week's meeting minutes. A motion was made by task force member Nick Perigo to approve the minutes as written. Task force member Chris Comeau seconded that motion and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

### **Overview of Where We Left Off Last Week**

Rob gave an overview of what was presented at the May 18 meeting. A few minutes were spent looking at the ranking of the 6 schools identified for possible replacement and school #15. Rob asked task force members to indicate whether they are still in agreement that Alderwood, Parkview and Sunnyland are the schools considered to be most in need of being rebuilt. All were in agreement. There was a question by a task force member regarding whether the recent attendance area changes would cause students to be on the bus for a longer period of time. Rob indicated that the students who are being moved from Cordata to Alderwood, Northern Heights or Parkview will, in most cases, spend less time getting to their new school.

### **Task Force Support for 2018 Bond Package**

Co-Chair and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Steve Clarke asked that the task force take time to review the proposed bond package item by item:

#### Elementary Field Improvements

Questions/comments included:

- One task force member supports having money set aside for the field improvements, but would like to see a priority list for the fields that would be considered.
- Another task force member is not convinced that the elementary field improvements would make the fields much more usable.
- A task force member stated that they would like to see clear communication and specifics regarding the elementary field item.

After discussion, it was decided that this item be included, on the condition that there be more details provided about the fields that will be repaired, including what will be done to repair them.

### Shuksan Gym

All task force members were in agreement that this item should be included in the recommendation.

### High School Fields

Questions/comments included:

- A task force member asked to what level high schools will we be able to host events at the school if all of the turf fields are included? Task force member and Squalicum High School Athletic Director Patrick Brown indicated that all sub-varsity competitions would be held at the high school, along with a limited number of varsity events. He noted that there would not be spectator or parking capacity for varsity football.
- There was a question regarding the life span of turf fields. Executive Director of Capital Projects and School Facilities Ron Cowan answered that the replacement cycle is expected to be 10 years, and that would include the surface replacement only at a much lower cost than the initial investment.

After discussion, all task force members agreed that the high school fields should be included in the recommendation.

### Safety and Security

Director of School Safety and Emergency Management Jonah Stinson gave a review of the items included in the list of safety and security improvements. There was a question about how much damage is caused each year due to vandalism and theft, and Ron and Buildings and Grounds Director Mike Anderson estimated those costs to be approximately \$50,000. All task force members were in agreement that the safety and security improvements should be included in the recommendation.

### District Improvements

Mike Anderson made a review of some of the items contained on the list of improvements needed to maintain our investment, and all task force members agreed that these improvements should be included in the recommendation.

### 2013 Projects

All task force members agreed that this item should be included in the recommendation.

### Technology

Executive Director of Technology Kurt Gazow reviewed the highlights of what would be covered in the technology package that he presented at last week's meeting. There was a question regarding why these items cannot be covered by the technology levy funds. Kurt explained that these items relate to the infrastructure of the buildings. All task force members were in agreement that the technology improvements should be included in the recommendation.

## Reader Boards

Comments included:

- One task force member shared that they would rather see trees outside of the schools than more advertising.
- One school already said they did not want a reader board, as it is not aesthetically pleasing.
- Not opposed to the reader boards, just not convinced they are a valuable method of communication.
- Each school community would determine whether a reader board is needed/wanted.
- It would be a great way for the high schools to advertise performing arts events.
- It is important for the community, in addition to our families, to see what is going on at the schools.
- Even though there are multiple ways of receiving communications, not everyone receives information in the same way.

After considering all of these comments, task force members agreed that reader boards should be included in the recommendation.

### **Bond Amount, Tax Rates and Other Considerations for 3 and 6 Elementary Schools**

Rob reminded the task force members that they had requested to see what the tax rate would be if six schools were rebuilt, rather than three. Assistant Superintendent Simone Sangster shared a comparison that showed how the bond proposal for three schools would affect taxes, and also how the taxes would be affected if all six of the considered schools were rebuilt. There was also discussion of other factors, such as upcoming City of Bellingham measures that will be put to a vote in the future. Time was also spent talking about the risks of proposing a large bond. Simone shared a slide that proposed considering a bond in 2021 rather than 2023. There was a question about how future levies may be affected by a state defunding. Simone answered that it would affect the district, but it would not affect our bond. Ron added that bond funds are a separate fund designated to build schools, and general operational funding cuts would not affect the bond budget. There was some discussion about changing the timing of bond elections, i.e. a bond would be proposed every 3-5 years for a smaller amount, rather than large bonds every five years. The difficulty with that is that there are many variables, such as population growth.

Rob asked each task force member to indicate whether they are supportive of submitting the recommendation for \$155 million. All members were in agreement with that recommendation.

There was further discussion regarding the inclusion of considerations for the next facilities planning task force. Most of the task force members felt that those should not be included, so as to not limit the next task force in their considerations.

### **Next Meeting: June 1, 2017                      3:00-5:00 p.m.**

Rob shared that Superintendent Dr. Greg Baker would like to spend approximately 1 hour next week (June 1, 2017) sharing an idea that would affect the district office. When that discussion has concluded, the task force members will discuss the draft recommendation that will be emailed to them prior to the meeting.

