



Facilities Planning Task Force

Meeting Summary

Oct. 7, 2021, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Via zoom

Co-Chairs: Bob Kuehl, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Jeff Tetrick, Department of Teaching and Learning, Career and Technical Education Director

Welcome/Agenda: Bob welcomed the team and thanked everyone for their participation. He asked for edits or comments on the meeting summary from the Sept. 23 meeting. No changes were proposed. Bob explained that the meeting summaries and agendas will be posted on the Facilities Planning Task Force web site shortly after the documents are approved. Bob then introduced Ryan Swanson, Senior Vice President of Piper Sandler, bond financial advisor and Mylo Allen, principal of Alderwood Elementary who was involved in the last facilities task force and a recent new school build. Finally, Bob reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

Review: Bob reviewed last week's Miro exercise which shows the makeup of the Facilities Planning Task Force members. The team is made up of experienced task force members and new members; those who have not been inside many of the district buildings and those very familiar with a variety of building locations; those that grew up in Bellingham and those who have been here only a few years. Bob reminded the team of the preferred schedule for this group, which includes bringing a recommendation to Dr. Baker by Nov. 24 to prepare a measure for the ballot in Feb. 2022.

Group Norms: Bob showed the team results of the Miro board group norm exercise the task force members participated in during the last meeting and revisited the group norms and guiding principles established for the process.

Q & A: Jeff answered the primary questions asked by task force members at the meeting on Sept. 23. Ashley McClaran from OAC explained how the questions fell into different "buckets" such as building conditions, safety, equity and special programs.

Guiding Principles. Steve Murakami from OAC shared results from the Miro board exercise from meeting #1 that indicated what task force members determined their top guiding principles for the task force process.

Bond History and Previous Committee Work: Curtis Lawyer, Director of Capital Projects, provided an overview of the last three bonds Bellingham Public Schools passed and what improvements and building projects resulted from these bonds.

Financial Presentation: Dr. Simone Sangster, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, and Ryan Swanson, Senior Vice President with Piper Sandler, provided a big picture view of how schools are funded. They shared specifics on the bond process and assessed values, explained how

Bellingham compares to other school districts in Whatcom County, and gave historical context and projected bond tax rates. Ryan explained that Bellingham Public Schools has the debt capacity to go out for the current bond goal.

Break out groups. The team separated into break out groups for small group discussion and to add any questions they might have to the Miro board.

Construction Costs: Steve provided information about construction costs, the difference between direct “hard” costs and indirect “soft” costs and shared construction cost examples across the Puget Sound and examples of elementary school construction costs for BPS in 2021. In addition, Steve shared how COVID has affected the planning and costs of building projects. Outdoor settings / larger common areas / forecasting costs. Costs for the 2022 bond will be discussed in meeting #4.

Meeting adjourned. Jeff thanked the team for their time, reminded them that the next meeting is 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21 and that information would soon be provided about plans to tour schools. These times will be based on feedback task force members provided via a zoom survey.