

Special Meeting

Cascade School District 3B

Board of Trustees

February 23, 2016 - 6:30 pm

Board Members Present –

High School Board

Rick Cummings - Chair
Chris Boland - Vice Chair
Charlie Hawn
Deanna Hastings
Erin Wombold
Terri Bogden

Elementary Board

Rick Cummings - Chair
Chris Boland - Vice Chair
Charlie Hawn
Deanna Hastings
Erin Wombold

Members Not Present -

Others Present: Justin Barnes - Superintendent, Becky Smith - Administrative Asst., Dan McGee - McKinstry, Mike Moore, Blake Standley, Loretta Standley, Kristin Skasick, Katey Marquis, Frank Crabtree, John Rumney, Marjie Pribyl, Maureen and David Dachs, Felicia O'Brien, Ron Flink, Jodie Campbell, Lee Disney.

Rick Cummings - Board Chair, called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Mr. Cummings asked for public comment on **non**-agenda items

Non Agenda Discussion -

Informational

Mr. Barnes gave recommendation for election items (as listed). Items need to be approved on the resolution to meet election deadlines, and can be removed later if Board decides to remove items.

New Business

- A. Resolution Calling For An Election - Chris Boland moved, seconded by Charlie Hawn to call for resolution to elect trustees, a building reserve levy, a bond for wellness center. Passed Unanimously.

Board Discussion: Mr. Barnes gave recommendation that items need to be approved on the resolution in order to meet election deadlines, and can be removed later if desired. Terri Bogden would like to see more solid figures. Mr. Barnes clarified within 30 days of election what exact funding will be for levy amount so voters are completely aware of what's being voted upon.

Timeline of projects is important for future implementation. Rick Cummings clarified the costs and reiterated the 30 days. Emphasized that the agenda item and vote is to simply approve the resolution form which allows the District to conduct an election, not any particulars of cost, items, levy, or bond; just the resolution to allow an annual election.

Public Discussion and discussion notes: *This is just an overview and synopsis of the discussion held. It is not meant to be a verbatim account of proceedings.*

Clarification stated by Rick Cummings that resolution approval gives the ability to hold an election; items on it can be removed at later date if community desires.

Public question posed: What's the difference between general fund and building reserve? Mr. Barnes answered that basically, general pays for maintenance of district. Building reserve is much more specific. Public must be specifically informed what is being proposed.

Public question posed: What is status of reserve fund? Have items been ranked by importance? Mr. Barnes clarified that reserve fund is zero. Items ranked first are sewage, heating system as number one but too expensive for district to solely fund. Saved about \$50,000 within safety funds to move student office.

Public question posed: When does current levy terms end? Answered-2021

Public question posed: What was last levy for? Mr. Barnes - Technology, which completely upgraded the technology and safety for students and staff. Safety improvements, electronic doors, chrome books 1 to 1, professional development for teachers, google classroom, internet upgrades, tv installation.

Rick Cummings asked Dan McGee, McKinstry architect, about the proposed maintenance levy and ability to give public a list of items identified for maintenance and its estimated cost, within 30 days of election.

Dan McGee: List of deferred maintenance is extensive. McKinstry will give identified list with accompanying costs. Items are prioritized, ranked. Complete list of items in need of maintenance are beyond what taxpayers would actually be able to support.

Public question posed: Where are the descriptions with list of priorities of maintenance and costs? Will there be differentiation on election line items so not to be forced to vote for everything? Mr. Barnes proposed that District could put together a handout or brochure, so public has accurate description. Placing wellness center on ballot gives the ability to vote on it, but not required. Still requires much exploration into costs and public want.

Public question posed: Concern was voiced about public notice for meetings. Rick Cummings emphasized that public notice is met in advance with usual postings throughout community.

Public question posed: How to build a new building yet just maintenance of school is hard to keep up with. Mr. Barnes clarified that District doesn't have deferred maintenance funds on an ongoing basis to continually maintain building. Lack of funds doesn't allow for savings, so maintenance items tend to build up.

Public question posed: How to access center if school's locked up? Mr. Barnes explained that building would be separate facility.

Public question posed: What kind of facilities would be in a wellness center? Mr. Barnes explained the largest amount of input for wellness center has been for a court, indoor track to keep students out of halls, and weight room; those are the three common items. Could have little guy wrestling area, racquet ball court, whatever the community is interested in implementing. \$90-100 sf of building cost to estimate. Still takes much exploration, possibly west or northwest of school building.

Public question posed: Purpose of meeting to put resolution on ballot? Biggest part is wellness center? If we were to prioritize, it's the levy being a higher priority? Timing allows for pulling things off? 40 days seems tight to meet April deadline. How many times will Board meet to discuss items? Rick Cummings and Mr. Barnes clarified that vote is to approve resolution and the District would like to hold a minimum of 3-4 meetings.

Public question posed: How can center be built for \$90-100 sf costs when home building is much higher? Dan McGee clarified how costs can be less than home building.

Public concerns posed: The community has 3 gyms-why need another? Mr. Barnes clarified that the interest in a gym has stemmed from the community, especially Pickleball Club, and through Strategic Planning discussions. Public member stated we need to be careful to not take away from more legitimate needs. Deferred maintenance should be a priority. Public should vote, but vote carefully not to be too excessive.

Public question posed: Questioned need for deferred maintenance, funding and how items disclosed. Dan McGee explained that grants are due March 1 and much research and work must be done months ahead of time. Whether knowing they are available, we will not know a year from now. By passing a building reserve levy it allows being able to see if grant is approved, or get started on maintenance. No proposal is ever proposed to go behind public's back. The interim time between grant submission and granting allows for further research.

Public concern posed: Public needs to know how much money is going to be spent, on what items. Concern about liabilities with a wellness center and entailing issues. Dan McGee explained that many different entities in other communities, such as Boys & Girls' Clubs, can help aid in things like wellness centers.

Public question posed: Timing of resolution approval allows for being able to pull items off of election? Mr. Barnes-yes.

Public question posed: Which trustees are up and when is paperwork available? Who is the election administrator? Mr. Barnes answered which trustees (Charlie Hawn and Terri Bogden), the election administrator will be clerk, or interim clerk.

Extended Board Discussion:

Deanna Hastings: Excited to see public participation. Undecided about wellness center, but priority is the sewer upgrades. Roof leakage is a priority. Deferred maintenance is top priority and is a need. Bleachers should be fixed. We need funding for our schools to fix these items. Wellness center could take away from ability to pay for needed repairs.

Terri Bogden: Boilers are in dire need of maintenance. Will do due diligence to get list and numbers to the public. Followed up with Conrad Duffy, former coach, and his pursuit of a fitness center, which was approved by Board in 2008. A descriptive of proposed center was provided.

Charlie: Hawn: Priority is boilers. Community has the choice of vote.

Adjournment

8:05 pm Charlie Hawn moved, seconded by Erin Wombold to adjourn. Passed Unanimously

Rick Cummings, Board Chair

ATTEST: Justin Barnes, Superintendent

Date Signed _____