

## Meeting #1 Summary – November 20, 2019

### I: Welcome, introductions, and overview

**Barbara Posthumus** welcomed Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) members and gave introductions for **Penny Mabie** and **Dr. Jane Stavem**.

Jane thanked everyone for being a part of the FAC, noting the primary reason behind the formation of the group is to better serve students of Lake Washington School District. Jane emphasized the importance of the work the FAC will be doing in the upcoming months as the community continues to grow.

Penny welcomed everyone and led a walkthrough of the FAC working binder. When reviewing the roster, Penny noted that emails will be sent to the group with recipients listed in the blind copy line to honor members who did not wish to have their email address shared with the group. Penny offered the opportunity for members to include their email in an updated roster, and asked members to let her know if that was something they didn't want to do.

### II: Long-term facilities planning context

Barbara presented slides on community growth and gave background and context on what happened with previous bond measures.

**Q:** You talked about the bonds that failed, but what about the others? What about what happened in 2016 and 2018?

**A:** The 2016 bond received 66.28% approval and passed. The 2018 bond received 54.2% approval but needed at least 60% in order to pass.

**Q:** Do you know why there wasn't enough support to pass it?

**A:** The challenge is reaching that 60%.

- FAC members then gave suggestions such as voters experiencing tax fatigue, low voter turnout, and being uninformed. Penny shared that this topic is not the focus for tonight, but there will be future opportunities for the group to get into that conversation.

**Q:** Some bonds are expiring, so new bonds would require no increase in taxes, is this correct?

**A:** That was how the 4-phase bond program was structured, so that the tax rate would remain level.

**Q:** Could you explain what you mean by "Teacher Planning Spaces?" and why do these spaces provide for greater efficiency.

**A:** Without teacher planning spaces, teachers would teach in their classroom and also stay in their classroom for their planning period (one period at the middle school level and two at the high school level). There are no students in the classroom at that time. Teacher Planning Spaces are areas where teachers go during their planning periods so other classes can use the classroom during that time. This creates more efficiency so that classrooms are used all throughout the day.

**Q:** What are the boundary changes in Redmond?

**A:** We opened two new elementary schools and a new middle school, so the school attendance boundaries were changed for these areas to balance enrollment. This does not change the *district* boundary.

**Q:** How does busing and cost of transportation services play into this? How does that save money?

**A:** The goal with reboundary is to have as many students as possible within walking area of their school, within a 1- to 2-mile radius, which helps reduce busing needs. We're not saving money, but rebalancing routes to allow once crowded buses to become less crowded.

**Q:** How many classrooms are being held in hallways? My child has class in hallways at Rose Hill Middle School.

**A:** No classes are held in hallways at Rose Hill Middle School (RHMS). Our schools are designed with shared learning areas, a central area surrounded by multiple classrooms. These spaces are used for small group instruction, whole grade level meetings/instruction, project work, etc. Due to space constraints some shared learning areas have been converted to classroom space. Currently, two shared learning areas at RHMS are being used for classroom space.

➤ **ACTION ITEM: Provide data on how many classes are being held in Shared Learning Areas.**

The presentation continued with review of the recommendations from the Long-Term Facilities Task Force and subsequent Bond Advisory Committee and reviewing the worksheet provided in each member's binder.

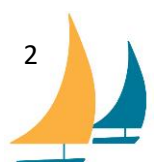
Penny asked if FAC members had any remaining questions about the background and context.

**Q:** Will this work be easier because we're validating what the Task Force has already done?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Where is the new elementary school in the Lake Washington region?

**A:** There was no new school put into the 2019 Capital Projects levy, but rather additions to current schools in that region.



**Q:** Do you have to specify projects to be built on the bonds?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Will we be asking for public support again with a new bond in 2022?

**A:** That's something we'll be looking at.

### **III: Charter**

Penny explained her use of a charter as a tool to guide the committee's work. The group reviewed the charter's purpose, which is to review the recommendations set by the Task Force and determine if they are still valid and/or if anything needs updating.

**Q:** What about financial options? The Task force did not provide any.

**A:** That will be discussed by this group in a future meeting.

Penny went on to explain the proposed role of the Committee members, including to stay productive and strive to reach some form of consensus, whether it be a unanimous decision or a compromise. Penny then presented the proposed ground rules for the meetings. The committee agreed to them.

### **IV: Work plan**

Penny led the group through the workplan provided in their binders, explaining that they will be going through Recommendations A-K from the Task Force and the bond schedule and projects developed by the Bond Advisory Committee, briefly discussing the proposed topics of each meeting.

**Q:** Have projections to date been over or under what actually happened?

**A:** Our projections have been within 1-2%, which is reasonable for a district our size. We'll bring the data to the next meeting. It's easier to project district-wide; doing so for individual schools is more challenging.

➤ **ACTION ITEM: Provide data of recorded growth/enrollment compared to projections.**

**Q:** Is this schedule driven by something? Is there a critical reason we're aiming for May 2020?

**A:** The goal is to have this committee meet during the school year and give the recommendations by June. For bond cycles to go out to voters, there is a specifically timed process that is typically followed. Ideally you would have a recommendation by spring 2021 for the 2022 cycle. We don't yet know what will come from this committee as recommendations

The FAC then reviewed Recommendation K, relating to public involvement in facilities planning, to determine if the committee believed it to still be a valid recommendation.

**Q:** Can you share studies on maximum size of classrooms based on research, what kind of spaces are available at the schools we have, and how much space is being used versus what's idle?

**A:** The Task Force already looked into that, and there's some information on that in the appendices. We won't be spending time discussing that in these meetings.

**Q:** When you say "validate" a recommendation, do you mean add more?

**A:** If you think something is missing, yes.

**Comments:**

- The reason we're doing this – aging facilities, impacts to taxpayers, etc. – should be transparent.
- I think providing regular bond updates are important, including financial updates
- We should be presenting the actual challenges facilities face to the public. If we're not seeing things like classes held in Shared Learning Spaces, we're missing the opportunity to help people understand the reality. Some people may think the problem is not that bad; we should help them understand the context.
- Changing economic conditions may also impact people's thinking. Any cost increases may have people wondering how their lives will be affected. It would be helpful for people to see a financial report.
- We should be thinking about how to reach out to people who don't have students.
- It's important to help people in the district have clarity of understanding. Based on what I've heard, community understanding is critical to getting the bonds passed.
- More of the tax burden should be placed on new growth rather than taxpayers.
- Our cities are also seeing rapid growth. Having more presence at council meetings where that is being discussed could help get the word out about the district's growth challenges.
- We're a tech-driven economy in our district. There's a high percentage of people who have children and are happy to vote but who can't, such as people who have visas. The increasing population of residents in the area who can't vote is impacting the district; some people who are unable to vote have children who attend school in the district. We've reached out to Microsoft in the past, we should also reach out to Google.
- In addition to engaging the voting community, we should encourage students to be engaged.

Penny reminded the committee that it's not the committees' task to provide detailed communications plans but rather to provide advice on how to communicate with the community regarding the district's facility needs. Penny also said the topic of funding options will be discussed at a future meeting.

Penny read back the following main themes the group wanted included in a revised Recommendation K and confirmed all were captured. The themes were:



- Provide regular updates with choices made, progress, and financial information
- Make sure we are sharing/presenting the facility challenges
- Share reflections back from community
- Make sure we are reaching out beyond parents
- Engage with cities to understand where growth is coming from and to share information about district growth challenges
- Reach out to corporate partners
- Engage student voices

The FAC agreed that those themes covered their concerns. Penny continued leading the workplan review with the group. The FAC agreed that the timing and topics generally made sense.

#### V: Working values

Penny led the FAC in reviewing the working values the Task Force used to guide their work. The group agreed they were still appropriate and should be used to guide FAC's work.

#### VI: Wrap up

Staff asked FAC members a few questions for future meetings:

- 1) Do you like the idea of meeting in different places? *Yes.*
- 2) Does an extended meeting in February sound okay? *If we can leave early if we need to, yes.*
- 3) Would you like tours of facilities? *Yes.*

Next meeting is Dec. 19 at Lake Washington High School.

#### ***ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:***

- **Provide data on how many classes are being held in Shared Learning Areas.**
- **Provide data of recorded growth/enrollment compared to projections.**
- **Print hard copies of PowerPoints.**