

## **District Advisory Council Talking Points**

October 3, 2013  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
MISD Board Room

### **\$98.8 million bond resolution (Proposition 1)**

The Mercer Island School Board unanimously approved a \$98.8 million bond resolution in September to go to Mercer Island voters for a February 11 election. It requires approval of 60 percent of voters to pass. The bond will provide solutions to three overcrowding problems:

1. Build a fourth elementary school on North Mercer campus, eliminating 26 portable classrooms at the elementary schools.
2. Expanding Island Middle School to eliminate 9 portables by providing 14 classrooms and expanding common spaces
3. Expand Mercer Island High School with six general education classrooms and four labs

The total value of the bond package is \$102.6 million, with \$3.8 million expected from state in matching funds.

Four primary factors led to increases in prices for these projects as compared to the last bond proposal:

- |                                                                                                                                    |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. False pricing created by the financial crisis – approximately                                                                   | 20% |
| a. Costs were artificially low                                                                                                     |     |
| 2. State energy code impacts – approximately                                                                                       | 15% |
| 3. Inflation – over 24 months                                                                                                      | 7%  |
| 4. Design related to educational specifications                                                                                    | 6%  |
| a. It was thought additions would be placed on the school track, which would have been bad due to water filtration and poor siting |     |

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| Total | 48% increase |
|-------|--------------|

### **Maintenance and operations levy (Proposition 2)**

Also on the February 11 ballot will be a renewal of the maintenance and operations levy. It requires approval from 50 percent of voters to pass. This levy replaces the previous four-year levy and pays for about 98 members of the district staff including teachers, transportation, administration and custodial staff. It consists of 26 percent of school operations. It would be unthinkable for it not to pass.

### **Enrollment**

The Mercer Island School District is currently over budget by around 31.24 full-time equivalent students. The district is running above enrollment projections made by Les Kendrick in 2008 and is in the mid-range of a 2012 updated estimate of growing by approximately 400 students over current capacity by 2022. To get to his numbers, he looked at multiple predictive models including census data modeling and birth-rate cohort modeling. That does not include any potential increases based on light rail targeted for completion in 2023.

## **Youth Concerns program**

The Youth Concerns program, which has targeted drinking and use of marijuana, is trying to think larger about impact.

Students are impacted by a great deal of stress surrounding academic competition and grades, test scores, getting into the right universities and lack of sleep stemming from that stress.

## **School improvement plans**

Each school submits an annual improvement plan based on Vision 2020 and the [continuum of learning and concept of the gradual release of responsibility](#). This model puts a greater degree of responsibility for learning in the hands of students over time.

## **iPad update**

The MISD iPad program is going very well. It is an incredible new way to engage students and give them up-to-date information in 1:1 program.

## **Budget outlook**

Washington state made a \$1 billion down payment into K-12 education in the first year of this biennium, but the real work is in next biennium. So much is unknown that the MISD isn't counting on the \$4 billion estimate that is being required by the Washington State Supreme Court in the immediate future.

## **Security**

MISD security is 100 percent better than it was in January of 2013.

- Teachers can now lock their doors from the inside classrooms and not have to go outside into hallways to lock doors.
- Perimeter fencing has been added to secure the perimeter of the schools.
- Video surveillance has been updated in all of the district schools.
- All staff is required to wear badges to be easily identified by other staff and students.

## **Future meetings of the DAC**

Thursday, January 30  
12:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 20  
9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Friday, May 30  
12:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.