

Strategic Facilities Planning Committee
Island City Elementary Gym
January 14, 2014

Scott Rose welcomed all returning attendees; a building tour was conducted consisting of the main building and the two modulares

- ❖ Surprises noted at Island City Elementary
 - Open design, security issues
 - Acoustical issues, different arrangement from typical classrooms

Purpose of the committee and their charge is to evaluate all the facilities, weigh the potential long term solutions, agree as a majority a recommended plan for the board. Scott provided a flyer from Fern Ridge School District as an example of what the group may recommend to the board. We reviewed the mission statement of La Grande School District - it directly relates to facilities and shaping our plans for the future.

As we are in meeting number four, this is the comparison phase; we are starting to narrow in on the components for board recommendations.

Scott reviewed the table plan ideas from last meeting (please see separate handout) and discussed viable plans for all locations.

Questions and notes from table plans below.

Common items and ideas are below

❖ **Table One:**

1. Was the water table at Central figured in the cost of new classrooms?
 - a. Yes, figured in a foundation drainage system around the perimeter.
2. Would you build next to the old building or closer to the hospital?
 - a. In table two, it talks about a new building at Central, that would be placed along Sunset Drive and would require fill.
3. Regarding a new heating system at Central, what are you thinking?
 - a. That would be a stand alone system and is included in the code/life safety section at a cost of \$3,200,000. In meeting one you received a needs list and in meeting two you received tables showing the budgeted amounts for the code/life safety needs
4. How is this committee putting together a recommendation for the board? Do you prioritize all the needs in order or look at everything and put them together for the board to consider and decide?
 - a. Place the items in prioritized clusters with high, medium and low priority so the board gets all the data gathered.

❖ **Table Two:**

1. Central price incorporates fill and foundation flooding issues, repair vs replace; is it the best option or are our costs counter productive?
2. Is the legislation for all day kindergarten mandated and if so, is it unfunded?
 - a. No currently isn't mandated school districts have the option.
3. Should we provide another option of not having all day kindergarten incorporated and avoid the additional costs?
 - a. All day kindergarten from an educational standpoint helps kids prepare for

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first grade, increases graduation rates and be successful in later grades. Focus on on a good start academically and retain La Grande students we lose to other surrounding Districts that offer all day kindergarten.

- ❖ **Table One Summary** \$20,590,000 equals possible tax rate of \$1.20 per thousand of assessed value
- ❖ **Table Two Summary** \$31,910,000 equals possible tax rate of \$2.00 per thousand of assessed value.
- ❖ **Table Three Summary** \$27,640,000 equals possible tax rate of \$1.73 per thousand of assessed value
- ❖ **Table Four Summary** \$29,410,000 equals possible tax rate of \$1.84 per thousand of assessed value
- ❖ **Table Five Summary** \$39,000,000 equals possible tax rate of \$2.08 per thousand of assessed value
- ❖ **Table Six Summary** \$23,260,000 equals possible tax rate of \$1.46 per thousand of assessed value

Common ideas from three or more tables:

- ❖ All day kindergarten
- ❖ Replace Central Elementary
- ❖ Take care of critical building needs
- ❖ CTE program at LHS and partner with community businesses
 - When you look at these ideas, it approximates to \$30,000,000 plan and seems to be a lack of attention to Willow and what to do with that building.

Ideas raised by two or less tables

1. Curb appeal at all sites
2. LHS investment to draw families to La Grande
3. Sell excess land and parcels
4. Create public relations / communication campaign
5. Streamline reinvestment in existing facilities to bare minimum
6. Regular schedule to replace other buildings
7. Dispose of Willow property
8. Build new stand alone Administration building
9. Replace track
10. Invest in partners for track and tennis courts
11. Build new community center at LHS
12. Repair LHS auditorium
13. Repair LHS gym
 - a. Missing from focus: Investment in technology
 - i. Technology bond (from 1997?) was just paid off and even though it is paid for now, our equipment is out of date in our core infrastructure.
 - ii. Couldn't general fund dollars be used to do "curb appeal"? Kids are not

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prideful of the schools and think they are old and out of date

1. Yes, we allocate \$200, 000 approximately
- iii. Suggestion to invest in CTE, landscape design or irrigation, create a class to create and install landscaping at all the schools. Improve and create learning opportunity at the same time, gain certification for students
 1. Curb appeal carries over to all aspects of our schools including class reunions and should not be underrated.

Slides were shared below from CTE meeting and discussion about critical local partnerships with concentrated effort and interest in the end result of certification

The Evolution of jobs:

- ❖ Welding
- ❖ Construction (furniture, sheds, etc)
- ❖ Home Economics
- ❖ Jewelry
- ❖ Greenhouses / Entrepreneur
- ❖ Drafting
- ❖ Photo Development

The Birth of the Shop/Vocational Classroom:

- ❖ Woods
- ❖ Metals
- ❖ Automotive
- ❖ Sewing
- ❖ Cooking

Career Tech Education (CTE) - Now and Near Future

- ❖ Computer Diagnostics
- ❖ Nursing / Health Care
- ❖ Computer Graphics
- ❖ Horticulture / Landscape
- ❖ Earth Sciences
- ❖ Building Construction
- ❖ Testing Labs
 - Water Migration
 - Strength Testing
 - Erosion, Soil Testing
- ❖ Fabricating Shops
- ❖ Painting Labs
- ❖ S T E M (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
- ❖ EMT Training
- ❖ Forestry Service
- ❖ Teacher Training Labs

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- ❖ Bike Repair
- ❖ Small Engine Repair - Equipment / Earthmoving / Diesel Mechanic
- ❖ Structural Welding
- ❖ Entrepreneur / Small Business
- ❖ Green Energy
- ❖ Culinary
- ❖ Commercial Fitness
- ❖ Wildlife Management
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Electronics / Robotics
 - Critical: Local Partnerships
- ❖ CTA / MS Office

Does La Grande School District have a void of CTE programs, what can you offer? How can you develop a partnership with local businesses to move toward the Governors goal of 40,40,20.

- ❖ La Grande has agriculture, wildlife management or forestry partnership to offer at Boise Cascade or Barreto Manufacturing. Currently partnering with TVCC for a welding program at LHS. Would like to partner with GRH for students interested in medical opportunities
 - How many students leave La Grande to go to other schools in the area that offer CTE programs? Need to have programs to offer and keep students at LHS
- ❖ Question: is the cost per thousand on the previous slides based on 10 or 20 year?
 - All based on 20 years. Comment from Larry Glaze, when the amount is decided, we will ask the county assessor's office what the rates would be, current figures are estimates only
 - Encourage committee to make a recommendation to the board and place a cap on the limit and provide a specific amount (ex \$1.90/thousand)

Scott posed the question to the group asking for people not in support of moving the kindergartners out of Willow, building the space for them in the first phase of work creating a regional kindergarten.

Discussion ensued with points shown below:

1. In advocating for a regional kindergarten, Greenwood is 60+ years old no matter what you do to it.
2. Why would you put \$2,000,000+ into a school that has the highest seismic risk you should replace the building, not repair it.
3. Is it cheaper to replace two schools at the same time or one big school? Cost of \$20,000,000 vs \$24,000,000
 - a. Replacing Greenwood has a lower cost overall, less students than Central and it could be closer to \$18,000,000
4. Could be a more popular idea to have at least one new big school, and instead of losing a

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- school on an existing site, create a new school/community facility at the same location
5. All schools (New mega sized Elementary, Middle and High Schools) being clustered all within a four block area
 6. Could replace Greenwood in the existing neighborhood, space across the street

Recapping earlier question, there was one no vote due to Greenwood being too old; do you replace Central?

- ❖ Suggestion to replace Central however make it smaller and the additional money saved go to LHS
 - Scott will revise figures for Central, condense and create comparison of adding new gym and auditorium at LHS; make it the face of the community
 - Make sure critical building needs are met, do all code/life safety, envelope systems
- ❖ Take the money set aside for Greenwood and some of the \$10,000,000 set aside for critical needs; how close are you to building new schools for Greenwood and Central? How much are you raising the cost?
 - Homework for Scott for showing cost of repairs or replacing both Greenwood and Central
 - Scott will provide this information prior to next meeting for committee members to review
- ❖ Career Tech in first phase?
 - Modified to replace the building currently housing program?
 - Is 11,000 square foot building correct size? Currently the building houses a computer lab and PE along with welding.
 - Do you want to keep it in its current location? Yes
- ❖ Can we reduce Central's size and do the work at Greenwood? What does repair vs replacing look like?

Other ideas - Look at the 13 ideas (listed previously with two or less tables mentioning them) vote for the three most important things to add to base plan

1. **Nine votes**; curb appeal
3. **Three votes**; what is the value of selling, what is excess?
 - ❖ Properties/fields are used nonstop.
 - ❖ What about getting rid of the LMS Annex and Maintenance Shop and Willow
 - ❖ If Willow is kept, combine / create early childhood program and bring it into our school system
 - ❖ Place new modulars on Greenwood's school site and advertise that we are planning on building a new school with new bond effort in 20 years
7. **One vote** - dispose of Willow property
9. **Split vote** - 13 replace track, 9 not replacing track; track is used all the time, remove tennis courts

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12. **All** - repair LHS auditorium

13. **All** - repair LHS gym

- ❖ LMS is at capacity and it is not on the list, must be addressed.
 - Scott will review LMS capacity, what are the cost implications and how to add on to LMS

Prior to the next meeting Scott asked all committee members to review the plan for Fern Ridge School District and think about the following. Committee members please have comments about the meeting next month.

- ❖ What does the finished document look like?
- ❖ Summary
- ❖ Future plans
- ❖ Recommendation to the board
 - specify details on the plan

Next steps: meeting February 11th, 2014 at Willow in the gym starting with a building tour at 6:30 pm. We will talk about how to refine and review our plan

Larry thanked everyone for the spirited conversations and discussion. We need to test ideas, be frank and think about what we will tell the La Grande community.

Thank you for spending your evening with us.

Submitted by:
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