



Budget Development and Input Committee Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2017; 1:30 p.m.

Central Administration Office – Board Room

Present: Board Vice President Brent Seaks (Chair), Board President Sarah Ricks, Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, and Business Manager Kent Anderson. Others present were Ms. Marjorie Lehman, Mrs. Naomi Obrigewitch, and Mrs. Twila Petersen.

Called to Order – Chair Brent Seaks called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Old Business –

K-5 Embedded Technology Initiative – Superintendent Sullivan distributed a handout with information regarding the preferred device for the elementary students and the cost for the devices. For the first year, the cost for the devices for grades 3-5 will be approximately \$471,000. The cost for the K-2 devices will be approximately \$175,000. Dr. Sullivan explained he had requested Business Manager Kent Anderson to put the cost into the budget and take it out of the interim fund. Dr. Sullivan recommends the Budget Committee decrease the interim fund with this one-time expenditure. The intention would be to move forward with the first year and then go back to the District-wide Technology Committee regarding professional development. The devices would be purchased at the outset of the school year. Dr. Sullivan will discuss the professional development with Mr. Jeremy Holkup from EduTech. Vice President Seaks inquired when the meeting with the Technology Committee would take place. Dr. Sullivan responded a meeting would be scheduled when he knows more about the composition of the professional development.

New Business

Berg Principal – Superintendent Sullivan noted the District has been advertising for a principal for Berg Elementary to be in place for the opening of the building. Dr. Sullivan explained the School Board could decide to take some extra time for the opening of Berg to allow additional time for professional development. President Ricks clarified Dr. Sullivan was suggesting the opening of Berg possibly take place in fall 2019. Chair Seaks summarized, if Berg would be opened as a traditional style school then the District would need less time than if it were to make a radical change. He noted the Board would be holding a workshop today to discuss the Berg building and provide more clarity and direction. Dr. Sullivan suggested the Budget Committee meet again after the Board has provided some direction regarding the configuration of the Berg building. The configuration does not have to be led by a principal, it could be led by a consulting firm. Vice President Seaks felt in that scenario, the Budget Committee could grant the flexibility to fund as deemed necessary. President Ricks concurred that the Budget Committee should provide the flexibility to the administration based on the decision of the Board for the Berg building configuration and timeline.

City of Dickinson Special Assessments – Superintendent Sullivan explained the District had received a notice from the City that it will be assessing specials in the amount of \$45,000 to the parcel that Prairie Rose Elementary is located for the installation of street lights. The full amount is due by September 30 or the District may make installments at 6% interest. President Ricks inquired what the typical cost of a street light would be and asked the administration to receive a copy of the bill for the work done before the bill is paid. Vice President Seaks inquired if the City would be doing special assessments for the new Dickinson Middle School. Dr. Sullivan responded Dickinson Middle School may be assessed for the lighting on 29th avenue.

Land Purchase – Superintendent Sullivan recapped that the Budget Committee had previously provided permission for the administration to seek and purchase two new sites for future elementary schools. He distributed a proposed agreement from the City for a 12-acre parcel in Pine Crest addition. He also distributed a proposal from the Meyer Group to convey a 22-acre parcel in the Sundance Cove development. The Sundance parcel will have water and sewer. President Ricks inquired if this was an opportune time for the District to purchase property. Dr. Sullivan responded the price of the property has not changed in the last two years. Both of the sites have been platted. He added the Sundance Cove lots have all been sold due to the developer dropping the price for the lots. Dr. Sullivan explained to the committee the purchase agreements would be contingent upon School Board approval.

2017-2018 Budget – Business Manager Kent Anderson explained he has had several discussions with Superintendent Sullivan and they have some scenarios to look at given the projected taxable valuation may decrease by 5%. Mr. Anderson felt it would be beneficial if the administration had some additional discussion and be more prepared before sharing the full budget review with the committee. Dr. Sullivan said it was important for the committee to understand the drought could have an impact, not only on the farmers and ranchers, but the entire community. Vice President Seaks noted this would be a big decision. There is a line to a goal and not reaching minimum standards with the resources possible but try to reach maximum potential with additional resources. He felt the Board members would be able to explain to taxpayers in the community the value of education. Community members are mindful and respectful that the School District is not raising taxes unnecessarily.

Other – There were no other topics for discussion.

Adjournment – Chair Seaks declared the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.