



# **Budget Development and Input Committee Meeting Minutes**

## **February 1, 2019; 9:45 a.m.**

### **Central Administration Office – Board Room**

Present: Board President Brent Seaks (Chair), Board Member Jason Rodakowski, Superintendent Dr. Shon Hocker, Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris, and Business Manager Kent Anderson. Also present: Marc Mellmer, Brian Stark, and Naomi Obrigewitch.

**Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. by Chair Brent Seaks.

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items** – No additions or deletions to the agenda

**Old Business** - No Old Business was reported.

#### **New Business**

**Dickinson High School Project** – Mr. Anderson reported to the committee that at the January 23, 2019 Public Forum, JE Dunn presented the community with two options for the new high school. Option 1, Independent, is an entirely new structure with estimated costs of ~\$115.8 million. Option 2, Engaged, is a new structure and also retains 84,511 square feet of space from the current structure, with estimated costs of ~\$108.6 million. Dr. Hocker reported that the Steering Committee had met and were in full support of the Engaged model.

To fund the project, the committee discussed cash reserves, general obligation bonds and possible state funding. Dr. Hocker indicated that he was not optimistic about state funding based on bills he had been tracking. The committee also discussed the District's current debt limit compared to the potential debt limit, if an increase were to be approved by the voters. At the current 5% debt limit level, the District would be able to bond an additional ~\$21.8 million. If the public voted to increase the debt limit to 10%, the District would be able to bond an additional ~\$106.0 million. Mr. Anderson stated that both limits would increase ~\$3.0 million per year as other bonds are paid down.

Discussion was had on how to include the need of an additional elementary school in this bond referendum process. Mr. Harris stressed the importance of being transparent on the District's intentions. Dr. Hocker stated the previous idea of expanding Heart River Elementary would only provide half of the space needed for projected elementary enrollment.

The committee continued to discuss the best path to address the growth of the District and funding limits. The committee reached a consensus and recommend the Board ask voters to increase the debt limit to 10% and a bond referendum of \$115 million, to be used towards construction of the Engaged high school option now and a new elementary school in the near future.

**Other** – No other business.

**Adjournment** – At 11:23 a.m., Chair Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.