



**Carson City School District**

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## Carson City School District Master Plan Committee

### **Meeting Notes #3 – January 14, 2010**

Attendees: Attendance was not taken.

The main purpose of this meeting was to re-connect after the Holidays; get an update from each of the sub-committees and discuss the DRAFT version of the initial assessment of schools

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**Old Discussion Items** (items from last meet that were “informational only” – were deleted from future meeting note topics)

We did not review/discuss issues from the last meeting notes in general

### **New Discussion Items:**

- 3.1 After brief welcome back, Mike Mitchell addressed the main purpose of today’s meeting was to get updates from various heads of sub-committees. Mike sat in on meetings with program/educational and finance – and was pleased with the progress and dialogue
- 3.2 It was discussed that the various meeting dates for sub-committee meetings should be clearly identified to all whom are on those committees as some people have been left out of the loop
- 3.3 **Program/Educational Subcommittee report was presented by Jim Lemaire as follows:**
  - They reviewed the various major topics/programs and asked committee members to list what they believe were most important. The clear winner as being most needed in the district was CTE, with runner up being Arts/Performing Arts and a re-branding of Pioneer High as offering programs that might entice many in the HS system
  - Regarding Pioneer High – they felt a clear distinction from Opportunity High and making Pioneer more of a 2<sup>nd</sup> High School that can offer more options to keep students in the district
  - Michelle Lewis Presented on CTE status and curriculum with the following highlights:
    - CTE is not career hobby shops – they focus on high skills that link with post secondary options and high tech jobs directly out of HS

- Students in CTE have higher likelihood of graduation
- The culinary arts program has an excellent track record with National Recognition. There is a waiting list and demand is high
- Web Design program also has national recognition with high demand
- The main obstacle to further enhance the program is the space within the HS is not adequate. They need another classroom and kitchen for culinary, they need to offer sequential program allowing Freshman thru Senior in the programs – not just Jr/Sr.
- They need time in school day to expand the program – can be done with scheduling modifications – but main issue is lack of facility
- Existing staff would need to be expanded to cover the expanding needs
- Formal report from the group will be coming
- The Educational / Program committee was tasked to layout the pitch to the community for the needs
- As a final note – the Educational Committee indicated the replacement of portables should be a high priority as they are not a good learning environment

### **3.4 The Finance Subcommittee then provided their update**

- We need a decision/recommendation to the board by 3/1/10 if pursuing bonds are recommended
- John McKinna gave a somewhat bleak report that budgets have been cut and there further cuts are expected. In general John was saying any program that increases operating costs will not be funded. He also provided that no operational expenses may come thru general obligation/roll over bonds – those can only be used for capital improvements, fixtures, furnishings and equipment – use of bond funds for technology is difficult as these types of items tend to become obsolete prior to bonds being paid off – so there is some technical challenges to overcome
- It was discussed that Bond Proceeds are available – as current tax rate is .47 cents per \$100/assessed value. Over the next few years this rate could effectively go down if CCSD doesn't take advantage of bonds – but doesn't necessarily mean the funds go down to the property owner (complicated). Marty Johnson from JNA Consulting will be at the next finance sub-committee meeting on 1/21/10 – 2:00 pm – to discuss this in much greater detail as to bond dollars available, types of bonds and what affect this has on the voter and their tax rate
- There was some discussion about ability (or not) to have a Performing Arts facility that is rented to the public for special events and/or shared expenses with City and WNC. Again – if built – operating expenses are a huge dilemma and concern

### **3.5 – Facilities Subcommittee – Joe Cacioppo Chairman presented their update**

- The Facilities committee has been waiting on the initial assessment that is now available. This assessment was compiled by using the “project needs” list compiled by the CCSD for each of the facilities in the district , along with a site meeting with each site administrator, going thru each facilities needs as they relate to safety, HVAC, building, energy, ADA, programs, and general finishes. This is a “DRAFT”

report, not yet reviewed with the Administrators and includes order of magnitude dollars. This assessment will be updated and more clearly defined over the next few weeks

- Facilities committee recognizes the needs of CTE – just not sure where best location is and how to go about allocating the space/needs of this curriculum
- They need a summary of enrollment currently and projections – to look at site vs. program capacity
- They had some dialogue on safe route to schools program and how that may/may not affect school use
- They have discussed the portable situation and understand that CMS and Bordewich/Bray campuses have done away with portables in last couple bonds. They also understand there are a few schools still using portables. They need to understand the goals of the educational committee on getting rid of portables
- They noted there are some equity issues between available space/programs and facilities between CMS (benefit of last bond) and EVMS along with some of the elementary schools

### **3.6 Community Relations – Ron Swirczek provided update**

- Ron indicated that about 50% of workers in the area live outside the district – and with lower housing costs now in Carson City– this trend may change where workers move closer to their jobs
- CTE, Performing Arts, Early Education and a fundamentally strong school system are critical for the community and growth of the community
- They recommend we need to establish a partnership with various other City Agency’s (Carson City, Library, WNC, Parks/Rec., etc…) and jointly guide Carson City over the next few years. This committee would like to know the existing relationships/common use agreements, etc… with various City entities so they can understand current relationships and forge new ones
- We need to “sell” Carson City School District in order to attract new families to our area. Recommendation is to have a place for public to comment on what they see as the CCSD strengths and weaknesses. Use this information to guide the master planning and/or bond campaign effort. Later it was suggested we could run an article in the paper asking the community to go to the CCSD web page and post their comments
- Lee Plemel gave a general update on the status of Carson City – in summary – there is not much going on in the private sector as it relates to new projects and/or new housing sub-divisions. Permitting is way down from the past few years.
- Bill Miles gave an encouraging report that many manufactures and distribution companies are again looking at the Carson City and Northern Nevada area in general as this is a natural hub for many directions (between LA/Seattle and San Fransisco/East). With housing costs coming down – relocation and affordable housing for employees is a plus. Quite a few companies have been making visits to the area over the last couple months.

3.7 The meeting the wrapped up with Mike Mitchell encouraging all to make sure and get current on when their sub-committees were meeting. Mr. Stokes again thanked everyone for their efforts. The next meeting we will have an overall update on bond campaign options after Marty Johnson provides and update on 1/21/10

**Next regular scheduled Master Plan Committee meeting is (Thursday - January 28th, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.)** Lunch will be provided and will be held in the same location, District Office Board Room.

Thanks for all whom attended and committed their time and efforts to this extremely important process for the future of the CCSD.

Cc: Committee Members  
Website – [www.carsoncityschools.com/masterplan](http://www.carsoncityschools.com/masterplan)