



Carson City School District

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Carson City School District Master Plan Committee

Meeting Notes #5 – February 11, 2010

Attendance: Mark Rotter, Mark Korinek, Mary Foster, Richard Stokes, Richard Doede, Chris Butson, Ricky Medina, Bill Barbie, Janice Towns, Jose Delfin, Stacie Wilke, Jason Zona, Pat Houlihan, Steve Pradere, Bob Chambers, Robert Prater, Gina Hill, Karen Abowd, Walt Sullivan, Steve Wassner, Ron Swirczek, Debbie McDonald, Monique Giron, David Ruf, Scott Dockery, Susan Keema, Anthony Turley, LeAnn Saarem, Lee Plemel, Maud Naroll, Dan Allison, Jon Young, Joe Cacioppo, Kevin Monsey

Main purpose of this meeting was an update from each of the committees, discussion about overall direction of the Master Plan committee and discussion of possible bond options, updated “assessments” of facilities, capacity of schools and rough category breakdown of costs.

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

It was discussed that meeting notes 1 thru 4 are posted on the website, any questions and/or comments about previous notes should be brought to attention of MMM, LLC.

New Discussion items:

- 4.1 Superintendent Mr. Rich Stokes opened the meeting with his appreciation of every member of the master plan committee and subcommittees. Recognized there are some on-going recommendations that the School Board needs to adopt an updated Mission Statement along with a Vision Statement. Rich will recommend to the board at 2/23/10 meeting that the board hold a workshop to discuss the overall vision of the School District. In addition, will then recommend establishing a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors for Carson City – **and/or** update them on CCSD direction and discuss common goals.
- 4.2 Debbie McDonald emailed and wanted the following part of the Master Plan meeting notes – *As a committee we have focused on what it is we are asking from the community, what the community expects from the school district and what type of partnerships would help improve student achievement in the district.*

We have discovered we are represented in the community in a variety of ways and have some limited relationships with WNC and the City, but we do not have any evidence that this representation has had an impact on achievement.

Somehow we have to communicate how building improvements result in higher achievement, because currently our test score may not be reflecting this. Community concern is growing. There are parents of young children who are currently looking at bringing in new charter schools to town to meet the needs of their children. CCSD is not even a choice. This will leave even fewer students in the district.

We have come to the conclusion that we need to be very clear about what we are asking from the community and that what we ask for will improve achievement. Establishing a district vision is required to determine this. So our recommendation is that the school board, with input from the community establishes a vision for education in the district. We recommend the process of establishing a vision statement begin immediately. We are asking this group to support this position.

- 4.3** Mike Mitchell again discussed “time is of the essence” – we are making good progress, each committee is learning and contributing valuable information, but all will have to come together over the next couple meetings to start formulating a consensus between all sub-committees. Issues to finalize include: if pursuit of a bond is recommended, what type of bond, key projects out of the numerous needs, defining the “sales” approach if a bond is to be passed. We have 3 more scheduled meetings – might take one or two special meetings to formulate final recommendation by end of March.
- 4.4** Gina Hill discussed that we need to have input from various other City and Community related groups – such as Chamber of Commerce, NNDA, Hispanic Groups, Rotary, etc... - to make sure that various groups/businesses understand the needs and how the success of CCSD in educating our children is a vital part of success for the entire community.
- 4.5** The finance sub-committee updated the entire committee on their previous meeting. They took an internal vote about support for a bond and type of bond. They unanimously voted they would recommend going after a “Rollover” Bond. As the entire committee has previously been briefed, this type of bond allows for the best flexibility of the CCSD to tackle the most pressing projects immediately (yet to be prioritized and defined), have a “Pay as You Go” component for ever changing mandates and program changes, while allowing time to pursue numerous grants that are available and may couple up with bond proceeds for various projects. They felt some “education” for the community on what the Rollover bond means will be necessary – as it might give the impression that rates continue to change year to year.
- 4.6** Maude Naroll asked about what other communities have recently passed rollover bonds. It was discussed that basically all other districts in NV that recently passed bonds – were all Rollover bonds except Carson and maybe one other county. They have a high success rate when capturing current rate and with no increase. She also mentioned in light of the current State Budget crisis and cuts, that we should be investing in projects that will cut/save operating costs (i.e. – Utilities, possible joint facilities, in-efficient facilities, etc...).
- 4.7** Mike Mitchell brought up that the Motor Vehicle Privilege tax used to generate about \$800k/year for capital projects budget. Based on lack of a huge reduction in new cars and registration fees being collected – that fund now brings in less

than \$400k/year and could be the new “normal”. Obviously this has a huge affect to the maintenance and operational budget.

- 4.8** Chris Butson of the Educational Subcommittee re-iterated projects that they believe are crucial to retaining students and providing our children with many options for jobs in our community. CTE is a priority, Culinary Arts and Performing Arts are also big components of the success of our Schools. Due to lack of “seats” in these current program many students are left out and ideally we should be offering CTE to 9th/10th grades but there is no capacity due to space restrictions. The K thru 5 Education is considered a key component to the future success of our students. Distance Education is also something that will continue to grow and is gaining popularity. This will be “evolving” over time on how best to incorporate into all grade levels.
- 4.9** Mike Mitchell discussed the enrollment and capacity studies in process and gave some examples of the enrollment declines, summary of projection, what that might mean for various schools. He also went thru a brief description of “capacity” based on program needs, “no student left behind”, classroom size and then other state mandated programs. As example, Empire School is basically at 88% capacity for the school (with the current portables), over 40% of classroom space is in portables, and when the school was first built – the “core” was designed without the portable capacity in mind – therefore Library, computer room, multi-purpose rooms, etc... are all beyond capacity. The class S.F in Empire is about 2/3 of the “standard” class size – so putting 17 – 19 kids in a class definitely fills the classroom. **Summary of enrollment was put on white board (see picture attached).**
- 4.10** Kevin Monsey then went thru a “summary” of the current status of facility assessment – with a total “needs” of roughly \$65 million. This assessment is based) on needs of the district that have been defined over the last year by facilities/operations department, along with a site meeting with each site administrator on the function of their site/facilities as it relates to Safety, Energy, efficiency’s, maintenance and program needs. There is a continuing effort on a more detailed level assessment per facility – looking in the attics at insulation, issues with hardware, roofing, general wear/tear, environmental conditions, electrical needs, mechanical equipment and operating efficiencies etc... We have yet to “prioritize” the facility needs and the current budgets are based on “rough order of magnitude” as design/concepts are not yet clearly defined. It is recommended that the facilities group and educational program groups meet to start prioritizing the necessary and needed projects. **A picture of the white board “summary” is attached.**
- 4.11** Karen Abowd asked about what happens if Empire doesn’t make AYP. Families can “opt out” and the district will have to provide transportation to school of choice. If they do make AYP, then there are about 80 children whom will most likely choose to come back as district doesn’t then provide transportation to their “school of choice”. Parents could choose to transport their own children to school of choice.
- 4.12** It was asked if we know the “voting demographics”. Mike Mitchell mentioned if we elect to pursue the bond all that information will be gathered. Last election is

was somewhere in range of 60% of voters had no “ties” to the school district (i.e. no children in district, didn’t work for district).

- 4.13 David Ruff wanted to know if we replaced portables does that save on operational costs. The answer is yes – based on fact portables are more costly to operate, less efficient and the on-going maintenance/replacement costs are the bigger issue.
- 4.14 Karen Abowd – asked if we were pursuing grants and rebates that are available. It was discussed that we are definitely pursuing all energy related rebates, some of which are huge for the district (rebates for Photo Voltaic solar is huge – with savings on electrical paying for net costs in about 3-4 years max). We also partner with NV Energy on the “Sure Bet Program”.
- 4.15 Maude Naroll then questioned with drop in enrollment of say 1000 kids over these last couple and future 3 years – are we considering “busing to balance” in lieu of replacing portables in a particular school with actual building. This is something as a district that needs to be discussed in detail – the pros/cons of bus to balance – including breaking up neighborhood schools, and cost of busing.

Next regular scheduled Master Plan Committee meeting is (Thursday – February 25th, 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

Master Plan Committee

District Conference Room 11 Feb 2010

Rich Stokes – Next School Board meeting – 23 February. Wants to ask the Board to hold a workshop off the regular SB calendar. Tentative 2nd week of March. Wants to work with the Board of Supervisors and show them what we have been doing. Work with the city to allow them to know what is going on. Generally feels confident that the District is going in the right way.

Debby McDonald – Community Relations Sub Cmte: Need to communicate how the school district is working with the community. Have to ask for things that will improve achievement. Ask that the SB establish a vision for education.

Mike Mitchell – Time is of the essence. We are running out of it. It could be a good thing as a flood of information to the community may gel at the last rather than giving information piecemeal to the public.

Gina Hill – the concept of a joint meeting is to get all the players to meet. SB, BOS, NNDA, etc. Ron Swirczek supports the idea. Feels that the policy makers have to agree.

LeAnn Saarem – Finance Subcommittee: Go forward with the Rollover bond but wants to change the name to something like a Continuation Bond. What do other communities use? Fix the tax rate at 47 cents. Provides for Pay as you Go (PayGo) funding. Provides flexibility in the future. This issue is presented to the full committee as recommendation.

Maude Naroll – 1) a rollover bond approved in many counties (almost across the board). Bonds that are being passed by the voters are Rollover. 2) in light of the state's status, doing things that will save operating money would be a wise thing.

Motor Vehicle Privilege tax – The District's portion used to be about \$800K but it is now down to about \$400K. This money is paid by to the District by the State and can be used for capital projects. It is funded by the automobile registration fee

Educational Subcommittee – Chris Butson: CTE is a priority but as it evolves in the High School, Performing Arts still important. Technology is important. Distance Ed will continue to grow. K-5 is important in order to facility anything above it.

Mike Mitchell discussed the information on the White Board (attached). CTE is a high priority. High School has asked to participate CTE. Currently 1900 seats available compared to the 2400 seat requests. Elementary and Middle level has to enhance their effort.

Kevin Monsey: Described the white board information.

AN COMM. 2-11-2010

FACILITY ASSESSMENT "ROUGH" SUMMARY

CHS = 2.5	EMPIRE = .5	BD = .5
EVMS = 2.0	W/T = .5	PRISON = 1.0
PIRELL = 1.0	SECULAR = .5	MISC = .5
	EMPIRE = 1.0	

HEALTH/SAFETY ISSUES/SITE → \$ 10.0 MILL

ie. doors/shw, cement; site lighting; drainage issues; ADA; Bus/Prant P/U; Drop off location off office/main entry (check door); MIRE CODE COMPLIANCE; abatement (asbestos); Symmetric at EVMS/Prison (MFA); Site based Health clinic

ENERGY/OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY* → \$ 12.0 MILL

*Roof/wall leak; HVAC/Boiler/Chiller upgrade/replacements; day lighting; windows; Solar P.V systems

PROGRAM COMPATABILITY (NON CTE/PARTS) → \$ 1.0 MILL

- Science labs (EVMS); ceramics lab fuses; distant learning; computer labs; life skills

CTE - ADDITION and/or RENOVEL - 25000 SF x \$200/SF + Soft Costs → \$ 6.0 MILL

PERFORMING ARTS - +/- 36,000 SF x \$500/SF (INCL PTE) + Soft Costs → \$ 23.0 MILL

PORTABLE REPLACEMENT → \$ 10.0 MILL

EMPIRE: \$ 6.0 MILL (23000 SF)
PIRELL: \$ 2.0 MILL (9000 SF)
Mark Twain: \$ 2.0 MILL (8500 SF)

FINISHES/MAINTENANCE → \$ 3.0 MILL

ie. paint new walls; repair ceilings; new carpet/flooring

+/- \$ 65 MILL.

This information will be passed to the Finance and Facility Subcommittee to evaluate.

Mike Mitchell – Empire Area Studies -- looked at all the facilities. Permanent and Portable structures and their use. Empire, over the last four years. Down only by 26 students. Support Areas have not been increased after adding portables (about 42% more capacity). Portable replacement is a large number. Negligible busing. You can make the case that one should be increased size in decreasing enrollment. Enrollment information, attached.

Karen Abowd: What happens if Empire doesn't make AYP, Families can Opt Out to other schools and the District has to provide transportation.

CAPACITY VS. ENROLL. 2010-2013

SITE	05-09 ENROLL	09-10 ENROLL	2010-2013 ENROLL
B/B.	<38>	589	
EMP.	<26>	551	
FRE.	<48>	571	
FRI	<70>	545	
M.T.	<80>	567	
SEEL.	<64>	631	
	<u><326></u>	<u>3454</u>	<u><248> 3206</u>

CMS +6 1141

EVMS <346> 588
 276 = 1729 <126> 1603

CHS <222> 2298

PIONEER +5 103
 328 = 2401 <176> 2225

7584 7184 6884
 (550)
 <400> <700>

Snapshot of who the typical voter in Carson. Last election – about 60% of the voter had no connection with public education.

David Ruf: If we replace the portables at empire do we have an energy savings. Yes, a large one. A huge selling point.

Karen Abowd: Is there grant money available. NV Energy has grant money available. Photovoltaic has huge payback on capital expenses.

Maude Naroll: in view of enrollment decreases of about 1000 kids, why are we spending money on classrooms and not closing and rezoning the district. Busing to Balance is a huge issue. Program needs take up a lot of space.

Next meeting will be on 25 Feb 2010