

July 28, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Mr. Mullett. Mr. Mullett led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. All Board members were present except Ms. Justice. Also present were Mr. Watkins, Mr. Durrwachter, Mrs. Conley, Barton Co., Mr. Ryals, legal representation, and a local news media rep.

Mr. Watkins opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance. He continued by speaking about our current funds and what each are holding. He stated that we have one million dollars in our rainy-day fund and education fund is good, but we can't build or do improvements due to funding and enrollment. Mr. Watkins stated that he would like to make a decision and move forward. Mr. Wagner stated that he feels we need to raise funding for the move.

- I. 7-12 PROGRAM - Mr. Watkins reviewed the agenda for the 7-12 program. Reasoning - Enrollment that has been trickling every year; Funding - tax caps and money that we cannot recuperate; Educational - Would it be best to continue as we are? Can we produce a sound quality system for our students? Mr. Watkins spoke about current building conditions. Some of those conditions include: the JH girl's locker room, JH bathrooms, JH roof/leaks, JH gymnasium, plumbing, kitchen, asphalt, boiler update, room updates, HVAC, among many other conditions.

Mr. Dana Wannemacher, Barton Co., reviewed the building assessments. He stated that they will help stretch our dollars as much as possible to make our operations as functional as possible. He stated that there are a lot of districts changing to a 7-12 program and each of them try to separate the 7-8 from 9-12. He stated that most are putting core classes in one hallway and specials are grouped by departments. There is usually only one lunchroom and that is handled by scheduling.

Mr. Jay Ryals, spoke to the Board about the bonding process. He provided charts that portrayed when debt starts to roll off. If you bond before debt rolls off, then you will raise taxes. He stated that if we do nothing now, we will have less cap/raise taxes. Mr. Ryals stated that if we want to do something, now is the time to do it. Now, is the best time to bond and still have the capacity to do other bonds in 25-26. Other schools have rolling bonds that have replaced the capital projects fund. If we wait to bond, it could cost us anywhere from \$10,000 - \$1,000,000. You will have construction and interest rates risks.

Mr. Watkins reviewed the 7-12 recommendation options
Option A - Continue current (2 buildings functioning and operating separate)

Option B - Continue 7-12 program model, but consolidate operations (2 buildings, shared teachers, 1 administration team)

Option C - Move to consolidated high school (1 building, grades 7-12 together)

Mr. Mullett stated that he does not want to put money into a building and then abandon it.

Dr. Quin stated that he does not want to have a recommendation and a vote in the same month. He also asked Mr. Watkins for his recommendation.

Mr. Comerford stated that it wouldn't hurt to send the recommendation to Board in advance for review prior to the August meeting.

Mr. Watkins stated that his recommendation is Option C. He also stated that he will send this recommendation to the Board prior to the meeting.

Discussion continued regarding bonds and moving students.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

A. SUPERINTENDENT Mr. Watkins thanked the Board and all attendees for their input and attendance.

B. BOARD MEMBER - no comments

III. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. unanimously approved.

Secretary,

Charles Wagner

/dc