



District Office – 471 NE Ochoco Plaza Dr., Prineville, OR 97754 (541) 447-5664

February 21, 2013

Board Members Present: Patti Norris, John Lang, Doug Smith, Scott Cooper
Administrators Present: Duane Yecha, Anna Logan, Deen Hylton, Dave Robinson, Jim Bates, Cheri Rasmussen

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Flag Salute 1.2 Roll Call to Establish Quorum 1.3 Recognition of Visitors
Board Chair Patti Norris called the meeting to order at 6:30, the flag salute recited, a quorum established, and visitors were recognized.

2.0 PROPOSED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITES

2.1 Elementary School Sites – Review, Process, And Recommendations

John Sundell, Facilities Committee chair, reviewed the process the Facilities Committee has gone through this past year. Their purpose was to review and evaluate all of the District's facilities, grounds and properties, and make recommendations regarding a plan for maintenance, facility upgrades, facility replacement, property acquisition and/or new facilities to the District. The end result was the recommendation to replace Ochoco Elementary and Crooked River Elementary and build a new school that would last 50 to 60 years, rather than remodeling of the two schools keeping them usable for an additional 15 years only. The recommendation also includes necessary upgrades in all of the remaining schools.

John Sundell then talked about the various building sites the committee has viewed. They started with eight properties and narrowed the list to the top three sites: YellowPine (Barnes Butte area property owned by the District); IronHorse site; and Ochoco Lumber site. The committee is now in the process of rating these three properties to determine which property will be recommended to the school board at the February 25 school board meeting.

Committee members, including board member Doug Smith who served on the committee, answered a variety of questions from audience members. Questions asked related to the specific top three properties, traffic patterns, size of property, size of proposed school, busing and walking issues.

One audience member asked if the committee had considered using the existing properties at Crooked River and Ochoco by building a new building on the current playground property, then tearing down the school and building a new playground area in its place. John Sundell indicated they had talked about this possibility; however the properties are not large enough to build a 700-student school. Current properties are approximately 6 acres. For a 700-student school 15 acres would be required.

There were concerns about the possible increased traffic on Laughlin if the IronHorse property is chosen. Both John Sundell and Doug Smith addressed these issues indicating changes would certainly be required to some of the roads in and around IronHorse. Doug Smith commented they have been working with the city planners regarding these and other issues.

Questions were raised regarding the current properties of Ochoco and Crooked River. Doug Smith indicated that the school board in a couple years would determine the best use of the two properties. It was suggested that the board come forward now to say that the properties would be sold and the funds from the sale would be used to buy down the bond. This could be a good selling point with the voters.

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There were questions regarding building a 700-student school rather than two 350-student schools. John Sundell indicated the cost for two schools, each with a 350 student capacity, would be much more than one 700-student school. They are looking at school designs with pods or wings, where each area would develop their own neighborhood or learning community.

There were questions about heating and air conditioning. Doug Smith commented that when you heat a modern building with proper airflow you can save up to \$150,000 a year in heating vs. the current cost of heating one of our current old school buildings. There were comments about air conditioning. Committee members viewed up to four schools in the region and were impressed with the new features available in the newer schools. One concern was that some of the schools did not include air conditioning. Some teachers who work in these building suggested that air conditioning be considered.

Scott Cooper wanted the audience to understand the importance of going out for a bond at this particular time. The high school bond is expiring next year, and with passage of a bond now the district can renew the existing bond at the same tax rate of \$1.03 and taxes would not go up. If a bond is not passed, taxes will go down; however the need for a new school will still be there. Audience members responded by saying this is the message that needs to be heard in the community.

A question was asked if the committee members had considered the possibility of swapping the district-owned Barnes Butte property for one of the other pieces of land. John Sundell indicated that had talked about this with the property owners but none were interested. Also, the district would like to keep the Barnes Butte property for a possible middle school when needed several years from now.

Most audience members were in favor of the bond and expressed their appreciation for all the work the facilities committee has put into the process.

2.2 City of Prineville Current & Future Development Map

Superintendent Yecha reviewed the City of Prineville map showing current and future development properties. Most of the buildable lots tend to be in the northeast and southeast sections in the city. This would make building a school in either the IronHorse or Ochoco Lumber site the most desirable.

Several audience members indicated they felt the IronHorse site would be desirable for a school site.

Scott Cooper thanked everyone present. He asked them to please talk with others in the community about how important it is to vote in May.

2.3 Google Earth – Location of 3 Proposed Sites

Google Earth was then brought up on the overhead screen showing the location of the three properties. Doug Smith reviewed each site's location and answered questions.

3.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Patti Norris, Board Chair

Jan Martin, Board Secretary

March 18, 2013

Date Minutes Approved