

Meridian CUSD #223
Facility Committee Meeting
May 17, 2007
7:30 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Jim Mays, Tom Lichty, John Cox, Jim Miller, Bill Polasky, Tim Jagielski, Barb Patzner, Marina Spitzer, Sandy McCammond, Ron Pifkin, Bill Davidson, Rick Pell, Don Holmertz, Jill Huber, Julie Weber, Bob Prusator

Bob Prusator reviewed the progress of the committee's work and initiated a discussion on the definition of consensus. The committee was comfortable working with a definition of consensus which included general agreement with any dissenting opinions being given full hearing. The outcome of consensus should be that the committee would support the recommendation even though there may not have been unanimous support of the recommendation as long as all opinions had been appropriately considered.

Bob Prusator next reviewed discussion from the past Meridian CUSD #223 Board Meeting held on May 10, 2007 regarding the status of the work of the facility committee. Mr. Prusator relayed that the School Board would like the committee to present three options. The three options should include: 1) a new high school; 2) no new school; 3) the committee's current preliminary recommendation.

Bob Prusator reviewed the dynamics of a split sale of bonds to fund the construction project utilizing two and three year sales. Bob reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of the split sale. The purpose of engaging the option of a split sale is to provide a reasonable tax rate impact for the project. Bob distributed a report describing the scenario for a two and three year split bond sale. The committee discussed the importance of the tax rate increase. The consensus of the committee was that a lower rate would stand best chance of passing. For a \$24 million project, Bob indicated that a one time sale would require approximately \$.47 increase per \$100 of EAV, while a two year split sale would require \$.33 increase per \$100 of EAV and a three year split sale would require approximately \$.26 increase per \$100 of EAV.

The committee also discussed the impact the construction project would have on the education fund and other fund rates. Mr. Prusator stated that currently, the School Board has established a self-imposed total rate tax cap of \$4.75 per \$100 of EAV.

The committee began a discussion for the purpose of finalizing the preliminary recommendation. Bob reviewed that the auditorium component of the project needed further discussion because of differing opinions regarding the inclusion of an auditorium

on the final recommendation. Bob reviewed the reasons for the discrepancy of opinions for the auditorium. He also reviewed his conversations with four high school principals whose buildings did not have auditoriums but through construction projects do now have them. He relayed that each of the principals indicated a positive over-all benefit by having auditoriums.

Discussion followed regarding the advantages and disadvantages of including the auditorium on the recommendation. The committee presented logical and founded arguments for both sides of the issue. The main objection for including the auditorium was providing an adequate rationale for spending over \$4 million on a project that does not experience the day to day regular use by students that the other components of the project do. Additionally, the comment was made that the last construction project addressed the performance area issue. Comments supporting the inclusion of the auditorium included the enhanced experience that students might gain and providing more diverse learning experiences that are not currently available.

Bob passed out ballots which asked committee members to vote for one of five options relating to the method of funding projects. The choices included bond issues for a new high school and four options for the current recommendation.

The committee began to discuss possible dates for a June meeting. Bob said he would look at possible dates and e-mail committee members.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.