

**Redmond School District
School Board Meeting
November 17, 2010**

In Attendance: Chair Jim Erickson, Vice-Chair Cathy Miller, Directors Paul Rodby, Ric Little, Superintendent Shay Mikalson, RSD Staff Doug Snyder, Stephanie Curtis, Mike McIntosh, Trish Huspek, Jon Bullock, Brian Lemos, John Holland, Linda Holland, Dave Perdue, Media Leslie Pugmire-Hole (*Redmond Spokesman*), Patrick Cliff (*Bend Bulletin*), association representatives Karen Gray, Dru Carpenter and approximately 35 community members.

Board Chair Jim Erickson called the meeting to order with a quorum of four at 5:30 p.m.

Jim Erickson expressed his appreciation to everyone in attendance.

Jonas, a John Tuck Elementary student led the board and audience in the flag salute.

Citizen Participation for Non-Agenda Items

None

PRESENTATIONS

John Tuck Elementary Presentation

Dave Perdue, Principal at John Tuck Elementary introduced Ms. Lisa Camp and her 4th/5th grade class. The class had prepared a play “The Meal Must Go On” – a play that teaches cooperation. Students shared that Readers Theater is done in the classes because it makes their reading skills better, it teaches them to be more confident in their reading and acting, helps with fluency, helps them to follow along better and to listen better.

Dave Perdue provided the board with the demographics, history, and the successful student interventions that are being implemented at the school as well as an overview of the work still to be accomplished.

He spoke specifically to the history. In 2006-2007 the student and staff populations changed dramatically at John Tuck. In the fall of 2006 50% of the students and 28 staff members were new to John Tuck Elementary.

As the demographics change at the school they have to continually look at how they educate students and adapt to those changes. He spoke to the challenges that students face on a daily basis. The staff does an excellent job to meet the needs of those students. The state of Oregon has recognized John Tuck as an outstanding school. That is a tribute to the staff, both certified and classified. “They are dedicated to the best interests of each and every child and work incredibly hard.” What we have learned from the data is that given time, we can make a difference in a child.

Paul Rodby stated that during the listening session most of the time was centered on all of the positive things that are happening at the school. He commends Mr. Perdue for all of the hard work that is clearly happening at the school.

Student Presentation

Jory Messner, a senior at the Hartman Campus was present to address the board concerning a program called “Horses in Therapy” that she would like to start in the district. This program will be for student with special

needs to give them the opportunity to ride horses after school. She wants to be able to provide transportation as well as this service at no fee. Healing Reins is in full support of her idea. It will cost approximately \$270 per student. She is currently looking at fundraising and applying for grants. Her purpose in coming tonight was to inform the board of her project and to see what type of support that she could get at the district level. She will also be presenting to the Key Club and Kiwanis. She is also working with Martha Hinman, Director of Student Services for the district.

Jim Erickson suggested that she work with Brian Lemos to see how this program could move forward.

Bond Savings Process

Jon Bullock, Director of Strategic Planning for the Redmond School District provided a brief summary of the steps that have led to where the process is to date. The school board had asked for the district to put together a task force to make a recommendation of what might be a reasonable way to allocate the money. There were 30 people on the taskforce. He reviewed the following:

- Bond Resolution – gives the board authority to allocate to capital projects or return the savings to the taxpayer
- To return the money to the taxpayers someone who owns property in the district assessed at a value of \$150,000 would receive an approximate \$33 credit on their tax bill over the life of the bond
- Provided a breakdown of what the estimated amount of the bond savings would be
- Results of the initial taskforce meeting identified what their top priorities were and then were narrowed down to the three final recommendations
- The taskforce came to a near unanimous decision to make their recommendations to the school board

Construction/Bond Budget

Doug Snyder, Chief Operations Officer for the Redmond School District provided a Bond Fund Recap. He reviewed the fact that in the beginning of the construction process the market was experiencing a high inflation rate. The budget for the bond was put together based on the trend lines at the time. Because of the downturn in the construction market, the district has received very competitive construction bids and that is why the savings occurred. Also contributing to the savings is the very aggressive construction management by district staff and has maximized those dollars, and thirdly the proceeds were invested in a timely manner and have realized gains.

Public Comments – Bond Savings

This will be the last of three pre-scheduled opportunities for the public to speak directly to the board regarding the recommendations presented by the task force as well as the bond savings in general. Jim Erickson stated that during the public comment he encourages everyone to listen to each other with respect. He also wants everyone to know that the board has not made a decision.

- Scott Brown – Math teacher at the high school, track coach at the high school. When the process started we looked at the district and identified things that needed to be improved in the district. When the district asked for the bond funds, the public approved it. The people indicated they were comfortable with that amount. We now have realized a savings and now that list is being revisited to see if there are things that could be accomplished without taking money out of the classroom. He believes with the current economic climate, he doesn't feel confident that a bond would be passed in the future to make those repairs. As a coach he had 17 students that couldn't do track last year because they had to work to help their parents pay the rent and can't afford the fees. If he has to fundraise to put in a stadium he won't be able to supply the team with the equipment they need.
- Jim Boese – Redmond Resident – Have in the past supported school budgets and will continue to do so in the future. Sincerely believes it is wrong to take the money that the taxpayers gave the district for specific projects and spend it on other things. Adamantly opposed to taking this money without a vote of the people. "If they are good projects, go back to the taxpayers and let the people decide." Thanked the board for their hard work as a board member and he will continue to support the board in the future.
- Chris Dahlen – Takes pride in living in Redmond for the last 13 years. The quality of schools has a huge impact on businesses coming to Redmond. This money needs to be spent on the schools. The better our

schools are the better our community is. Feels strongly that the money needs to be reapplied to the assets of this community and encourages the board to follow the recommendation of the task force.

- Brian Lemos – Principal of Redmond High School – At the time the process began he was at another district. One of the reasons he wanted to come here was that the community supported education in Redmond. The students deserve the very best and so does the staff. The best facilities are what are right for the students. The community has made their statement by passing that large of a bond. It is in the best interests of the students to improve the buildings.
- CJ Johnson – Is a graduate of Redmond and varsity softball coach at the high school. He has had five children go through the Redmond system. Believes the money should not go back to the taxpayers. If we have two stadiums we have the opportunity to host sporting events which will bring money into the community. He believes that when we have good facilities it brings people in. He has spoken to many of his friends about the potential return to the taxpayers and they too believe it is more beneficial to keep the money and make the improvements.
- Erica Turpign – Resident of Redmond as well as a property taxpayer. Supports the bleachers. She voted for a complete high school and without the bleachers it isn't complete. The community needs a complete high school as well as the repairs to the buildings. Commitment to the future of Redmond.
- Brent Walsh – Athletic Director at the high school. Using this money to enhance the schools is what is best for the kids. We want them to have the best experience possible. Wants to be able to say Redmond gives the best for their kids.
- John Holland – Would like to see the money go towards the health and safety issues at the high school. In the gym there is asbestos. Had to close the gym for two weeks last year. For the health and safety of the schools, spend the money on the buildings.

Jim Erickson expressed his appreciation for the respect that was shown by everyone tonight.

Board Discussion – Bond Savings Recommendations

Jim Erickson posed the question to the other board members if they will return the \$15 million to the taxpayers or should they utilize the money.

Paul Rodby – Over the last several weeks the community has made it clear that they want the money used to benefit the students. In light of that input, Mr. Rodby would support using those dollars to improve the infrastructure of the schools. If they make that decision he will want the spending of the money tightly scrutinized.

Ric Little – Top priority is finishing the high school and then would follow the taskforce recommendation. Feels a strong allegiance to the taxpayers but they have put us in this position to make these hard decisions.

Cathy Miller – Important that the community knows there is recognition that things are really tuff right now. It needs to be acknowledged that \$33.00 is a lot of money to many people. This is important decision and is not taking her decision lightly. She has spoken to a great many people who are currently having a hard time putting food on the table but feels strongly that if we don't keep education at a high level we are not doing what is best for the community. The quality of the schools will keep people here and will draw in new businesses. As a school board member she is basing her decision on the fact that these schools belong to the community. When the community voted for the bond they said they value education. It is her position that the money should be reinvested in our schools.

Jim Erickson – Heard facts tonight about the conditions in some of the buildings. He believes that those families are well served by the district using the money to make improvements to district buildings. He appreciates the economic hardships in Redmond but acknowledges that the voters approved the \$110 million. With that money we are able to achieve more than what was originally planned. He would support reinvestment in Redmond schools.

Paul Rodby moved to use the bond savings estimated at \$15.1 million as well as any additional bond savings to reinvest back into the schools. Ric Little seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

The Bond Savings Task Force recommended allocating \$950,000 to construct bleacher seating at the new high school; allocate \$8.5 to \$11 million to renovate Redmond High School; allocate \$4 to \$5.5 million to renovate older elementary buildings.

Jim Erickson asked for board discussion – will they accept the recommendation as is or is there a need to make some adjustments.

Cathy Miller – Does not want to micromanage an operational decision. If the taskforce recommendations would be approved tonight, because the schools belong to the community, she would like to ensure that taskforces consider instructional outcomes, the long term benefits to both the longevity of the school as well as general fund savings that could flow from specific decisions.

Paul Rodby stated that if the recommendation is accepted as stated, a group of people that represent those facilities should be very much involved in the decision making process. Paul feels that a list of criteria for possible repairs should be developed.

Jon Bullock stated that the same design process would be used on each of the recommended projects.

Mike McIntosh wanted to clarify that stakeholders and experts would be gathered from each building site to make the decisions.

Ric feels an urgency to proceed with the bleachers to be able to coordinate the construction of the restrooms and concessions with the bleachers. The longer we wait the more it could cost.

Ric Little requested that school equity be added to the criteria.

Cathy Miller asked Doug Snyder for clarification that with this vote the board would be authorizing up to \$950,000 for the bleachers but if they can be built it for less that would happen. Doug stated they would be establishing a working budget. The project would go out for bid and it would be his hope that the project could be completed for less than that amount.

Cathy Miller moved to approve the bond savings taskforce recommendations as presented. The motion includes a design process that considers the long term advantages of specific uses within designated schools, including extending the life of the buildings to maintain capacity of schools, ongoing savings to the general fund, increasing student outcomes, and working to ensure schools offer valuable (even if different) programmatic opportunities
Ric seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Shay concurs that accepting the recommendations of the taskforce is the right thing to do for the students of Redmond School District.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

- School Board Minutes from November 10, 2010

Paul Rodby moved and Cathy Miller seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Report

- Stated that the board being present in the buildings is changing the culture in the district. Wants them to know how much the staff appreciates them.
- Continuing to push hard on the OEBC issue. The Superintendent's met with Gene Whisnant, State Representative this morning and they were able to convey their position. Believes the issue will at least get voted on. Savings has been calculated for all of the school districts and have provided them to state representatives.

Association Report

- Karen Gray
 - Both the presence of Shay and the board in schools is building a good climate.
 - Expressed appreciation of Dr. Dan Murphy – a true advocate to education and will be missed as a board member
- Dru Carpenter – Very positive feedback on Budget 101 – very appreciated by staff and understandable

Request for Agenda Items

- CLASS Project Update – December 15
- Community Schools Update – December
- OSBA Resolutions
- Thursday, December 2 - 8:00am Executive Session to review board applications
- Executive Session on December 8 to interview selected board candidates

Mike McIntosh reported that the first budget taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18.

ADJOURN

Paul Miller moved and Cathy Miller seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:10p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Jim Erickson, School Board Chair

Trish Huspek, Executive Assistant