

KIDS Committee Meeting
January 17, 2008
Zephyr Cove Elementary School
6:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Chair: Johnelle Prado
Vice Chair: Cheryl Blomstrom
Clerk: Gerene Sayre

Members:

Linda Gilkerson
Lawrence Howell
Kevin Kjer
Carol Lark
John Louritt
Holly Luna
Dave Rich
James Settelmeyer
Sherrie Smokey
Claudette Springmeyer
Gary Thurm

Guest Speaker: Ray Bacon

1. Approve Minutes of the November 29, 2007 Meeting – Johnelle Prado

Mrs. Prado asked if anyone desired to make changes to the Minutes of the last meeting. It was noted that Lawrence Howell and Dave Rich were present, in addition to the members listed. Mrs. Blomstrom moved to approve the Minutes of November 29, 2007, seconded by Mr. Louritt. Motion carried, unanimously.

2. Guest Speaker – Ray Bacon, 1992 Bond Committee Member

Mr. Bacon handed out a typed summary of information that he recalled from his participation with the committee formed to pass a bond fifteen years ago. Throughout his presentation, Mr. Bacon stated one of the most important pieces of information used as a basis for committee decisions, was a poll that was conducted to gain perception data of schools and District operations from citizens of the County. Important data, such as the need for presenting both a short and long term plan to residents became apparent.

In addition to polling, Mr. Bacon recommended that a local builder committee be formed to review and confirm cost estimates being presented. This offered community buy in and confirmation that all possible saving considerations were reviewed. Also, community perception moved into a positive light through

newspaper coverage including signatures from both Committee and School Board Members supporting a short and long term plan.

Mr. Bacon made other points to encourage the passing of a bond. They were:

- 1) The Committee was run privately by community members rather than District personnel.
- 2) The creation of a marketing plan was deemed necessary.
- 3) Signs, including an agreed upon logo, were created and ready to roll
- 4) Newspaper coverage was used to inform the community that the KIDS organization would run the campaign.
- 5) Business owners were helpful in allowing signs to be placed strategically in windows.
- 6) Various members reached out to groups they were most familiar with, to help them understand the message, taxes would not be increased.
- 7) He recommended the local editorial board be contacted to publish positive information relating to AYP, high achieving school status, and educational standards, to both support the KIDS Committee and create positive, desirable perceptions for persons seeking employment.
- 8) Fresh ideas were needed, such as, possibly sharing a Career and Technical education building among districts

Discussion continued reviewing test scores in general, and reports that the high school grade levels were noted to the more profound grade levels in need of improvement.

The 1992 passing of a bond was stated as having been based on a very different scenario, including a growing student base creating a need for new construction to accommodate the increasing student population.

3. Project Review – Categorization, prioritization and reclassification as determined by the Committee

A tour of Zephyr Cove Elementary School was taken at 7:35 p.m. in order that the Committee could view project needs at this site. Mrs. Cauley, Principal, led the tour and noted inefficiencies, additional equipment needs, necessary upgrades, and repairs necessary. The tour included needs of energy efficient windows, HVAC, asphalt resurfacing, recarpeting of some hallways, entryway safety concerns, (the inability to see persons entering the office), and the lack of phones in classrooms.

Following the tour, at 8:25 p.m., Mrs. Luna, Director of Business Services, reviewed a list of projects, by categories, including projected costs. Mrs. Luna requested that projects be prioritized, removed and reclassified as the group desired, in order that an amount be derived for submission to Marty Johnson, consultant. This amount would then be used to determine recommended financing options.

The categories included projects by sites and noted the possibility of alternate funding that might be available. The categories presented, by request of the Committee at the previous meeting, were Critical Needs, Health and Safety, Academic Excellence, Efficiencies, and All Other.

Ms. Springmeyer reviewed deadlines as required by Douglas County, starting with a first hearing timeline of March 6th. It was noted that a recommendation would need to be submitted to the School Board at the February Regular Meeting, for consideration. Through discussion of information presented by Mr. Bacon reflecting experience from the previous committee, the realization of a strict timeline for submission to Douglas County of necessary paperwork, School District staff recommendations to proceed with prioritization of the project list, and review of tasks the School Board requested of this Committee, it was decided that although much committee work would be necessary, this evening, decisions would remain focused on prioritization of the Facility Needs list.

It was noted that the group would proceed in the future to arrive at a theme, and decisions would reverberate from that theme.

Mr. Settlemeyer stated he had gathered information that reflected a feel for the status of Carson Valley residents on issues and would inform the Committee of his findings following the project list prioritization process.

Mrs. Luna began reviewing priorities listed on posters hung up in front of the group. She left at 8:45 p.m. due to child care considerations. At this time, Assemblyman Settlemeyer led the group and completed the decision making process.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of funding ESCO projects. The Committee learned that the Board had made a decision to pursue ESCO funding, and that projects would fall out under one financing category or another, but as of yet, remained undetermined.

Through reviewing projects, some suggestions were made that might save the District money. They included using carpet tiles that could be individual replaced and the need to review energy payment options currently available.

Fire alarm needs were noted to be missing from the Facility Needs lists.

At this time, the Committee divided the Facility Needs list into two tiers. Tier 1 was noted to be top priorities and Tier 2 to delineate lesser projects. Approximately \$18.5 million dollars of listed projects were placed in the Tier 2 category, reducing the initial bond request from \$47.5 million to roughly, \$29 million.

At 9:20 p.m., Mr. Settlemeyer displayed posters reflecting previous election results that included bond information from the 80's and 90's. Next, Mr. Settlemeyer reported the County would list a growth issue first on the November ballot and that a school bond issue will be listed last. He provided a variety of

election information to the Committee and reported on positive results of a recent telecomputer information gathering process he had used, that included a live question and answer approach of informing the public of his political views. Mr. Settlemeyer reported polling results obtained through the process through this method that resulted in making contact with 17,000 county residents.

The teletown, computer dialing process was noted to be an inexpensive method that could be used should the Committee decide to proceed with polling, prior to providing information publicly on the school bond issue.

Mr. Bacon stated that the previous KIDS Committee raised funds in order to maintain operations for items such as, the suggested telecomputer method of polling, or flyer production.

4. Address Any Questions From Previous Meeting

There were no further questions.

Mrs. Prado offered February 7, 2008 as a possible date for the next Meeting and Committee members agreed to meet Thursday, February 7, 2008, 6:30 p.m., at Douglas High School.

Mrs. Lark stated that Marty Johnson, JNA Consulting would be present at the next meeting to present possible direction for funding of the committee's recommendations.

5. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present and no public comment was heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by:

Carolyn Moore
Secretary to the Superintendent and
Board of Trustees

Approved:

Clerk of the Board

Note: Upon approval in a public meeting, these minutes become the official minutes of the meeting held on the above date. Board minutes are kept on a permanent basis and are available for public review in the office of the Superintendent.