

Board Study Session / Legislative Meeting (Thursday, January 23, 2014)

Generated by Shelley R Shelton on Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Members present

Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen, Steven Staples

Meeting called to order at 6: PM

1. 6:00 p.m. Study Session

B. Roll Call

Staff members present:

Supt. Keith Rittel; Director Gary Wilson; Director Gaye Gibbs; Business Administrator Kerry Smith; Exec Asst. Shelley Shelton

Legislators present:

Sen. Deidre Henderson; Rep. Keith Grover; Sen. Margaret Dayton; Rep. Dean Sanpei

C. What's Right with Provo City School District: President Michelle Kaufusi & Supt. Keith Rittel

President Michelle Kaufusi opened the meeting and turned the time over to Supt. Rittel to explain the contents of the prepared packet. Talking points included:

- District assessment data
- Comparative data with neighboring districts
- UCAS scores: (Utah Comprehensive Assessment System).
- Four PCSD schools were "A" schools. The goal is to have every school receive a "B" score; the expectation is that all schools would perform at a high level. "A" school principals were charged with determining what is needed to maintain their "A" score.
- The District Progress Report is aligned with the five board and district goals.
- The high school principals, counselors, and Member McKay Jensen will be meeting tomorrow, Jan. 24 to analyze the graduation data.
- The purpose of including the Free & Reduced rates and proficiency charts is to show the district, highly impacted schools in particular, is growing academically in spite of a rising free and reduced population.
- Supt. Rittel reviewed the links to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and State of the District Reports.
- Member Poulsen brought the Provo City School District app to the attention of the legislators.

The arrival of Member Staples was noted at 6:19 pm.

Sen. Henderson thanked Supt. Rittel for the meeting she had with him last week. She expressed appreciation for the fact that the district has a forward thinking plan to improve areas in need of improvement.

D. Challenges: Business Administrator Kerry Smith & Supt. Keith Rittel

Business Administrator Kerry Smith reviewed the financial challenges facing the district. Points of discussion included:

- The district builds a long-term financial plan each year that aligns with the five board goals.
- Non-growth districts are overlooked in regards to additional funding. Provo doesn't receive the funding given to larger growth and small rural districts.
- Non-growth districts have higher weighted average teacher salaries due to longevity.

Possible solutions:

- Increase professional staff Minimum School Programs (MSP) line item and modify formula.
 - Alpine receives 8.3% of its K-12 funding on this line
 - Provo receives 8.5% of its K-12 funding on this line
- Fund growth, but more money in inflationary WPU increases instead of non-MSP growth programs and NESS.
- Retirement increase of 1.8% will cost Provo School District \$1.2 million; state portion is \$601,000 or \$32 on the WPU or 1.1% to cover retirement (Provo has \$18,6000 WPUs).
- WPU inflation
 - 10% annual medical inflation will cost Provo City School District \$800,000, state portion is \$394,000, or \$21 on the WPU
 - 5% Affordable Care Act annual inflation will cost Provo City School District \$400,000, state portion is \$194,000 or \$10 on the WPU
 - 1% salary increase will cost Provo City School District \$579,000, state portion is \$285,000 or \$15 on the WPU.
 - To cover medical inflation and a 2% salary increase, the state portion is a \$61 increase in the WPU or 2.1% increase. This does not include energy, supplies, etc. increases.
- Transportation:
 - Operating expenses
 - PCSD is approximately 62% state funded
 - Local levy (before levy consolidation) generated \$600,000 (local contribution)
 - \$300,000 is subsidized annually by WPU without bus replacement
- Capital
 - Provo City School District needs approximately \$240,000 annually to replace buses (two per year)
 - Provo City School District is pursuing propane buses
 - Natural gas lines freeze while driving in cold temperatures
 - Natural gas fueling stations are expensive
 - Natural gas buses are \$20,000 more than propane buses
 - Propane fueling stations are relatively inexpensive
 - Propane buses burn clean without emission equipment, lower maintenance costs
- Technology
 - Technology infrastructure is the challenge for Provo City School District
 - Projections show PCSD needs \$350,000 annually to maintain IT infrastructure
- Curriculum
 - Transitioning to state standard curriculum and e-curriculum is the challenge
 - Projections show PCSD needs \$500,000 annually to transition to and maintain leading edge curriculum
- Professional Development
 - PCSD currently pays for two days (\$360,000) of professional development per year from reserves
 - To move towards Observer Tab (evaluations) and standardized curriculum, estimates show that PCSD needs four additional professional development days (\$1,440,000)
 - The district is tying its long-term professional development plan to the standards upon which teachers will be evaluated, including assessment, content knowledge, instructional practices and instructional planning.

E. Bond Update: Vice President Julie Rash

President Kaufusi reviewed the background of the proposed bond. Vice President Julie Rash reviewed the bond presentation in the packet. Significant needs totaling \$200 million pointed to the need for a bond.

1. The city-wide citizens committee was identified from within the boundaries of each elementary school to determine the best course of action. Engineering firms evaluated the conditions / needs of each school. The amount needed to address all needs was \$200 million, which exceeds the board's bonding authority. The committee studied the engineering / architectural studies and made a recommendation that the board ask for \$90 million to address five of the seven schools with the more urgent needs. Community open houses were held within each school targeted for replacement throughout the city to present the proposed bond. The option of remodeling versus replacement was thoroughly evaluated. It will be more cost effective to rebuild the schools rather than continuing to maintain them for an additional ten years. Schools were ranked from 1 to 5 according to the need for replacement, with a ranking of "1" indicative of the most critical needs. Some schools were built in the 1950s with cement ceilings above unreinforced masonry walls, for instance.

In response to questions / comments from legislators, board members shared the following:

- The Facilities Advisory Committee looked heavily into consolidating schools rather than rebuilding 5 schools. Constituents indicated they did not want to consolidate smaller schools. In the event the bond doesn't pass, the district would heavily consider having to consolidate smaller schools.
- Enrollment projections are through 2030; there is enrollment justification for rebuilding.
- There was very sophisticated stratification of the data from the phone survey conducted by Lighthouse Research & Development, Inc.
- The board will meet Feb. 11 to finalize the amount and scope of the proposed \$90 million bond.

Supt. Rittel indicated the board may approach legislators for endorsements for the bond. Legislators were invited to visit any of the district schools.

F. Benefits of Semi-Annual Meetings: President Michelle Kaufusi

President Kaufusi asked legislators if they felt there was value in conducting joint meetings semi-annually.

- Sen. Henderson stated she'd be willing to meet whenever.
- Rep. Grover stated twice yearly is fine; open dialogs both ways are preferred.
- Rep. Sanpei likes the open door approach rather than having additional meetings. Would prefer more frequent contact and less frequent meetings.
- Sen. Dayton expressed appreciation for the meeting. Commenting on the bond, she agreed there are serious safety needs. However, constituents are more concerned about the Common Core; why would we want to build more / new schools when we don't like what's going on inside of them?

Supt. Rittel responded that a statement is on the website regarding the district's position on the Common Core. The district is approximately 70% aligned with federal core. The district feels we can more meaningfully manage the curriculum. He encouraged legislators to review the PCSD web site for information related to the district's implementation of the Common Core.

G. Q & A

Legislators encouraged board members to attend the Legislative Day on the Hill Feb. 21 for an additional opportunity to interact.

2. Adjourn

A. Motion to Adjourn

Adjourned 7:25 pm

I move we adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Marsha Judkins, second by Steven Staples.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen, Steven Staples