PIUTE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PREPARING CHILDREN FOR THE FUTURE

APPROVED MINUTES

October 2, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

The public hearing meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education and the Local Building Authority Board of Directors was held on **October 2, 2024** at the Piute High School Auditorium in Junction, Utah. President Jeremy Pearson called the meeting to order at **6:00 P.M**. Present was Jeremy Pearson, Teresa Morgan, Neccia Dalton, Erin Jensen. Rick Dalton was absent from the meeting. Also present was Superintendent Koby Willis and Business Administrator Dallas Sylvester. Guests at the meeting were: (see list of attendees below).

Opening Remarks:

- Jeremy Pearson welcomed everyone to the public hearing. After the pledge of allegiance was recited, opening remarks were given by Teresa Morgan.

Public Hearing:

- **Presentation of Lease Revenue Bond**
    - Superintendent Willis gave a presentation about the bond related to the new elementary schools in Circleville and Marysvale.
    - Superintendent Willis gave a brief history of the state small schools capital project grant.
    - Superintendent Willis gave an overview of the school building evaluations that were done last year for each of the schools in the district.
    - Superintendent Willis presented the early drafts of the designs of the new Circleville and Marysvale Elementary Schools.
    - Superintendent Willis presented a history of the tax rates in Piute County.
    - Superintendent Willis presented a graph that shows how Piute County taxes compare to neighboring counties.
    - Superintendent Willis presented the 2024 school property tax rates compared to 2023.
    - Superintendent Willis presented what the official bond ballot language will be in November.
    - Superintendent Willis presented a project timeline of the two new elementary schools.

- **Public hearing to receive input from the public with respect to the issuance of the Bonds and the potential economic impact the project will have on the private sector**

- Erin Jensen made a motion to enter the public hearing portion of the meeting to receive input from the public with respect to the issuance of bonds and the potential economic impact the project will have on the private sector. Teresa Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Teresa Morgan Aye, Neccia Dalton Aye, Jeremy Pearson Aye, Erin Jensen Aye. (Rick Dalton Absent)

Public Comment:

- Dallas Sylvester read a statement that set the rules and guidelines for public comments. He then called on those who had signed up to comment and gave each person time to comment.

  The public comments were as follows:

- Garrett Clark commented that he is concerned about the size of the new Marysvale Elementary in comparison to the number of students. He expressed that the cost per student of the building is too high. Garrett also asked who authorized the teen center at the high school.

- Tyrel Ivie commented thanked the school board for being open and transparent. He thanked the school board for listening to the community.

- Sheila Camp commented and asked how many children the new Circleville elementary school will accommodate. She also expressed concern over the construction of the new bus barn. She also asked how the teen center fits into Piute County and how both the bus barn and the teen center were funded.

- Celeste Hamm commented and asked what will happen to the old buildings if the new schools are built.

- Stacie Gass commented that the community can either get new school buildings or keep maintaining what we have. She feels that the new buildings will improve the education for our students. She expressed that if we don't build the buildings now, then there might never be a good time in the future to build the schools.

- Celeste Hamm commented that she wishes more details were put out last year when the public voted on the consolidated school. She thanked the board for holding the public hearing.

- No other comments were made by the public.

- Teresa Morgan made a motion to close the public hearing for the economic impact of the bond and open the public hearing for arguments in favor and against the bond. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Teresa Morgan Aye, Neccia Dalton Aye, Jeremy Pearson Aye, Erin Jensen Aye (Rick Dalton Absent).

- **Public meeting for the presentation of arguments in favor of and against the ballot proposition**

  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that no arguments against the bond were submitted to the school district.

- Superintendent Willis read the argument for the bond. It is as follows:

The Local Building Authority of Piute County School District (the "Authority") is asking voters to approve the issuance of $5,000,000 in Lease Revenue Bonds at the election on November 5, 2024.

The Authority, on behalf of Piute County School District, has a unique opportunity for school construction funding that has not been available for several decades and may not be available again for some time. In the 2022 legislative session the legislature created the Small School Capital Projects Fund and appropriated $50,000,000 to that fund. This money was intended to help small school districts manage the rapidly increasing cost of school construction. More than 60% of that funding went to Wayne County School District for the consolidation of their middle school and high school. In the 2023 legislative session the legislature again appropriated $50,000,000 to this grant program. Piute County School District competed with other small school districts across the state for this funding and received $18,000,000 in grant funding to rebuild Oscarson Elementary School and Circleville Elementary School. Passing this bond would allow Piute County School District, through a lease with the Authority, to meet the local effort requirements of the grant. Not passing this bond would put the entire cost of school construction on local property tax payers.

The two current elementary schools were built in the 1960's prior to most building codes. Neither school has a fire suppression system or modern seismic ready infrastructure. Both schools were designed before the internet, special education, or migrant education were a part of local schools.

The school board has carefully considered the needs and concerns of our community. Through a collaborative review and approval process the Authority, with the full support of the school board, voted unanimously to approve this bond initiative. With voter approval the bond will help pay for a new elementary school in Circleville and Marysvale.

Since 2019, construction costs have inflated by 47%. The school district cannot save money quickly enough to pay cash for projects given current inflation. The school district believes financing the new elementary schools will produce the lowest costs and cause the lowest tax impact to residents long-term. After these projects, the district does not currently anticipate additional debt needs for school construction for the next 20 or more years.

Piute County School District thanks all the residents and stakeholders that have contributed to this proposal with valuable and timely feedback. The school district is focused on our constitutional role to assist and to be accountable to parents and families who bear the primary responsibility for educating their children. We ask for your help in taking advantage of this unique opportunity, by voting in favor of the Authority's Lease Revenue Bond on November 5, 2024.

Public Comment:

- Dallas Sylvester called on those who had signed up to comment and gave each person time to comment.

The public comments were as follows:

- Tanner Dalton commented and mentioned that he and his dad will be able to afford the property tax increase, but there are others who will not be able to afford it. He expressed concern that elderly people in the community won't be able to afford the increase.

- Stacie Gass commented that taxpayers can look on the back of their tax notices and find information about how to receive financial help with property taxes.

- Joe Dalton commented and mentioned that the cost of the property tax increase will be passed on from business owners to the consumers in the community. He said that business owners will increase the price of their products and the cost will be passed on to the consumer.

- No other comments were made by the public.

Adjournment

- At **6:51 P.M.** Erin Jensen made a motion to adjourn the **October 2, 2024** meeting of the school board. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN IN SHEET

To keep an accurate record of meeting attendees please sign in. Also, please indicate if you would like to address the school board.

Name	Would you like to comment?
Garrett Clark	
Paul Wayman	Yes
Japheth McGee Also no!	NO
Tyrel Ivie	Yes
Shelia Camp	Yes
Jeri Sylvester	No
Rick Cannon	NO
Mark Cannon	NO
Ryan Bjerke (Chapman and Cutler LLP)	No
Celeste Hamm	Unsure
Paula Wilde	No
TRENT WIDE	YES
Joe Dalton	Yes
Tanner Dalton	Yes
Stacie Gass	Yes
Tony Jen	NO