

Minutes of Work Session and Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

Board of Education Ogden City School District

Thursday, August 2, 2018 · 5:00 PM · 1950 Monroe Boulevard, Ogden Utah

Vice President Zundel called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. The following were present when the meeting convened:

Members Present:

Jennifer Zundel, Vice President
Douglas B. Barker
Don E. Belnap
Susan Richards
Joyce Wilson

Members Absent:

Jeff N. Heiner, President
Nancy Blair

Staff Present:

Dr. Rich K. Nye, Superintendent
Zane K. Woolstenhulme, Business Administrator
Paula Bosgieter, Executive Assistant

1. Work Session

a. Bond Scenario Discussion

Superintendent Nye introduced the discussion on bond scenarios and turned time to Zac Williams, Bond Facilitator. Mr. Williams summarized the process to date and presented three scenarios or draft proposals for further discussion and presentation to the public on August 7.

- 1) \$87M to replace Horace Mann at an estimated cost of \$25M in 2019-2021; build an additional classroom wing at Wasatch for an estimated cost of \$7M with projected construction dates of 2019-20; renovate Polk Elementary at an estimated cost of \$30M built at current capacity of 600 students in 2021-2023, students would attend Taylor Canyon and Wasatch during construction and once completed Taylor Canyon will be closed and students would be assigned to Polk; replace TO Smith Elementary for an estimated cost of \$25M in 2021-2023; scenarios include a plan for students during construction and a timeframe for construction. Taylor Canyon would be demolished during the year following closure.
- 2) \$82M to replace Horace Mann at an estimated cost of \$25M in 2019-2021; build an additional classroom wing at Wasatch for an estimated cost of \$7M in 2019-2020; rebuild Polk Elementary at an estimated cost of \$25M, built at current capacity of 600 students in 2021-2023, students would attend Taylor Canyon and Wasatch during construction and once completed Taylor Canyon will be closed and students would be assigned to Polk; replace TO Smith at an estimated cost of \$25M in 2021-2023. Taylor Canyon would be demolished during the year following closure.
- 3) \$75M to replace Horace Mann at an estimated cost of \$25M in 2019-2021; rebuild Polk Elementary at an estimated cost of \$25M; renovate Wasatch Elementary at an estimated cost of \$10M with new classroom addition, improvements to cafeteria/gymnasium, office and additional areas. Wasatch students would attend Polk during construction, 2021-2023; building improvements to TO Smith, Hillcrest, James Madison, Mount Ogden and Mound Fort for an estimated cost of \$15M in 2019-2023, improvements may include improving safety and security, addressing physical building issues, providing additional infrastructure for technology and other related projects.

School consolidation will be considered as we look through the Capital Facilities Plan, tiered projects, school enrollment, and condition of physical facilities. Mr. Williams explained these are draft proposals and we plan to present them to the public next week. Discussion ensued regarding the historical preservation of Polk Elementary and if that is the responsibility of the school district. Board members asked questions and Dr. Nye responded. Mr. Woolstenhulme shared additional information regarding cost estimates. It was noted that Gramercy Elementary is in one of the worst conditions and may be considered for closure. It was asked if Horace Mann would be built as a four-section

school. This will be determined as the information is shared with individual school communities.

As plans are presented to the public, we would like to determine which scenario they prefer and if there are any changes they would like made to the scenarios. The ballot language will need to be finalized for approval on August 16 and is due by August 23. There will be an online survey created and information will also be shared for input at the library on August 7. Concerns were expressed with unknown costs of preserving Polk Elementary; education tax dollars are not provided for historic preservation; and the feasibility of private donations to help with the cost. Mr. Williams will move forward with formatting the scenarios for public release.

Vice President Zundel called for a short recess at 5:53 p.m. to reconvene in Truth in Taxation Public Hearing.

2. Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation

Vice President Zundel called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and introduced Business Administrator Zane Woolstenhulme to give a presentation on the Truth in Taxation process, historical perspective and include time for questions. Our average increase in tax valuation over the past 16 years is approximately 4%. Proposal is to keep the tax rate the same as it was the prior year. This would generate approximately \$3M additional funding each year. He explained this additional funding will be used for salaries and benefits, curriculum adoption, early intervention programs, safety and security improvements, and additional bond payments if the bond passes. Dr. Nye explained the significant needs we have in pre-K to 3rd grade opportunities for our students. Only one in three of our students have access to full day kindergarten; our community has a great need for full-day kindergarten. This additional funding would allow for full-day kindergarten district-wide. Research shows that students not on grade level by third grade have a higher drop-out rate. Additional security measures such as security cameras, office upgrades, and other improvements would also be included.

Information was provided on the state allocation for WPU spending and how the state tax rate hasn't changed much over the past 20 years. We have infinite needs in the Ogden District and the Budget/Finance Committee was in favor of keeping our tax rate the same.

a. Public Comment for Truth in Taxation

Vice President Zundel opened the floor to public participation at 6:32 p.m. The following individuals addressed the board during the public hearing:

- Devon Nelson, 1617 E 1250 S
- Patricia Boor-Stevens, 3619 Van Buren Avenue
- Terrie McConnell, 858 26th Street
- Sandy Nield, 4367 Bobwhite Ct
- Mike Ulrich, 1683 Wasatch Drive
- Linda DeYoung, 1041 E 4750 S
- Cyril Nopper, 1435 Lake Street
- Michael DeYoung, 2753 Polk Avenue
- Celeste Tonga, 1051 30th Street
- Lewis Pearce, 672 1st Street
- Scott Feeny, 2710 Hill Drive
- Arnel Rivera, 784 E 32nd Street/821 Edgewood Drive
- John Adrian, 4367 Bobwhite Ct
- Steve Perry, 909 E 1225 N
- Chavell Perry, 909 E 1225 N
- Bryan Becherini, 1426 12th Street
- Shane Pearce, 574 Jackson Avenue
- Sunni Wilkinson, 1623 23rd Street

Public hearing portion of the meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

b. Board Action

Discussion ensued regarding the presentation and public comments. Mr. Woolstenhulme shared information on our tax rates as compared across the state. Board members stated

they empathize with taxpayers and the increase in property tax rates; they also expressed needs for increased safety measures in our schools. It was noted that a property value cap has been proposed by Representative Gage Froerer; patrons could reach out to him if interested.

MOTION: Board member Susan Richards moved to set the tax rate the same as last year and approve the associated tentative budget, seconded by Jennifer Zundel. The motion failed on the following vote: Don E. Belnap, nay; Douglas B. Barker, nay; Susan Richards, aye; Joyce Wilson, nay; and Jennifer Zundel, aye.

Mr. Woolstenhulme clarified the proposed budget was created to stay within the certified tax rate and will be submitted to the state auditor. He advised against dipping into our fund balance as this will negatively impact our bond rating and could cost the district millions moving forward in interest expense.

Motion to adjourn by Don E. Belnap and seconded by Douglas B. Barker. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.ogdensd.org

Vice President Zundel adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

President

Business Administrator