

Tonasket School District #404
Capital Improvement Bond Hearing Minutes
Monday, February 24, 2014
In the Board Room at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Jerry Asmussen with Catherine Stangland, and Ernesto Cerrillo present. Lloyd Caton arrived later. Superintendent Paul Turner and secretary Janet Glanzer were present. Administrators present were Jeff Hardesty, Jay Tyus, and Jeremy Clark. Also present were Brent Baker, Kristin Williams, Jennifer Steinshouer, Carol Lanigan, Chelsea Freeman, Annie Wilkison, Deanne Thornton, Jim Bretz, Janet Bretz, Ann Cook, Julie Evan, Julie Alley, Jackie Gliddon, Trevor Terris, Robert Harris, Penny Harris, Anne Johnson, Larry Johnson, Montie Smith, Rob Inlow, Scott Olson, Christine Olson, Glen Grove, Martha Wisdom, Erika Mendez, Jose Antonio, Joshua Thayer, Enrique Rivera, Patti Hill, George Hill, Bacilisa Rivera, and Mark McMillan.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND

The following comments were made by members of the community regarding the Capital Improvements Bond, which failed in the February 11, 2014 election. ALE refers to Alternative Learning Experience.

Jennifer Steinshouer:

- The purpose of schools is to help children to grow to their greatest potential. Schools have only 13 years to set students up for the rest of their lives;
- Infrastructure is infrastructure: programs are programs. The bond is about infrastructure, not programs, though the alternative programs pay for themselves;
- Students left the mainstream school for a reason, and placing them in connecting buildings does not work. Students don't feel safe.

Carol Lanigan:

- There is a significant need for a new building (ALE building);
- The alternative programs bring students that wouldn't otherwise be in the district;
- The alternative programs allow the district to serve ALL students.

Montie Smith:

- The most important factor affecting student learning is 'time on task';
- The learning environment also affects student learning;
- We have not always provided a safe, positive learning environment for all students, and the alternative programs assist in correcting this failure. This facility (ALE building) MUST be included in the bond.
- Students in better facilities score better on tests;
- TSD should match the national median for square/footage per student (ES 122sf/student, MS 144sf/student, HS 154sf/student)
- Regarding career education, we need to focus on achievable living wage careers. Facilities for STEM education will help accomplish this (as opposed to a liberal arts education).

Chelsea Freeman:

- The ALE staff are in support of running the bond in August rather than April so as to give them more time to share the purpose and value of their programs;
- They serve the individual needs of some 75 students, and need a new building in which to continue to do so.

Bacilisa Rivera (representing the Hispanic Community)

- We need the bond to pass so that the children have the classrooms they need;
- She offers, in the name of the Hispanic community, help to find solutions.

Glen Grove:

- Didn't believe he had adequate knowledge of what he was voting for, despite generally good understanding of issues, and friends and his wife who are all employees of the school;
- Believes many others also did not know what they were voting for, and lacked "buy-in."

Rob Inlow:

- Took a tour of the facilities and noted several problems and offered suggestions:
 - o Drainage problem on the track
 - o Blind corners at proposed site of elementary classrooms, water main – put at end of gym instead, and make outside access for bathrooms instead of building new ones for athletic facilities;
 - o MS gym is too small – increase size and put ALE building outside of it, minimizing heating and water systems;
 - o Don't buy new portables, which aren't cost effective;
 - o Use basement rooms for ALE.

Martha Wisdom:

- Many Hispanics are unable to vote, but offer work and volunteer hours.

Jim Bretz:

- Cost of ALE building is too much;
- Explore possibility of getting state assistance in replacing ALE building;
- We've been told the roofs are in good shape, but there are leaks in the MS gym –be honest;
- Could we do this in ways less burdensome to taxpayers – smaller projects over longer period of time?

Annie Johnson:


- Parent of outreach student – finds the program to be wonderful;
- Finds the ALE building to be a very sad building.

Larry Johnson:

- Former student of an ALE program, now works in IT in the Omak School District;
- Students who are not successful in the mainstream school need opportunities to succeed and get them in ALE programs and can then go on to become productive citizens.

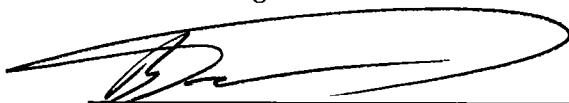
ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the bond hearing meeting at 7:50 p.m.



Janet Glanzer
Assistant Secretary

The minutes of the February 24, 2014 bond hearing (1 page) were approved at the March 10, 2014 board meeting.



Secretary to the Board



Chair of the Board