



Bettendorf
Community
School District

School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)

September 18, 2018

4:30 – 6:00 pm

MINUTES

Attending

Paige Anderson
Ronna Braaten
Dallon Christensen
Shelia Conrad
Heather Dohrn
Jillian Dotson
Anna Dyer

Kitka Galvin
Scott Gehler
Gary Goins
Kerensa Good-Bloyd
Sara Husser
Jonathan Ikoba
Kay Ingham

Keith Kimball
Lana LaSalle
Melissa Laufenberg
Richard Lynch
Debbie Miller
Celeste Miller
Katie Moeller

Mike Raso
Jessica Roisen
Katie Selden
Michelle Tabares
Mary Wendel
Teresa Wischmann
Karla Zweifel

Presenters

Mike Raso – Superintendent
Dallon Christensen - Dir. Finance

DISTRICT UPDATE

Superintendent Mike Raso gave the group an update on the district including the new Grant Wood Elementary building that opened with the start of the school year and the construction of a new school at Mark Twain Elementary.

The purchase of a house adjacent to the Mark Twain property is allowing for \$1.2M in saving for the construction of the new school. The school will not be able to be completed for an opening at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. Anticipated completion is November 2019. They are exploring option for the transition of Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson students and staff into the new facility.

PRESENTATION

GO Bond for District Facilities

Learn about the district's upcoming general obligation bond for BCSD facility additions and improvements.

Superintendent Mike Raso and Finance Director Dallon Christensen shared information about the upcoming General Obligation (G.O.) Bond and projects. They discussed the different aspects of the bond and its impact on property taxes with the committee.

The district has identified \$60-\$70M in facility projects based on a profession review of building needs and a prioritized list of future ready classroom and facility requests. There are not enough PPEL (Physical Plant & Equipment Levy) and sales tax funds to cover projects and have a reserve for emergency projects that could come up.

The board and administrators have identified which projects would be paid for by sales tax or a potential G.O. Bond. IE. a new Edison Academy located on the Middle School property on Spruce Hills is slated to be paid through sales tax. If bond does not pass the district will need to prioritize and modify list.

The district surveyed 301 voters about their potential support of a G.O. Bond and received a favorable response to the potential, with more than 67% of those surveyed not having students in the district. The district needs 626 district eligible voters, 25% of people who voted in last election, to sign the district's petition in order to take the bond to a community vote. Hoping to get by Oct. 1 board meeting

Bond Question

Shall the Board of Directors of the Bettendorf Community School District in the County of Scott, State of Iowa, be authorized to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000 to provide funds to renovate, remodel, improve, furnish and equip the existing High School and Middle School buildings, including security and safety improvements, STEM classroom improvements, athletic facility improvements, and to improve those sites; to renovate, remodel, improve, furnish and equip the existing Herbert Hoover Elementary School, Neil Armstrong Elementary School and Paul Norton Elementary School buildings, including security improvements and 21st Century Classroom upgrades, and to improve those sites?

The district is in very sound financial shape and has been very prudent with spending. Looking at historical record the district hasn't bonded for facility projects. Currently, we have \$20M in deferred maintenance that needs to be addressed. This G.O. Bond is the most fiscally responsible way to address our needs.

The maximum tax to property owners would be \$1.55 per taxable valuation. Taxable valuation is a little more than half of a properties assessed value. The district also has mechanisms to reduce the tax amount through other fund. The district would work to reduce tax rate to keep property owners from being assessed the full \$1.55.

QUESTIONS

- **What is the purpose of the SIAC committee?** SIAC is a group appointed by the board and made up of members representing students, parents, teachers, administrators, and representatives from the local community. Its purpose is to enhance the relationship between the school and the community and provides an avenue to get information and identify educational concerns from a different perspective. The committee helps assess district needs and makes recommendations to the school board on major educational needs and district initiatives including student achievement.
- **How would the district pay for the principal and interest related to any debt incurred?** The debt service fund is the only fund under Iowa school finance where principal and interest related to debt can be paid. The debt service fund acts like a sinking fund for a homeowner who is paying a mortgage and wants to have a specific account used to pay for the mortgage.
- **Who determined the costs and what is the contingency?** The costs are estimates provided by Legat Architects, who working with other contractors, in developing our facilities assessments and identified future-ready projects. The estimates have a 10% contingency built in as well as soft costs.
- **If the district didn't adjust levies and GO Bond passed what would that be?** The district will not be able to calculate the full impact of any tax levy increases until the certified budgeting process begins in early 2019. The maximum estimated levy increase related to a \$30M general obligation bond is \$1.55 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. The district does have the ability to adjust several levy rates to minimize the overall tax rate impact to citizens. For example, the management fund levy is a property tax levy amount that the board of education can increase and decrease at its discretion. The 2017-2018 management fund levy rate was \$1.37 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. The district's management fund balance at the end of fiscal 2017-2018 was \$5.9M, so the district has several years worth of expenses such as early retirement payments and insurance premiums in the management fund.
- **What happens if the bond doesn't pass?** If the G.O. Bond does not pass, the district will have to review the projects and determine which priority items will be complete through the funds we have. The state

legislature was considering passing sales tax 2029, hoping they will extend the tax to 2049. We could then use those funds to fund future projects.

- **Can you bring the G.O. bond back for another vote?** If doesn't pass, the district could bring it back for another vote in 6 months.
- **Which high school departments would be modernized?**
 - Business, Family & Consumer Sciences Classrooms would be remodeled
 - The flooring, ceilings and lights in Band and Vocal Music Classrooms would be updated
 - Science, Math, Language Arts, and World Language classrooms would have carpet replacements
- **How would enrollment affect GO Bond? How enrollment impact tax revenue?** Enrollment is fairly stable in the district, some slight increases and decreases, and projected to remain stable. The district is #2 in state for net open enrollment in, and is projected to remain pretty much the same over time.
- **Has there been any discussion about adding money to teacher base?** Union contracts end next year. The district will still need to be competitive. The district is looking at insurance premiums, which could potentially allow more money to be added to teacher base salaries.
- **Will local companies be working on the projects?** The district has a responsibility to go to lowest responsible bidder. The district has a number of local companies working on current project.

COMMENTS

- High school conferences would be an opportunity to get bond petition signatures.
- Have walk-throughs of the buildings to see the needs.
- Develop a virtual tour of the areas that need improvements.
- Have students lead the conversations about the needs. Video vignettes.
- Develop a detailed budget with costs by year.

NEXT MEETINGS

**Tuesday,
Jan. 15** **District Strategic Plan**
Help review the district's strategic plan for future planning.

**Tuesday,
April 16** **Student Achievement**
Be part of the discussion about the district Iowa Assessment results, learn about the variety of assessments used by the district as well as how the assessment results are used to help improve the success of students.