

Harrah Schools
Long Range Planning Committee
Monday, November 18, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Meeting started promptly at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Blessington and he introduced the chairperson of the committee, Mr. Art Bode. Committee members introduced themselves and their relationship to Harrah Schools and/or the community. Mr. Art Bode then discussed the purpose and plan of the committee which in summary is:

- Committee consists of a diverse group of individuals from community residents, school employees, city officials, business leaders, parent volunteers and business owners.
- It is important that the committee be transparent and diligently shares information so that the members can be trusted by the residents of Harrah Schools.
- The committee will be led by a chairperson so that he can be a facilitator of the meetings and ultimately present the committee's recommendations to the school board.
- All agendas and minutes of the Long Range Planning Committee will be made public through the District website.
- Public comments will be allowed at the meetings. These comments will hold a three minute time limit for each participant. The public may also leave comments on the District website.

The committee discussed focusing on evaluating the pros and cons of the community regarding the failure of the last two bonds.

At the present time, the committee's purpose is a 3-5 year bond issue for less money and focus on immediate needs.

The committee agreed to meet one time per week until the resolution filing in January. The committee will meet on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. location to be determined every week. **Next meeting will be November 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the administration building.**

Ground rules were set for the Long Range Committee. All conduct should be professional in manner and not personal. Committee needs to focus on facilities and needs and not people.

Public input will be allowed at all Long Range Committee (LRC) meetings. A participant may speak at the beginning and at the end if needed, for a time limit of up to three minutes. There is to be no dialogue between members and participants, it will be just about gather information.

The agenda for the next meeting will be discussed and decided upon by the committee at the current meeting.

Any emails and/or comments made to committee members will be brought to the next scheduled meeting so that all members can review and discuss.

Ron Fisher from Steven McDonald & Associates was present to discuss types of bond issues and the laws regarding bonds. There are two broad categories of bonds: Transportation and building bonds. Transportation bonds can be used to purchase school buses, activity buses, suburbans and vans. Building bonds can be used to purchase and/or fund new construction, building repairs, equipment, and improvements to school sites. Equipment can include textbooks, software licenses, uniforms, but these items can't be included in a bond that exceeds five years. Bonds cannot pay teacher salaries and insurance. Ron brought several handout concerning millage election dates, and future bond scenarios. These handouts are attached.

There was much discussion with Ron concerning types of bonds and the financing of these bonds to clarify tax increases and repayment of bonds. He explained that the former two bonds were lease/revenue bonds. These types of bonds are more volatile and are a riskier type bond; therefore these types of bonds have a higher interest rate.

The committee discussed about the detractors and positive aspects of the last two bonds.

Detractors

Confusion about tax increase
Misinformation in general
Textbooks/educ. Materials
Distrust of Board due to past bond issue spending
Plan for vacancy of buildings
No fine arts

Positives

Passion from community
Construction mgmt. comp with line items & guarantee
Roofs/walls/floors & Technology
Town hall meetings
Inception of open long range meetings
Meet with organizations, clubs, etc.

Committee discussed and accepted the April 1, 2014 election date. The date to file the resolution is January 30, 2014 so the LRC will make a proposal to the Board at the January 13, 2014 board meeting.

Public statements were taken from Joe Zawisza and Garry Jewell.

Joe Zawisza said the LRC needs to find the greatest needs of the district and repair those needs. He also stated that he sat on the Board when the current high school addition, gym and pool were built in the 1970's and understands there are needs.

Garry Jewell asked about the roof repairs from the previous bond and the warranty that came with that repair. He also spoke about his concern about time and the long priority list.

LRC requested that principals ask the staff for a needs and wants list from their staff. Larry Fryar suggested that we get just needs at this time due to time constraints. After receiving the input from the staff sites the LRC will review those and schedule times to walk through buildings. New members asked to do a walk through.