

February 3, 2014
Long Range Planning Committee
6:00 p.m.
Administration Building, Conference Room
20670 Walker Street
Harrah, OK 73045

Art Bode called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Committee members present: Paul Blessington, Danny Boyle, Larry Fryar, Greg McIlvoy, Larry Sturgill, Art Bode, Pam Manek, Debbie Myers, April Halferty and Kenneth Riddle

Guests Present: Deke Patterson

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 27, 2014 meeting. Mr. Boyle made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Larry Fryar. Minutes were approved.

Art Bode provided a PowerPoint presentation to the members that would be used as the framework and starting point for bond presentations to the public.

The committee reviewed the presentation and had the following changes/comments: On the Education slide – add an additional bullet “Training for Teachers”; take out the word “every” on the line that reads multimedia technology for classrooms.

Debbie Myers presented some additional questions that patrons have asked her.

1. When will we be able to pass another big bond?
2. Who will oversee the spending of the bond money? And who is accountable?

The school can pass another bond issue after some other bonds are paid off and there is time to allow the board and committee to develop a plan for a large bond.

On the question of overseeing and accountability – The school board and superintendent will do both. Mr. Blessington stated that all projects will be open for bid for the public to view and make sure money is being spent appropriately. Mr. Blessington is responsible for overseeing where the money is spent. Danny Boyle wanted clarification on how to market the fire safety portion of the bond. The bond will take care of needed fire safety maintenance at all sites.

Pam Manek shared that patrons have asked her about storm shelters in the bond issue.

The committee will address by stating that each site has a safety plan in place. The committee had many suggestions for where to spend bond money but had to make a priority list and meet the best needs with the money that is available.

April Halferty asked for clarification on the question on why the committee presented to the board to ask for a smaller bond. – there are 2 reasons; time constraints to have election in early 2014 the committee came to a consensus to go with a smaller bond to make certain we could complete certain projects and help build trust between the community and the school board.

Much discussion about how to market to those patrons that don't have children in school any longer and some reasons are: better schools mean better proper values, helps community pride, helps city, control the surrounding of where you live, better schools brings in better families with school age children.

Greg McIlvoy suggests that we point out on ads to have a bullet point "Healthier schools means a healthier community."

There was some discussion on technology at the sites. Elementary schools need network infrastructure but they have newer computers due to federal grants. Secondary sites need more technology. Passing this bond issue and improving technology would make us competitive with surrounding schools.

This community can take control of their students' education with technology improvements.

There was much discussion on the need to keep things simple when talking to community about technology needs and where this technology will be placed.

Larry Sturgill added that he had one question from public – "Why aren't we funding textbooks?" especially math books so parents can help with homework. Survey from teachers stated that technology was the priority. The committee was faced with choosing priorities and the survey stated that technology was the most important.

Ron Fisher sent email with a timeline of dates for a marketing plan. It was decided that committee members would call or email Lovette with the civic organization or booster club meeting date that they would present the bond issue. We will have two call nights, March 27th and March 31st. Contact would be made with Choctaw Times to place an article about the bond issue. Danny Boyle will prepare the information that will be on

flyers so that it can be sent to Ron Fisher for materials to be printed by him. Lovette will build a LRC calendar of meetings that members will present.

Community meetings will be held on March 3rd and March 24th at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Public input:

Deke Patterson suggested to the mayor for City Council to support bond with a resolution. This would show which council members support the school district. This would also allow for a banner to be placed at city hall and flyers to be distributed in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.