

**LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD/COMMUNITY LINKAGE MEETING**

Minutes
Tuesday, November 8, 2016
7:00 p.m.
High School Commons

Present: Superintendent, Dave Holmes and board members Cris Yaw, Wendy Chord, Bob Taylor, Todd Jones and Eric Lindberg

Various community members present
Minutes taken by: Tammy Lichliter

The Board/Community Linkage Meeting is intended as an open forum for the community.

Running a bond for new school:

One community member asked for some information regarding the bond. Mr. Holmes explained that the district will run the bond in November 2017. The process for receiving state matching funds must be done by June 30th of the prior year. If we pass the bond in November 2017, the timeframe for opening a new school would be in September of 2020.

The current property the school owns is on Bolen Road. The property has both advantages and disadvantages. The school district currently owns this property which would not require more funding for land. The property can be annexed into the city limits and it is suitable for an elementary school, as elementary schools have a much smaller footprint than middle or high schools. The disadvantages are that it is sloping property near wetlands and it currently does not have utilities. The use of this property is being weighed, we need input from the community.

One community member is against building at the Bolen Road property. There are no sidewalks or bike lanes in that area, it is above wetlands and DNR property and they don't believe it is big enough for necessary fields and parking associated with a school.

Another community member would like to keep the schools linear and not divide classes. The consensus of the board is to keep grade level students together.

The school board has considered looking into possible locations closer to current school district buildings. It is dependent upon lot size, cost, location and availability. The board will consider what type of school to build and what property will be the best fit. There must also be enough community support for a bond.

Funding for Cispus Outdoor School was in question this year. Warren Westerberg was not sure if there would be a shortage of funding from the Casino Charitable Fund. The fund did come through this year, but Mr. Westerberg would like to see a contingency plan if future funding plans fall through.

Another community member mentioned that the lunch program is exceedingly better. She also mentioned that there is little information for parents regarding the HiCap program. What is the school doing for HiCap students? She mentioned the strings program is a great addition and thanked Mr. Holmes and Ms. Patton for adding that program. Lastly, the WatchDog program has disappeared from the elementary school since last school year. The program was a huge success in previous years as the kids really look forward to having WatchDogs on campus. The program should not be left behind.

Lastly, a parent stated his concern that the high school does not offer a physics class. Ms. Patton stated that the high school did offer a physics class and in its first year, the class went very well. The next year only 2 or 3 students were interested. It is not feasible to have a class with just a few students. Some classes are offered every other year for students for this reason.

Mrs. Yaw added that there are challenges the district will try to resolve. If anyone has additional comments or suggestions, the board's email addresses are on the district website. You are also welcome to talk in-person with board members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board Chair

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member