Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m., with the flag salute.

Mr. Jones explained that this meeting was held to discuss the February 8 levy failure and its impact to the district. Mr. Jones handed the floor over to Mr. Rosenkranz to give an overview of the impacts which included a slideshow presentation at which Mr. Jones explained could create some questions from the audience.

The presentation included information on the amount of funding that the district would not receive because of the levy failure, which programs, and numbers of staff that would be cut and the impacts to students.

There were a few questions and comments from the audience. One question was who makes the rules on funding schools and does the district legislate on behalf of our students? Mr. Rosenkranz explained that OSPI, the legislature and the governor determine funding formulas used to provide funding to schools. He added that he contacts the superintendent of public instruction quite often regarding mandates and other education concerns. Another question that came up was the Bolen Road property. Would the district be selling that to help with the levy shortfall? If the district were to sell the Bolen Road property, those proceeds would have to be used to pay for buildings/bond and could not be used for levy funding. The board has looked into selling the property and haven’t made a decision on selling the property as future growth to the city may determine the need for a future school building.
Another question raised was why the district would consider running the levy again in August of the same year when it has already failed? The district needs to run the levy again in the same year because if it were to pass, then the programs and staff that would be cut could be backfilled since the funding would be able to be collected. This is a replacement levy, not a new one. If the district were to wait to run the levy, levy funds would not be able to be collected until the following year, leaving a 1 year time frame without the possibility of collecting levy funds leaving a budget shortfall and cuts to programs, athletic and staff.

Another comment was made that the district should highlight what the levy funds are used for. The levy funds pay for smaller class sizes, reading support, athletics and extracurricular activities, professional development for staff, technology and increasing utility costs and contracts for services from ESD112.

The board and Mr. Rosenkranz encouraged everyone to sign up for the levy committee or take flyers to get information out to the community. It is important to share the good things that the district is doing to support the children of our community. The district will continue to work on getting information out to the community through social media, the website and flyers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

As this was a workshop of the board, no action was taken.