



Bond Oversight Committee Meeting Notes April 19, 2021; 5:30-7:30 pm

The meeting was held online due to COVID-19. All committee members were provided with a link to participate in the meeting via “Go-To”.

x	Rich Arnold, Committee member	x	Ryan Noss, Superintendent
x	Amy Crump, Committee member	x	Kim Patten, Director of Facilities & Transportation, Oversight Committee Staff Liaison
x	Brad Hamlin, Chair	x	Olivia Meyers Buch, Director of Finance & Operations
x	Jennifer Richmond, Committee member	x	Brenda Downum, Communications Coordinator
x	Emily Barton, Committee member	x	Dale Kuykendall, Wenaha Group
x	Emily Valdez, Committee member		Dave Fishel, Wenaha Group
x	Gordon Zimmerman, Committee member	x	Julie Haymart, Wenaha Group
x	Jay Conroy, School Board Liaison		

1. Welcome

Kim welcomed committee members and reminded everyone of digital meeting norms. Give time for everyone to be heard. If needed, feel free to use the chat for any questions.

Member updates and community contacts:

Committee members are welcome to contact district staff at any time if they receive a question about the bond program that they can’t answer. There is no need to wait until the next BOC meeting. Committee members are welcome to contact the Superintendent’s office, Kim Patten, or Dale Kuykendall.

2. Equity Principles Embedded in the Bond Program

Kim Patten and BOC member Emily Barton provided an overview of the district’s equity work and how it is embedded in the bond program. A primary tool used in the design process for school projects is the use of “Equity Look Fors.” This tool was developed with input from the District Equity Leadership Team Advisory, of which Emily is a member. The tool provides meeting leaders with different ways of engaging groups and committees to make certain that all voices are heard and that multiple perspectives are influencing the outcome. This inclusive practice honors lived experience as well as formal education and knowledge. It also creates a meeting space that is safe, where committee members can speak and share their thoughts and ideas openly.

- [Powerpoint presentation](#)

3. Charter Review

The committee spent most of the meeting reviewing the [original charter](#) of the Bond Oversight Committee, drafted in 2018. Kim Patten facilitated discussion and noted where members have questions or concerns.

Comments on Goals and Objectives and Success Indicators

- Bond promise tracking was easier to follow in the beginning of the bond program, it is harder to follow now.
- Bond promise updates are shared after decisions have already been made by the Bond Management Team.

- Financial reports reflect decisions already made. Audited financial reports are not provided to the committee. It was noted that the district has comprehensive financial audit annually but does not have third-party audits for monthly reports.
- Advisory role is not possible unless we meet more often and have more detail about the decisions. A clearer charge is needed or the committee should have more involvement. A charter revision may need to be considered.
- Committee members would like more information in order to be able to answer questions about bond spending, equity, and value engineering.
- Committee members aren't expected to have all of the answers and can be a resource to pose questions to the right people in the bond program.
- Financial report format is great. Timelines are helpful.
- Touring the bond projects is a highlight of serving on the committee.

Comments on Scope

- Want more information about the decision-making process. Financial reports are at the 25,000 foot level. Committee members don't know if the district is overpaying or not.
- Bond Leadership team makes the decisions related to reallocation of costs or scope decisions. Committee members are notified after the decisions are made.

Comments on Procedures and Process

- Want an opportunity to give feedback before decisions are made. Recommendations are made by Bond Leadership and come to the committee afterwards.
- Board bond reports are going out to the community before the Bond Oversight Committee has seen them.

Superintendent Noss will meet with staff to address these concerns. He summarized the major themes he heard:

- Quarterly meetings may not be adequate in this phase of the bond program. A lot of decisions are made each week and in many cases, the committee is not able to ask questions until after the fact.
- Clarity is needed on the committee's role. The BOC is a monitoring body, not advisory. Financial reporting is shared as part of the report to the school board, the BOC receives a copy of this report.
- Committee members feel that more detail is needed in financial reports and for greater transparency. There is concern that BOC members don't have the answer to a community questions.

4. Project Updates – April board report reviewed at the end of the meeting

5. Financial Update - included in the April board report

6. Annual Report

Staff will provide the data for the annual report and the narrative and an addendum will be developed by committee members.

Chair Hamlin will work with committee members to finalize their part of the final report.

7. Communications

District staff would like to be kept informed of questions from the community so they can be addressed. Questions may be directed to Senior Project Manager Dale Kuykendall or any staff member of the Bond Leadership Team—Ryan Noss, Olivia Meyers Buch, Kim Patten, or Brenda Downum.

Emily Barton suggested equity training for members of the BOC to continue to improve the collaborative decision-making process.

8. Committee Business

The group agreed to meet on May 17, 2021 to finalize the annual report. The next quarterly meeting will be held July 19, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

Notes compiled by Julie Heymart and Brenda Downum