



Bond Oversight Committee Meeting Notes
November 15, 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 Zoom.

x	Rich Arnold, Committee member	x	Terese Jones, School Board Liaison
	Amy Crump, Committee member	x	Ryan Noss, Superintendent
x	Brad Hamlin, Committee member	x	Kim Patten, Director of Facilities & Transportation
x	Jennifer Richmond, Chair		Olivia Meyers Buch, Director of Finance & Operations
x	Erin Martin, Committee member	x	Brenda Downum, Communications Consultant
x	Emily Valdez, Committee member		Dale Kuykendall, Wenaha Group
x	Gordon Zimmerman, Committee member	x	Dave Fishel, Wenaha Group

1. Welcome and Member Updates/Community Feedback

Chair Richmond reminded committee members of the importance of regular attendance and acknowledged the monthly meeting schedule is requiring greater engagement from members. Staff recommended changing the December 20 meeting date due to the conflict with Winter Break on the District calendar.

Chair Richmond reported that she attended the informational meeting at Kathryn Jones Harrison Elementary and that attendance was very strong and families were very excited to receive updates on what’s happening at the school. Superintendent Noss reported that he has met with a community member who had suggestions for more information that will be added to the Bond FAQs on the web. The District is committed to providing transparency and frequent updates for the bond program.

2. Local Option Levy

The District will be requesting a renewal of the current Local Option Levy next May and information about what is funded through the levy will be shared in January or February. Kim Patten highlighted that Bonds are for facilities repairs and improvements and a local option levy is used to fund staff and programs. Members are interested in learning more about what the local option levy funds when information is available this winter.

3. Financial Update

The District is reaching an important milestone in the bond program with all remaining projects in the bid process. Kim Patten reminded the committee that the District’s Bond Leadership team meets every week to evaluate the financials and project scope. As of September 30, 2021, the unallocated program reserves are \$4.5 million and District leadership has been closely tracking this figure. During the bid process, the team takes a close look if bids come in high, and examine what can be scaled back that will still meet the bond promise and won’t negatively impact students and programs. After a thorough analysis and the need for additional funds has been identified, an allocation request is presented to the school board for approval.

Bid amendments have been received for the remaining Adams and Cheldelin projects. Since both projects had a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) awarded earlier this year, these are amendments for the completion of the two projects. While those numbers are not finalized, \$500,000 is anticipated to be needed from bond reserves for these two projects due to cost increases.

The last estimate for Adams Elementary is one year old and the project was not scaled back due to an already streamlined scope that is similar to Kathryn Jones Harrison Elementary and Letitia Carson Elementary School projects. At Cheldelin, remaining projects are seismic upgrades and the scope was scaled back based on structural engineer recommendations. Seismic will focus on areas of highest student use. These two GMP amendments will be presented to the school board for approval at their meeting on November 18.

The final three project bids—for Franklin K-8, Mt. View Elementary, and the Harding Center/College Hill will

be finalized soon. In all cases, cost estimates are current and include market impacts including Covid-19 disruptions, supply chain challenges, and labor shortages. Our team is preparing to receive the bids and recommend scope changes and/or an allocation of bond reserves in the coming weeks.

Bids for Franklin were due last week and the Mt. View bids are due the first week of December. While the team will be taking a closer look, the Franklin bid is currently \$300,000 over budget with the total construction budget for Franklin at \$9.15 million.

The team will dig in to the project bids before making a recommendation to the board for allocating reserves. Dates for those requests for approval are December 16 for Franklin and Mt. View and January 6, 2022 for Harding Center/College Hill. District leaders are cautiously optimistic that remaining bids will come in close to current budget estimates.

4. Project Updates

Kim Patten highlighted the two similar projects—Letitia Carson Elementary and Kathryn Jones Elementary— where construction teams are working after school hours to minimize the impact on school operations. At Letitia Carson Elementary (formerly Wildcat), the construction team is working with police to address vandalism that took place over the weekend. Security will be increased and our contractor will be installing cameras to prevent further vandalism.

At Kathryn Jones Harrison Elementary (formerly Jaguar), the new boiler is now operational. This school is home to the District's LifeSkills Program as well as busy with general education programs. In order to limit the impact on students, alternate spaces are being opened to minimize disruption and allow for daytime construction to take place.

Bessie Coleman Elementary (formerly Husky) is nearing occupancy and the project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2022. Furniture will be set up during Winter Break and teachers will spend December 17 packing and preparing boxes for the move. Students will return after Winter Break to the new school building. The mid-year move from the current building to the new building is a significant undertaking and staff will be supported with additional non-student days before and after winter break to pack up classrooms and move in and set up in the new building. As anticipated, the new furniture is delayed due to supply chain issue and will not arrive in December. The facilities team has a back-up plan to use old furniture, that has been kept for this purpose.

Communications

The District has developed a strategic communications plan that was shared with committee members. Key elements of the plan include refreshed information on the Bond FAQ page and four highlight stories that will be published from December through May. Additionally, tours of Lincoln, Garfield, and Bessie Coleman will be hosted for school families, school neighbors, and the community. Publicity will start soon.

Tours will be small group and sign up will be required. Masks and social distancing will also be required.

Lincoln- December 8, 6:30 – 8 pm

Garfield – January 26, 6:30 – 8 pm

Key Messages

- The District's Bond Leadership team meets weekly to closely monitor the bond program, financials, and project scope to make sure that all projects are completed and bond promises are kept.
- The District is in the final stretch for bids on remaining projects. There is currently \$4.5 million in unallocated reserves and the bond team is carefully reviewing the final bids and stretching every dollar to ensure projects are completed.
- Bessie Coleman Elementary is on track for the new building to open for occupancy immediately following Winter Break with completion scheduled for the spring. A mid-year move is a huge undertaking and staff will be supported with additional non-student days before and after Winter Break for packing and unpacking.

5. **Committee Business**

Committee members decided by consensus to cancel the December meeting. Updates about forthcoming bids that are shared with the school board will also be shared with committee members.

The next scheduled meeting is January 17. Due to the conflict with the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday committee members agreed to rescheduled from January 17 to January 18.

Additionally, the February 21 meeting will shift to Tuesday, February 22 due to the conflict with the Presidents Day holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Notes compiled by Brenda Downum