



Board Briefs

Springfield Public Schools Board Meeting

August 11, 2008

Strategic Goals Accomplishments

Tom Lindly explained progress made in accomplishing Technology Services Department strategic goals, such as 1) deploying instructional technology within the District, 2) providing technical and staff support for the facilities bond projects, 3) user-driven applications projects, and 4) expanding and updating the District's technology infrastructure.

Jeff DeFranco, director of Communications and Facilities, discussed Community Relations strategic goals and accomplishments for the past school year. He reported considerable progress on all goals, including the ongoing information campaign about school bond projects progress and the development of new schools; a review of the substantial grant funds received; the ongoing move of Web site management to Schoolwires, along with content transfer and update; and work with Bond Basics projects and the A³ facility expansion.

New Schools Construction Update

Jeff DeFranco presented the Milstead & Associates monthly report of Maple and Thurston Elementary Schools construction progress, along with site construction slides.

Design Status. 1) City development fees costing less than anticipated, coupled with some use of contingency funds, allowed resources to exercise the addition of a covered play area at both Maple and Thurston elementary schools. The play area had been a primary goal in the school design, and district staff are pleased to make it happen for the schools and for the community. 2) The contractor informed staff of the need for an alternate approach to create accent patterns for some of the concrete walls. With staff approval, this change was implemented and resulted in a net credit of \$9,673 at TES and \$8,917 at Maple. 3) The District has received approval, in principle, to use the existing design team and project manager for the TES bike shelter, which is funded through an ODOT grant. Details are being developed.

Construction Update. Overall the two buildings are on schedule (with Maple about one week ahead of TES, allowing for the movement of subcontractors from one site to the other).

Approval of Revised Student Responsibilities & Rights Handbook

The Board approved the 2008 revised Student Responsibilities and Rights Handbook. These revisions included a change in language regarding discrimination and harassment and the addition of new district contact information. With Board approval, the Handbook contents become District policy under Oregon Board of Education Policy JF and JFA. The changes have also been reviewed and approved by the District's legal counsel.

At the beginning of each year, on an age-appropriate basis, staff members review the contents of the Student Responsibilities and Rights Handbook with all students. In addition, the Handbook is mailed to each student's home in the fall.

Following the mailing, any new students will receive a copy of the Handbook upon registration at school.

Alignment of Boundaries

The matter of the Springfield Public Schools' current boundaries being inconsistent with the address boundaries for Springfield residents, most notably in the Gateway area, was discussed.

Dan Egan, Springfield Chamber; Bob Linahan, SUB; Bob Keefer, Willamalane; and Jeff Towery, City of Springfield, spoke in support of the district pursuing realigning school boundaries to ensure those students living inside the Springfield city limits attend Springfield Public Schools.

Superintendent Nancy Golden reviewed and discussed with the Board some background about District boundary inconsistencies. She introduced Dwight Purdy, of Thorp, Purdy, Jewett, Urness and Wilkinson, P.C., who presented a memorandum of options regarding boundary inconsistencies, which included possible legislative options.

A summary of recent district conversations with 4J school district Superintendent George Russell explained the Eugene school district's concerns regarding realigning boundaries. Eugene 4J has seen a declining enrollment, losing approximately 2,000 students in the last 10 years, and is projected to lose another 300. The possibility of Eugene 4J relinquishing students at a time of declining enrollment was cause for concern.

The Board requested that the District pursue a cost determination for pursuing boundary realignment, provide the Board with further information to more clearly articulate the issues, and generate a proposal to solve the boundary inconsistency issues.

Next Board Meeting:
Sept. 8, 2008, at 7 p.m.