



School Board SPECIAL MEETING **MINUTES for Thursday, March 5, 2015** **Music Room (001), 6:00pm**

1. Call to order 6:03 pm by Ross Meisner

2. Roll Call

| Present | Board Members | Guests |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| x | Ross Meisner - President | Debra Lach – Ex-Officio Member |
| | Stacey Persons – Vice President | Marty Fisher – Realtor |
| x | Erin Nelson - Secretray | Holly Fischer – Facilities Comm |
| | Valerie Slaymaker | Mark Fischer – Facilities Comm |
| | Dale Lieb | Terry Moffatt – Facilities Comm |
| x | Matt Manning | Lee Swearingen - clerk |
| x | Nikki Brown | Stephanie Bacigalupo |
| x | Andy Wallschlaeger | |
| | Mike Cox | |

3. Adoption of Agenda and Addendums

1 minute

4. New Business – Discussion/Action items

- 4.1. School planning overview and CSP grant window Meisner/Lach 15 minutes
 Context and current situation.

RM - Facilities Committee is looking for short –term solution. **We qualify for CSP grant - 10 days (3/16/2015) letter of intent is due.** Board needs to decide if they will apply for grant (person, time expenses related to expansion), \$100K-\$225K per year for 3 years. The grant assists but is not required for expansion, but it does impose timelines and restrictions. This meeting is to decide if we will pursue the grant.

- 4.2. School facilities open discussion All 60 minutes
 Open discussion between board and facilities committee members.

General Discussion –

Marty Fischer provided history of the search for short-term facilities up until this point. Looked at handful of spaces in Ham Lake and Blaine including facilities near us, none worked well, none are short-term solutions. Way of the Shepherd (across 65) would be willing to sell, building to the north would be willing to lease. City of Blaine offered one location near Eagle Brook Church, but plans have changed and it may not be zoned for a school. Ham Lake was very open to us coming there, no good spaces have been found thus far.

TM – New news this evening: 22 acres have been set aside in Blaine specifically for a charter school.

Marty – Calvin Christian is also looking, but are currently looking to lease, not buy.

DL – Recommends committee consider the 22 acre site. DL will look at what other charter schools (Nova, etc) sit on and how they utilize it. We have 3 (July 1, 2018) years left on our current lease.

Marty -. First step, meet with city.

NB – heard rumor that Aldi was moving. Marty attempting to verify.

MF – This is a year or two process, 9 month to secure, year to secure, year to build. We still need to figure something to do for the next two years.

General Discussion –

We are here for two more FULL school years 2017/2018 is when our lease is up.

With a replication grant we can add students. We don't have room to expand programs here with K-8 (special ed, gifted and talented, science labs, etc.)

Marty - We could market this building for a sub tenant (another school?), we would be the landlord and collecting rents. Not sure if our lease allows this.

Two options for the next few years:

Stay here and do nothing until we can move.

Obtain extra space for two years and expand programs in preparation for growing the school.

Discussed options for obtaining other buildings in the area that would work temporarily to remove some space constraints while pursuing other options for replication. None work perfectly.

It would be best to move something more self-contained, such as storage, offices, art, Kindergarten, etc. Ideally we would need at least 4 more classrooms to improve programs (k, g&t, etc).

We need to consider lease aid and other financials. We will pursue some of the options we have explored with Marty.

4.3. CSP grant application All 15 minutes
Vote on CSP grant application plan.

DL – recommends replication because that does not forgo a high school option. To move towards high school we need to strengthen our 6-8 program. EN is willing to help write the letter of intent.

RM - Letter is due by the 16th, and must cover the when, how many kids, expansion/replication. Is this an expansion or a replication? Expansion requires 2 additional grades over original grant, Replication adds 50% more kids (210 kids) with additional sections you already have (replicate K-2 or K-4, etc).

DL – agrees with RM. Design the letter of intent as a replication. Application is due in April, should know by June.

NB – need to replicate before we expand, not enough teachers and kids

Erin Nelson made a motion to go ahead with the letter of intent for the Grant and make it a replication,

Discussion – DL will do homework with EN to determine what grades to replicate, etc. Board will review letter before deadline via email

Modify motion to add- **For grade and enrollment deemed optimal by staff by 4:30 on Monday 3/16**

Second as modified – Nikki Brown
Unanimous board approval

DL – Asking approval to complete the grant application rather than hire or have board write it. Board agreed. Board members will help by getting all personal board documents signed (confidentiality, assurances, etc). and respond quickly to any requests during the grant process. Grant review will be a quick turn-around.

5. Adjourn Meeting

Estimated end time:

7:30 pm

Motion to adjourn at 7:34 – Nikki Brown
Motion seconded – Andy Wallschlaeger
Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned 7:34 p.m.