

**Port Angeles School District
Capital Facilities Committee
October 23, 2014**

BACKGROUND

The Long-Range Facilities Task Force (LRFTF) appointed by the Board of Directors in January 2013 was charged with long-range planning for the Port Angeles School District's facilities, technology services, and educational support functions. The Task Force consisted of 65+ people from our schools and local community. It met throughout the year and evaluated economic and demographic projections that represent the anticipated enrollment capacity needed over the next five, ten and twenty years to properly serve the school community. Additionally, the Task Force evaluated the current physical condition and technological value of all school district properties.

With a large list of capital needs and limited funding, the LRFTF developed three guiding principles to help prioritize the needs and develop a plan:

1. All recommendations hold student success as the number one priority
2. Recommendations are responsive to the local community
3. All recommendations must meet the criteria of simplicity, fairness, transparency, and acceptability to as many community members as possible.

The Task Force made two recommendations for Board consideration and approval at the December 12, 2013 School Board meeting:

1. It recommended that the Board of Directors move forward with asking the voters in the Port Angeles School District to pass a bond up to the District's bonding capacity to build a new high school and begin implementation of recommendation two as follows.
2. In order to fully address the Task Force's charge, the second recommendation gives the Task Force more time to research the K-8 delivery models and infrastructure that effectively address the District's long term facilities, technology, and educational needs.

At the June 5, 2014 Board meeting, the Task Force recommended the potential opportunity to improve our instructional model through grade reconfiguration to one 9-12 high school, one 6-8 middle school and fewer PreK-5 elementary schools as timely. The reduction of current and future enrollment pressure at our elementary schools while enhancing instructional options for our 6th graders deserves significant consideration.

The Task Force's recommendations were adopted by the Board of Directors.

In March 2014, the Board of Directors selected McGranahan Architects for pre-bond planning services.

PROCESS

McGranahan Architects representatives – Chris Lilley and Michael McGavock - began meeting with a 15-member Capital Facilities Committee approved by the Board of Directors. (See Appendix A.)

The Committee and McGranahan Architects have spent approximately six months providing input, gathering community feedback, holding open houses, and working with design concepts.

- School District staff conducted a staff survey and received input about future Port Angeles High School facilities.
- McGranahan Architects hosted an initial two community forums to solicit general input.
- McGranahan Architects representative Chris Lilley conducted a high school site plan exercise high school staff, then advisory teachers led students through the same process the following week to gain input from staff and students about the new high school.
- Principal Jeff Clark led Stevens Middle School leadership students through a site plan exercise to gain input middle school students about the new high school.
- At a third community forum, Lilley reported on “top” feedback received through critical questions asked during previous forums, staff and student discussions; summarized overall observations from the site design exercises; and gave preliminary dollar figures for construction and bond amount.

Remodeling of the existing school was considered by the Committee, and would be preferable if the facility offered a realistic starting point. However, because it is structurally and mechanically aged, it would require massive updates to meet current seismic, ADA, fire safety, and numerous other safety codes. McGranahan representatives suggested this could reach 90% or more of the rebuilding cost and still would leave a high school with a shorter-lifespan facility spread out over more than a dozen buildings. In addition, this does not address how the future of education and teaching will evolve in the coming decades.

Original cost estimates ranged as high as approximately \$121 million, which included replacement of the Port Angeles High school gyms. However, the Committee felt strongly that the burden to taxpayers must be respected and minimized and tackling the entire project would use too much of the School District’s limited bonding capacity. While it makes sense to rebuild the gyms now - funding will never cost less and buildings will only cost more in the future - it is more important to be sensitive to the community’s needs and what its members are willing to support.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee made the difficult decision to not recommend major work on the Gym spaces with local bond dollars at this time.

The Committee advises if State assistance funds are available at the end of the project, a portion could be dedicated to cosmetic upgrades and/or used for other critical needs in the School District at the middle or elementary levels. Any decision regarding the use of potential state assistance funds would be made after hosting a community forum.

The Committee felt equally strong the current level of service and curriculum, including the Career and Technical Education Program capacity, should be maintained.

The Committee recommends to build for existing enrollment rather than for more; expansion can be designated should a future need arise. Square footage of the design concept is slightly larger

because the passages between buildings currently outdoors would become hallways indoors under a new consolidated building design. Classroom, staff and student space would remain essentially the same.

The Committee was firm that while an overhaul is necessary, the Performing Arts Center should stay in place with required upgrades to meet codes.

The Committee places an emphasis on the student commons and library as being available for public spaces, enhancing Performing Arts Center use by the community.

Based on the last two years of study and community input by the Long-Range Facilities Task Force and the Capital Facilities Committee, the Committee recommends the Port Angeles School District Board of Directors adopt the proposed Port Angeles High School reconstruction concept, and potential acceptance from School District residents to issue municipal bonds should not exceed \$98,750,000 and be sought in either 20 or 25 year terms.

APPENDIX A
Capital Facilities Committee – 2014

Steve Baxter, School Board President

Jarred Blauser, Director of Technology

Jeff Bohman, Community Member

Amity Butler, Principal at Franklin Elementary

Jeff Clark, Principal at Port Angeles High School

Nolan Duce, Director of Maintenance and Facilities

Stephanie Dudley, Senior Class President

Mike Frick, Former High School Teacher, CTE

Gerald Gabbard, Assistant Superintendent

Patti Happe, School Board Member

Marc Jackson, Superintendent

Ron Jones, Music Teacher

Steve Methner, Community Member

Kelly Pearson, Director of Finance and Operations

Tina Smith-O'Hara, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator

Mary Ann Unger, Former School Administrator