

## **Long-Range Facilities Task Force 2014**

### **Minutes Long-Range Facilities Task Force**

#### **Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

Meeting was held at the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center, April 29, 2014 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

#### **Members in Attendance:**

Jay Averill, Bernie Brabant, T. Scott Brandon, Barry Burnett, Amity Butler, Garry Cameron, Ron Craig, Kyle Cronk, Cindy Crumb, Nolan Duce, Ron Garcelon, Gary Gleason, Mark Hannah, Michelle Haworth, Ron Jones, Chuck Lisk, Tabatha Meadows, Steve Methner, Sheila Roark Miller, Joyce Mininger, Leslie Mraz, Stacey Nickerson, Michelle Olsen, Kelly Pearson, Gary Pringle, Jane Pryne, Karen Ross, Theresa Rothweiler, Tina Smith-O'Hara, Judy Thomas, and Mary Ann Unger

#### **Members Absent:**

Quint Boe, Bill Feeley, Mary Hebert, Dani LaBlond, Cheri LeFevre, Sue Lindley, Andrew May, Cara McGuire, Jerry Nichols, Bryon Olson, Steve Pazan, Laura Price, Stacey Sanders, Scott Soule, Catie Tesreau, Tracy Walker, Nathan West, Jane Wise, Darryl Wolfe, Jami Wood, and Steve Zenovic

#### **Welcome:**

Dr. Pryne opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending. Dr. Pryne announced that this will be our last meeting due to a District conflict for May 27<sup>th</sup> – Scholarship Night. Calendars are too full at this time to try and reschedule.

#### **Agenda:**

Dr. Pryne reviewed the agenda for the evening:

- Discuss Decision Making Analysis
- Vote on Plan
- Begin Drafting the Recommendation for Board Approval

#### **Suggested Option from March 25, 2014: Grade 7-12**

At the end of our meeting March 25, a possible alternative option was suggested. It was discussed that PASD is not going to have 7-12 campus at one site, and we were not buying additional property. In fact, we are trying to sell property.

#### **Decision Making Analysis**

Dr. Pryne reviewed the School Configuration Assessment that tallied the task force input from our last meeting. The *Priority Ranking for Needs, Wants and Must Haves* was summarized for both K-5 and K-6 Configuration. The ranking came in very close: K-5 total 61.1 vs K-6 total 57. (See attached.)

### Discussion of Pros/Cons for K-5 and K-6

Dr. Pryne opened the meeting for discussion of pros/cons for K-5 and K-6.

- K-5 Pro - It keeps the numbers @ 4 elementary reasonable – 450.
- Aligned with current philosophy and curriculum. Common Core Standards.
- This model has been used before.
- Question: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade student emotionally prepared? Model makes sense, but what about the emotional readiness of 12 year olds being with 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> graders? Response: Previously experience model: teachers prepare students – they might split up for math and science, but then come back to same classroom. They are usually separated from grade 7 and 8 for most of their day. This type of “preparing” should be part of the plan.
- Bonding Power? We need to get our recommendation before the Board, and the Pre-bonding group can make decisions.
- Problem spending money on high school/elementary schools when the current middle school is not in very good shape. Response: This will need to be part of the Pre-Bond Committee discussion – how much to spend for high school, middle school and elementary.
- Reminder: this needs to be part of the Bonding Committee’s *Charge*.
- What happens to the current facilities - could Roosevelt be an additional middle school? Response: No, we will only have one middle school.
- Wherever Grade 6 is – will class size be an issue? Response: No, and if all in one school, we can balance out the class sizes easier.
- Problems in scheduling. If you keep Grade 6 in the elementary school, scheduling results in treating them as middle school students but at an elementary level.
- Grade 6 at middle school opens up more activities for students.
- Potentially greater opportunities for academic growth and enrichment activity. Academic growth: highly capable, i.e. middle school model – students begin taking algebra classes sooner. Currently we have 6<sup>th</sup> graders ready to move on and with the middle school model; these students would have a greater opportunity to receive instruction from someone with expertise in a particular field and to better meet their needs.
- For the current administrator(s) present, which configuration would work better? Response: Supports either configuration. Configuration alone is not a hard sell. Include the building issues, could be a harder sell. Either configuration will work out well.
- Con: The K-5 configuration causes the 6<sup>th</sup> grader to grow up faster. Keeping them in separate wings won’t stop this. They see themselves different – they soon dress and act more grown up. There is definitely a change in mental attitude.
- Pro: Not a hard sell regarding academic and activity enhancements.
- K-6 Pro: would like to see the K-6 configuration so kids can stay younger a little bit longer.
- Space availability compromises us - the current configuration needs to change.
- Class Size – Currently there is a Bill before the House to mandate class sizes to 15 in some areas. Currently Hamilton is all but maxed out.
- Quality of what we want is compromised in the current configuration.
- No room to move grade 6 now – add portables at middle school. We are running out of elementary room now.
- The retired population here believes in a strong music program. The configuration plan needs to maintain this program rather than to minimize.
- We basically penalize the students if we stay with K-6, i.e. Band instruction time would be changed.

- We are going to out-grow our facilities in five years.
- Consideration: We are required to monitor the amount of time students stay in construction.
- Portables addressed: The portables available today are not a bad space. They are up to energy codes; provide heating and air conditioning, more controlled space. Portables cost less than new buildings. We can buy or lease for a number years. In fact, we could get enough to have 5 classes in one building. Configuration of the portable is up to us.
- How would we pay for the portables? The School Board would decide if we pay out of current operating dollars, or a different fund. Pre-Bond planning committee will decide on this.
- Security in Portables: It should be noted that security is not as good as being in a regular building.

Question: What is the Pre-Bond Committee reviewing? Dr. Pryne recapped that the Task Force brought to the Board last December a recommendation for the High School to be rebuilt first, and that secondly we would bring a configuration for K-8 by this June. The Pre-Bond Planning Committee will be discussing how much money to ask the community for to 1) build the new high school and whether to also include 2) money for middle school and elementary work.

Observation: Sequim District put out a bond request up to full capacity with a long list of wants. The bond request failed.

- Pro: Control over curriculum and free up elementary population.
- Control the list presented with Bond – K-5 – 3 Buildings and build new elementary.
- Mechanically this would work, but Jefferson recently voted on and will be a hard sell.
- Clarification, we don't need to recommend how many buildings – just the configuration.
- More resources will be available with K-5
- K-5 – makes with connections with students easier.

After discussion, the task force took a vote for the configuration we will recommend to the School Board: K-5 received 27 votes; K-6 received 2 votes.

Comments included with the K-5 Votes:

- 3 or 4 Schools
- 4 schools (elementary)
- 4 elementary – 1 middle school
- 4 schools
- Move Grade 6 more quickly
- 6-7-8 Middle
- Use “advanced” portables for Grades 6 or 8
- 3 – 4 K-5, 1 6-8, 1 9-12

Dr. Pryne then asked the full Task Force to break up into 6 small groups. The groups were given the assignment to write down the pros/cons for the K-5 configuration. This information will be used to draft the recommendation to the School Board.

Subcommittee to Draft Wording for Recommendation

The following individuals were appointed as a subcommittee to draft the wording for our recommendation to the School Board. This subcommittee will meet and send out the draft wording to the full task force. Dr. Pryne requested that everyone weigh-in on their recommendation immediately. This recommendation needs to be presented at the June 5 School Board meeting. Therefore, the recommendation needs to be finalized and posted on BoardDocs by Friday, May 30, 2014. Subcommittee to compile recommendation to the School Board:

- Kyle Cronk: [kyle@olympicpeninsulaymca.org](mailto:kyle@olympicpeninsulaymca.org)  
 Gary Pringle: [gpringle@portangelesschools.org](mailto:gpringle@portangelesschools.org)  
 Jay Averill: [javerill@portangelesschools.org](mailto:javerill@portangelesschools.org)  
 Kelly Pearson: [kpearson@portangelesschools.org](mailto:kpearson@portangelesschools.org)  
 Tina Smith-O'Hara: [tsmithohara@portangelesschools.org](mailto:tsmithohara@portangelesschools.org)  
 Tabatha Meadows: [tabmeadows@hotmail.com](mailto:tabmeadows@hotmail.com)

The subcommittee will draft the wording of the recommendation to the PASD School Board. Below are the pros/cons submitted by the Task Force:

<b>K-5 Configuration Pros</b>	<b>K-5 Configuration Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better academic offerings for 6<sup>th</sup> graders</li> <li>• easier scheduling for elementary K-5</li> <li>• more electives added at middle school</li> <li>• can do block scheduling for 6<sup>th</sup> graders</li> <li>• maintains strong music programs for 6<sup>th</sup> graders</li> <li>• better engagement with 3 grades @ middle school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> Graders grow up faster in middle school environment</li> <li>• more infraction with middle school behaviors</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup> graders: band, intermurals, clubs</li> <li>• community grew up with this model (buy-in)</li> <li>• move quicker by moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade will open up slots in elementary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> graders grow up too fast</li> <li>• Changing configuration take time and space</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• district demographics support K-5 model</li> <li>• current programming (i.e. band, strings, etc.) enhancements 6<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>• increase or stay @ current levels</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more opportunity for electives, sports, programs</li> <li>• frees up much needed space in elementaries</li> <li>• more time @ middle school – feel connected to staff &amp; school community</li> <li>• more balancing at 6<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>• more opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup> at middle schools</li> <li>• keep 6th in a separate wing in middle school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 900 student middle school still</li> <li>• years away from 6<sup>th</sup> grade being out of elementary</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• music options for 6<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• activities for afterschool</li> <li>• academic remediation and enrichment</li> <li>• aligns with common core</li> <li>• collaboration for 6th grade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• change – different than now</li> <li>• restructure – support – staff</li> <li>• social – emotional maturity</li> <li>• if have to wait 5 years – will be an issue – in limbo</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reducing number of students at elementary</li> <li>• past history was good</li> <li>• more paras available because they won't be covering recess</li> <li>• more opportunities available @ middle school music, afterschool enrichment, sports</li> <li>• move 6<sup>th</sup> sooner rather than later</li> <li>• put 8<sup>th</sup> in portables rather than 6<sup>th</sup> – more rotational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none at this time</li> </ul>

**Next Meeting:** Reminder, we will not meet on Tuesday, May 27, 2014.

**Adjournment Closing:** The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.  
Minutes taken by Marsha McKay

Attachment: Decision Making Analysis