

## I. Welcome and Introductions

Board members Tom Albright and Pete Lundberg welcomed committee members, thanking them for their willingness to undertake this task and stressing its importance. Superintendent Becky Berg added her welcome and thanks, saying the board wants to know what the community thinks about current facilities and is looking for a sense of vision for the future.

She introduced Dick Withycombe, who will facilitate the committee process. Dick expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Marysville School District and community, and then asked people to introduce themselves. The 43 committee members include parent and staff representatives of each school; a principal from each grade level; representatives of the business community, senior community, and local government; representatives of school associations and the PTSA Council; student representatives; and members of the community at large.

A technical team will support the committee's work. Becky introduced permanent members Jodi Runyon, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, and Greg Dennis, Facilities and Security Supervisor, who will be joined as needed by district colleagues responsible for human resources, business and finance, elementary education, and secondary education.

## II. Charge to the Committee

Becky delivered the committee's charge, which is "to advise the superintendent as she prepares a recommendation to the school board in regards to a potential bond measure for a 2016 ballot proposition, including a three-to-five year facilities plan." Committee members received a written statement of the charge that includes a timeframe, goals, and parameters. Becky identified the district's learning goals as "paramount" among these parameters. She also emphasized that this is "not a done deal" and that she looks forward to — and will listen to — the committee's advice.

### Questions and Discussion

- *Is the district looking at a bond measure in early 2016 or late 2016?*\* That all depends on the nature of the recommendations that grow out of the committee's work.
- *This is not about educational programs?* Not directly, although the committee may identify facility issues related to program, such as access to technology or the ability to support a particular element of the curriculum.
- *Can we bring up school safety issues we're aware of?* Yes, certainly. The technical team will also share the results of a recent security audit.

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\* The comments of committee members appear in italic print, those of the facilitator, presenters, and technical team members in regular print. Unless enclosed in quotation marks, comments have been edited for brevity and clarity.

- *Why is this more serious now than it was a year ago?* Facilities planning has always been important to the school board; the committee would have been convened this year anyway, even without October 24.

### III. School Tour

Before the school tour, Greg provided a brief overview. Grove Elementary School opened in 2008. The two-story, stick-built core facility (the “mother ship”) contains classrooms for 400 students, as well as shared spaces such as the library, cafeteria, and gymnasium. The two modular additions house four classrooms each; the school’s design allows for the addition of another four-classroom, modular wing to bring the school’s capacity to 700 students.

The total construction cost, including F & E (furnishings and equipment), was just over \$19 million, under its \$20 million budget. The modular additions were less costly to build, \$170/square foot compared to \$240/square foot for the traditionally constructed core facility. The state’s School Construction Assistance Program does not contribute to the cost of modular classrooms, but they are still less expensive for the district. The district owns the Grove design, including changes made during construction, which will save money and time when it builds the next elementary school.

#### Questions and Discussion

- *It’s a nice, new school, but it would be interesting to know what the teachers and staff who work here every day think about it. How do they manage the flow of 500 students?*
- *Has the district kept track of the tweaks to this design in case they replicate it?* Yes. However there would still be an ed specs process, if the district built a new Cascade or new Liberty; and it would be good to include input from the Grove staff.
- *Does the district want to replace Cascade and Liberty?* I mentioned those only because they appeared on the previous bond.
- *I like how the cafeteria, gym, and music room can be separated to support three things going on at the same time.*
- *As a parent here, I know that the south-facing classrooms get very hot, with only one tiny window to bring in ventilation. That’s something to consider if you replicate the design: placement on the site.*
- *I noticed that, for safety, they lock all the other doors so all visitors have to go through one door. They can’t go through the playground or past classrooms.*
- *The pods here are more integrated into the school than the pods at Pinewood.*
- *I like the fact that the kindergarten classrooms have bathrooms.*
- *For me, schools with open pods raise concerns about security. This is fantastic; it’s all together. There may be a concern about getting everybody out in case of an emergency, but the real emergency is someone getting in.*

- *Having everything in one large building creates a sense of community, as well as better security.*
- *Our schools have to be built to expand, because this school is bursting at the seams. You have to plan for additions and build the shared spaces bigger.*
- *Allen Creek is a hybrid between Grove and Pinewood. I agree it's better to have everyone inside, rather than spread out; but the classrooms here seem smaller than mine at Allen Creek.*
- *Sunnyside is a kind of hybrid too. Kindergarten through second grade are in the main building with pretty limited access.*
- *In this design, it seems that the classrooms lend themselves to modification. It's possible to move internal walls so spaces can morph.*
- *From a staff perspective, I like the centrally located office; and what I like about its being enclosed is that it helps with kids who like to wander.*
- *I like the efficiency of this building: it doesn't waste space, there aren't a lot of big open spaces. The design saves space to support working with kids.*
- *Will Initiative 1351 impact design considerations? The class-size initiative passed, but funding it is a conundrum for the legislature. They still have McCleary to fully fund. That's the school-funding decision in which the state Supreme Court has retained jurisdiction and held the legislature in contempt. The expectation is that, unless something changes in the special session, the legislature will probably fund McCleary and not class size. K-3 class size is included in McCleary, but we have the classroom capacity to respond to that; so we won't be in a crisis yet.*
- *Is there a noise problem with the moveable walls? They are well insulated; it would take a lot of noise to penetrate the operable walls.*
- *There are pros and cons in this design. We should wait to hear what the security audit has to say.*
- *A one-story school like Allen Creek — without portables and with a limited number of doors left unlocked during the day — would also be secure. We should think about one-story schools too.*
- *Cost will be an issue for our community, less the total cost than value for money spent, providing space for as many students as possible. I like the two-story design, as long as it's accessible.*
- *Are there more — or different — injuries in a two-story school? There don't appear to be, but we will check with risk management about that.*
- *We didn't get to see the outside of the school. The exterior wood beams are deteriorating, after just five years. Future designs should consider maintenance needs.*

## IV. Future Meetings

Each meeting will include a school tour, with school staff invited to join the committee to answer questions. The committee agreed to add a meeting on June 9 at the Marysville Getchell Campus and to identify a September meeting date for Liberty Elementary. Three meetings had already been scheduled:

- May 5, at Cascade Elementary;
- May 19, at Marysville Middle School; and
- June 2, at Marysville Pilchuck High School.

Dick asked committee members to think about how they would like to make decisions, because they will need to reach an agreement about that at the next meeting. He said his preference has always been consensus, but a voting option is sometimes needed for large groups. In any case, neither he nor the technical team members will take part in decision-making.

Dick said he strongly prefers to provide the superintendent and board with clear direction, which argues against minority reports; if there are important differences of opinion, those will be noted in the committee's final report.