

I. Welcome and Overview

Facilitator Dick Withycombe welcomed committee members, provided an overview of the meeting, and reviewed the handouts, which included three draft recommendations prepared by committee members, related to funding ongoing maintenance, a long-term school-replacement schedule, and the transition of history and tradition in school replacement. The committee adopted the September 22 minutes as submitted.

II. Tour of Totem Middle School

Committee members had an opportunity to take advantage of an optional tour of Totem Middle School before tonight's meeting. Addressing the whole committee during the meeting, Principal Tarra Patrick said that she is proud of her school, but that the facility itself presents some challenges. The large campus makes it difficult for students to get to their classes on time. More significantly, the unfenced campus is open to the commercial neighborhood surrounding it. People walk through the school on their way to local businesses. The large number of external doors adds to the security concern; these can't be locked during the day because students must move between buildings to get to their classes.

- *Does the school have a security staff?* We have two district security officers, and they have good relationships with the kids and know what's going on in the community.
- What are the school's most critical improvement needs, assuming it's not replaced? Consistent temperatures in all rooms in all buildings and basic cosmetic upgrades that make students and adults feel more energized about being here (e.g., replacing missing ceiling tiles and worn window coverings).

III. Information Requested

Maintenance Budget

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Jim Baker responded to a committee question about the maintenance budget. In 2014-2015, the total maintenance budget, including custodial time, represented 4.8% of the total district budget. Without custodial time, it was 2.1%. The projected 2015-2016 maintenance budget would be 5.3% of the total budget, 2.4% without custodial time; this budget restores custodial positions eliminated in previous budget reductions.

Revisions to State of Facilities Report

Facilities Supervisor Greg Dennis reviewed a revised "State of Facilities" report that includes the permanent capacity of each school (i.e., without portables).

* Committee members' comments appear in italic print, those of the facilitator and technical team in regular print. Comments not in quotation marks have been edited for brevity and clarity.

In response to a question, Assistant Superintendent Ray Houser explained that school capacity is calculated by multiplying the number of classrooms (as defined by the state) by the grade-level class size established in collective bargaining agreements. The district surveys all schools annually and counts as available capacity all classrooms that meet the state definition, however they are being used. He said “true capacity” is every classroom space, taking into account specialized program needs (e.g., music classrooms and science labs) and student services (e.g., specialists who pull students out of their classrooms).

Estimated Costs of Major Maintenance and Health/Safety Projects

Greg provided cost estimates for the major renovations and health/safety projects that emerged as priorities at the last meeting, including: roof replacements, fire alarm upgrades, intercom upgrades, electrical service upgrades, portable replacements, structural upgrades, mechanical upgrades, and painting projects.

- *Do the older schools have the electrical capacity for these fire alarm upgrades?* These would be energy-efficient, low-voltage replacements for current systems; the schools would get new wiring, new devices, and new panels.
- *Are there grant programs for upgrading fire systems?* No, those all seem to be about energy efficiency.
- The new phone system enhances safety and security because the new phones have call-in capability and it’s possible to call all classrooms simultaneously.
- The roofing estimate includes three full replacements and two partial replacements; if any of these schools were replaced, that estimate would be reduced.
- About 75% of the district’s portables need major renovation or replacement. A new, single-classroom portable without plumbing costs about \$75,000, installed.

Partial Replacement of Marysville Pilchuck High School

Greg told the committee the three-building, grade 9-10 campus was built in 1998 and will be eligible for state matching funds in 2018. Jim said that, given its favorable state match (more than 50%), the district could get new construction for the same cost as bringing the old facilities up to code. If included in the next bond, the high school replacement would be eligible for matching funds by the time the project was ready for construction.

IV. Thoughtexchange Scenario Building

The district has asked thoughtexchange, a community-engagement firm, to solicit the opinions of the Marysville community regarding two possible bond scenarios developed by the Citizens Advisory Committee. They will conduct that electronic “conversation” in time to profile the responses for the committee’s November 17 meeting.

Superintendent Becky Berg said the district used thoughtexchange to gauge public opinion regarding the new cafeteria at Marysville Pilchuck High School; that process gathered almost 1,900 responses. She described it as “an electronic town hall” that reaches more people than a series of

community meetings would likely draw. The district will advertise it and place a link on its website to get the broadest participation possible.

V. Development of Alternative Scenarios

Noting there will time for refinement, Dick asked the committee to consider the priorities they identified at their last meeting and develop two scenarios, which share a common core but offer alternatives, to be tested with the community.

Before doing so, he asked them to address bond size, considering the bond financing information provided by Jon Gores of D.A. Davidson on June 2, cost estimates provided by district staff, and likely state matching funds. After some discussion, the committee agreed to test alternative scenarios that total \$210 million each (\$150 in local bond funds and \$60 million in state matching funds). This preliminary agreement reflects the committee's intent to balance the impact on taxpayers with the many critical needs they identified in the district's schools.

Scenario A

- Cascade Elementary School replacement (\$25 m)
- Liberty Elementary School replacement (\$25 m)
- Critical major maintenance and health/safety projects at specific schools (\$20 million)
- Totem Middle School replacement (\$50 m)
- Marysville Middle School replacement (\$50 m)
- Partial replacement of Marysville Pilchuck High School (\$40 m)

Scenario B

- Cascade Elementary School replacement (\$25 m)
- Liberty Elementary School replacement (\$25 m)
- Critical major maintenance and health/safety projects at specific schools (\$20 million)
- Totem Middle School replacement (\$50 m)
- Full replacement of Marysville Pilchuck High School (\$90 m)

VI. Next Steps

On November 17, the committee will review the thoughtexchange findings and formulate final recommendations regarding bond size and bond projects. They will also take action on the three draft recommendations offered by committee members.