

**Condon School District 25J
Public/Community Meeting
Condon Grade School
Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 7:00pm**

PRESENT:

Board of Directors
Tim Campbell, Chair
Brian Johnson
Nichole Schott
Scott Nation
Corey Wade

District Employees
Michelle Geer, Superintendent
Lori Myers, Deputy Clerk
Laura Harsin, GS Instructor
Carol Harrison, GS Instructor
Teresa Humphrey, GS Instructor
Herschel Lantis, Maintenance
Sarah Foley, GS Instructor
Levi Day, HS Instructor
Robyn Johnson, GS Secretary
Heather Stephens, GS Instructor
Natalie Wilkins, GS Instructor

Others
Jemma Goddard
Paul Bates
Amy Nation
Alan Anderson
Jessica Barnett
K'Lynn Lane
Wyatt Johnson
Cooper Johnson
Cal Homer
Cash Helms
Eduardo Barrera
Steve Allen
Wayne Bates
Susan Snyder
Tom Fatland
Norie Wright

Lori Anderson
Molly Routson
Autumn Holland
Damon Holland
Lisa Helms
Gary Bettencourt
Jennifer Day
Tiffanie Arellano
Jennifer Hall
Dustin Hall
Seth Routson
Kay Hassing
Larry Snyder
Molly Fatland
Jessica Bates

There were others in attendance that either did not sign in or I was unable to read their signature

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING:

Superintendent Geer opened the public meeting by welcoming all in attendance. She also introduced the school board and the members of the consolidation committee. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was to update everyone on the steps taken by the school board and consolidation committee to get to the point they are now and answer questions regarding the ballot measure that will be voted on over the next couple of weeks.

Tim Campbell thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He summarize how the board got to the point that they are asking the community to pass a bond. He went on to say that with the District receiving a \$3.5 million match, if the bond passes, is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our community.

Scott Nation talked about living in our community and the importance of taking advantage of the \$3.5 million match.

Heather Stephens summarized her experiences working in other schools and compared some of the buildings she has worked in, stating that ours needs a lot of work, noting the significant problems with the heating system.

Laura Harsin and Teresa Humphrey talked about how important the old grade school building is to them personally, but also how much work needs to be done to it to get it up to where it needs to be.

Nichole Schott summarized what bonds and levies are and how the passage of these in our community over the years have benefited our schools. She explained that it will be an increase of approximately \$0.36 per \$1,000 to taxpayers if the bond passes.

Brian Johnson reviewed the history of the buildings along with the facility assessments that have been completed over the last several years. He reviewed the four options that were looked at once the assessments were complete. These four options included; build an entirely new school for K-12 students, consolidate students onto the grade school campus, consolidate students onto the high school campus and improve and maintain our existing facilities. He noted that consolidating students onto the high school campus was the least expensive option.

Superintendent Geer discussed the benefits of consolidating onto one campus, which included the sharing of resources to increase efficiency and program offerings.

K'Lynn Lane talked about the community and the importance of good schools.

Corey Wade discussed the impact to landowners if the bond passes, noting that they will be the ones that take the biggest hit financially.

Steve Allen stated that he believes the future of our schools is the future of our community.

Some of the questions asked are as follows –

What will happen to the grade school building if the grade school is moved to the high school campus? Superintendent Geer stated that this is still being discussed. The District has talked to other public entities about the possibility of taking it over, but there has not been any interest expressed to date. A private entity could not take it over until the original bond has been paid off in 2023. The cost to demolish the building is significant but that may be something the District will need to do in the future. The District is also hopeful that there will be a way to keep the playshed for future use for both the school and the community.

Will there be more electives available for students? Superintendent Geer stated that electives depend significantly on current staff licensure and background. She would like to see more electives available but cannot promise that will happen.

Have the land values been considered in regard to CRP? Nichole Schott explained that the District is working closely with bond counsel and an underwriter to determine levy rates. Piper Jaffray has prepared our levy rate analysis and has worked with the Gilliam County Assessor in determining these values and rates.

Will the younger students be separate from the older students? Superintendent Geer stated that there will be a separation as the K-6 students will be in a separate building. One of the parents in attendance stated that she has seen some of the high school students working in classrooms with younger students and was impressed with how well it worked, noting that we have great kids in our school and it's important to have some interaction.

Is there enough room in the proposed new building to accommodate art and music? Superintendent Geer reported that right now there is an extra classroom available in the building. There was also discussion regarding the possibility of using the MPR for music.

Superintendent Geer thanked everyone for coming and invited those in attendance to do a walk-through of the building. She noted that there are signs up throughout the building showing costs for various repairs.

CLOSE MEETING: The public meeting was closed at 8:20pm.

Tim Campbell, Board Chair

Lori Myers, Deputy Clerk