



Referendum Advisory Committee

Monday, November 12, 2018, 7:00
District Administrative Center (515 Main Street)

Meeting Minutes

OPENING

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll call - attendance

Alejandra Acosta	X
Jackie Andrew	X
Navraaz Basati	X
Kelly Beachy	X
Matt Benson	X
Christine Birch	Absent
Mary Brennan	Absent
Melissa Buckley	X
Tom Burns	X
Leah Collister	X
Selinda Coon	X
Deb Cory	X
Tom Cramer	X
Colleen Dallmayer	X
Jolie Davis	X
Dave Deacon	X
Helen Edwards	X

Shelby Elias	X
Wendy Farley	X
Adam Frazier	X
Angela Gordon	X
Keith Hanson	X
Valerie Hessling	X
Gina Hoffman	X
Nick Howard	X
Patty Jacobsen	X
Chris Karam	X
Randy Karon	X
Sybil Kestler	Absent
Lauren Klauer	X
Joel Koenig	X
Helen Lodowsky	Absent
Krissy Lohmeyer	X
Peer Lykke	X
Lori Madison	X
Paul Mahon	X
Beth McAndrews	X
Martin McLaughlin	X
Chrissie Mena	X
Maricela Mendez	X
Gloria Nash	X
Sue Oakley	X
Sam Oliver	X
Tom Olson	X
John Olszewski	X
Barba Pintozzi	X

Paola Placko	X
Cara Richardson	X
Sue Rosen-Kinney	X
Anne Schmitt	X
John Sciacotta (ShacOta)	X
Vinay Singh	X
Steve Smith	X
Brad Sparesus	X
Andy Stark	X
Rick Steffen	Absent
Brad Stetson	X
Scott (Stibe) Steib	X
Jon Stickney	X
Aimee Tanking	X
Jim Thompson	X
Don Thompson	X
Kathleen Uhran	X
Betsy Wintringer	X
Ken Witek	X
Maria Yorton	X
Megan Zastwany	X

3. Public Comment - none
4. Opening Remarks: welcome from Brad Stetson
5. Tom Burns - thanked the group for their time and work on this project. Ballots were distributed to the group to rank the options that are currently on hand, reminded everyone that the \$107 MM option was eliminated from the selections at the first meeting, the remaining three are the options each individual will be ranking.

4 minutes for the tables to discuss

Committee chairs collected ballots

Cara : topics not on the 'option' list but if a committee member wants to share their opinions this is their opportunity; limit of 3 minutes/person

Purple - 1st choice (25- 1st place, 27 - 2nd place, 1 - 3rd place)

Green - 2nd choice (20 - 1st place - 1, 12 - 2nd place, 21 - 3rd place)

Blue - 3rd choice (8- 1st place, 14 - 2nd place, 30 - 3rd place)

6. Open to Group Conversation

- Committee member concerned that 'buckets' can't change, Cara is encouraging them to voice their issue and share with the Board
- Table 1 (A. Tanking) Hough has needs, Board did not decide their improvements made the priority list. Bring them up to par with other schools in district, MPR is the only space for all activities
- Table 9: \$185 MM bucket, removal of mobile units should be addressed with whatever option is selected, let the community know that the mobile units should not remain after this referendum. Sends a message that they are not worthy of a full classroom
- Table 5 (Ann Schmitt): Prairie teacher, used active shooter drill that entered during the passing period through the mobile unit entrance. All mobile units need to be removed. Only will pass with no tax increase.
- Table 5 (Sunny Hill): not seeing Sunny Hill projects identified, need to consider this in order to get support from their community. Brian Battle added that the older buildings will get more dollar/sq foot, they are getting what the rest of the elementary schools are receiving.
- Table 8 (Sunny Hill) - kindergarten classrooms needed, smallest classrooms for full-day program (100 - 150 sq ft less than national recommended size for a kindergarten classroom. Dual language program representative spoke up that this is needed to welcome our students to the 'host' schools. Full-day kindergarten in the district is recommended.
- Table 1 - reviewing survey results, providing up to date facilities for STEM programs. Wants to know where this falls in the 'options' that we are reviewing, not an 'apples to apples' comparison, cannot map to the options in the buckets. Concept drawings at every school, need for flexible spacing/environments for STEM (only high school level in \$234 MM option), Board prioritized some of the other options above this priority for the other options.
- Table 7 - \$185 MM option with 2 physical education projects included, thinks majority will like the 21st century learning and future-ready classrooms - Board should consider flipping them.

- Table 4 (Jim Thompson, Lake Barrington) - telephone survey results, \$158MM option was heavily favored. Elements in each category that they 'really liked', he recategorized their projects, did not take into consideration the dependency projects
 - BHS - red & purple
 - Middle Schools - green
 - Elementary Schools - purple, red, blue
- Table 3 (John Sciotta) - Fine Arts center is long overdue, heavily involved in last referendum, no athletic improvements in any one category, one thing to propose a referendum, another thing to pass it. We have to appeal to more groups when we are 'selling' the referendum, strongly consider the athletic improvements, PE and Wellness enhancements, 3.7 MM for the extracurriculars is not much.
- Table 4 (Leah Collister)- wording of the referendum is VERY important. Things that we have talked about, but not agreed on, in middle schools, for example, history classes can't all meet together. Renovating the auditorium doesn't just mean that, how the space is used is key. Harper vote, passed 61% - 3 main projects, creating new space, updating existing space and heating, plumbing, air conditioning.

7. Cara distributed another set of ballots. Tom reminded the group of the charge for the committee - each person has **one vote**, \$158MM or \$185MM

8. **Results**

Green - 24

Purple -35

9. Discussion

- General comments why you feel passionate about one option or the other:
- Table 5 (Melissa - Deer Park) - engineers provide 80 - 85% of the cost, allows some flexibility when working with the projects, one of the projects may come up under budget and then make up the projects on the other end that were not in the budget. Referendum will be much more successful at the 'green' rate; need a REALLY active group of advocates, takes a lot of work if we are going with the 'purple' option. We should think 3-4% escalation each year for building costs.
- Taxation is one of the reasons why Illinois is one of the top states for losing population. Barrington's growth rate is flat
- What is achievable? If we go for the \$185 MM, if this doesn't pass, cannot go back and get the \$158 MM. Get what we can get, and come back in a few years to get the additional projects. The community in general, is very hard to pass a referendum, we need to consider this when picking the right option to promote.

\$185 MM (Purple) Supporters:

- VA cemetery in South Barrington - tough to sell the homes, property values have decreased - at this point in time, do you want your students in good schools; it is integral that we lure people through the school district, families need to move in -

promote the schools. Provide a school district that gives families incentive to buy a house in the district, understands the economics of taxes, if we don't invest a little, we cannot attract more families into our school district.

- \$97/year - \$8.08/month - give up Starbucks for one month to support our schools
- Schools are VERY important to selling our homes, we need to keep our schools top notch.
- Educating people with no interest in improving our schools - marketing priority for the group
- Imperative that we communicate if anything is being taken out of the reserves to fund the projects. People need to know how the reserves are being used. What are we doing with Woodland and/or James St, can funding of those projects be reallocated?
- Hinsdale had referendum fail, similar to our demographic - middle class and upper middle class, very hard for people to ignore a change to their taxes.
- Brian provided synopsis Maine Township, Elmhurst, two in Lake County - all passed. All recent referenda that were proposed were all increases, all passed but Hinsdale
- Can the Board assure the group that the mobiles will be removed? If this fails, we are going to have to come back and ask for \$234MM or more

Second vote

Green - 33

Purple - 26

Green bucket with the removal of the Grove mobile units - if this is not included, it undermines the work that was done by the group, this is a 'given' for everyone due to the safety concern.

Board values the opinion of this committee, recommendation only. The Board can also continue to move projects. Purple message to the Board we like the project and improvements but the 'green' message is to get the most for your dollar, keeping it flat.

Once the Board decides on a number and content - what is shared on the ballot. The question on the ballot will include the details of the bucket projects in a paragraph format.

Third Vote

Green with Grove mobile units added (\$160 MM) - 39 (66%)

Purple (\$185 MM) -

10. Closed to Board and staff to leave