



Referendum Advisory Committee

Monday, October 22, 2018, 7:00
District Administrative Center (515 Main Street)

Meeting Minutes

OPENING

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll call - attendance

Tom Burns	present
Cara Richardson	present
Brad Stetson	present
Alejandra Acosta	present
Jackie Andrew	present
Navraaz Basati	present
Kelly Beachy	present
Matt Benson	absent
Christine Birch	present
Mary Brennan	present
Melissa Buckley	present
Leah Collister	present
Selinda Coon	absent
Deb Cory	present
Tom Cramer	present
Colleen Dallmayer	present
Jolie Davie	present
Dave Deacon	present
Helen Edwards	present
Shelby Elias	present
Wendy Farley	present
Adam Frazier	present
Angela Gordon	present

Keith Hanson	absent
Valerie Hessling	present
Gina Hoffman	present
Nick Howard	present
Patty Jacobsen	present
Chris Karam	present
Randy Karon	present
Sybil Kestler	won't be there
Lauren Klauer	present
Joel Koenig	won't be there
Helen Lodowsky	absent
Krissy Lohmeyer	present
Peer Lykke	present
Lori Madison	present
Paul Mahon	present
Beth McAndrews	absent
Martin McLaughlin	present
Chrissie Mena	present
Maricela Mendez	present
Gloria Nash	present
Sue Oakley	present
Sam Oliver	present
Pastor Tom Olson	present
John Olszewski	present
Barbara Pintozzi	present
Paola Placko	present
Sue Rosen-Kinney	present
Anne Schmitt	present
John Sciacotta	present
Vinay Singh	present
Steve Smith	present
Brad Sparesus	present
Andy Stark	present
Rick Steffen	present
Scott Steib	present

Jon Stickney	absent
Aimee Tanking	present
Jim Thompson	present
Don Thompson	present
Kathleen Uhran	present
Betsy Wintringer	present
Ken Witek	present
Maria Yorton	absent
Megan Zastwany	absent
Carol Sesso	Request submitted to withdraw from committee
Phil Beaudoin	Request submitted to withdraw from committee

3. Public Comment - none

MEMBER BUSINESS

4. Frequently Asked Questions - Brad Stetson (no questions about the FAQ doc)

Brad Stetson - chairs want the groups to focus on what they think the committee would like to focus on as far as overall expenses, do not focus on the details, look at the dollar amount only for this exercise.

The Committee is relying on the committee members to report back to their individual groups and talk about the options and share the information, so the Committee is able to make a recommendation to the Board.

5. Small Group Discussions - Factors impacting price decision (Tom Bradford) - asked committee to pick one \$\$ option (per member), table captain at each to take a poll for the table - appx 3 minutes.

Cara Richardson - come together as a group to define a number that should be used, do not have to agree with the proposed numbers . A new elementary school should not be included in this decision. Things to consider:

- a. Questions: community -shared space vs. district only spaces
- b. Referendums do not happen frequently - last one was 11 years ago, if we do not address these concerns now, the next opportunity might not be for another 10+ years, keep this in mind as you are calculating the numbers you would like to consider.

QUESTION from Table 4 - are we changing the curriculum in the near future, what is the impact on the possible projects?

Brian Harris - How we use the space currently with the curriculum is what we are trying to align. Teachers are telling us that our buildings are acting as obstacles for how we work in the existing space. The teachers' role has changed over the years, they are acting as a guide, rather than a leader - want to design the spaces to support this style of teaching.

Brian Battle - we see the change using technology in the classroom. We can tailor/customize the curriculum for the individual student if we are able to make the classrooms more flexible.

What happens in the 5 - 7 - 10 years that if the referendum is passed, we are designing for the needs of the district in the next 20 years. If there was so much change within the 20 years, we would have to address the possibility of another referendum, unfortunately we cannot see that far.

Dave Bein - clarified the idea that taxes are not going to go up. It does not mean the taxes will stay flat, property tax bills may go up, district may not increase their levy.

QUESTION - not a good representation of what the community is thinking (table 7) - what would the community favor in terms of a dollar amount, that should be the focus. The chairs are encouraging the committee members to share the information, get an idea of what the larger community is thinking.

QUESTION In regards to the possible changes in Hoffman Estates, if this goes through, how would that impact our plan?

Brian Battle - If it is passed and they provide us with enough land and funding, then we don't have to worry about it (may not come up for 5 years). If they don't provide us with the land and funding, then we may have to reallocate where the funds are going. What gets approved on the referendum is a dollar amount and what the projects are - the scope of the projects can change. For example, Woodland may have to be used to accommodate the additional students, we may need additional funding for this.

RESULTS of poll :

- a. Bucket #1 (Red) - 4
- b. Bucket #2 (Green) - 35
- c. Bucket #3 (Blue) - 17

FOLLOW UP - why did vote for the option

Group #1 - Green or less : if the buckets are reallocated

- Wants to shuffle projects between the buckets

- Public prefers to have the taxes go down
- Ruled out increase in taxes

Group #2

- Can we remove all trailers to address safety?
- Feels like nothing will be passed with an increase
- Wants to see projects moved in buckets

Group #3 - \$198MM (green plus)

- \$200 was too high, just below
- Emotional and psychological decision
- \$234MM was appealing to what we are getting, but not sure the community would be okay with the increase

Group #4 - Green

- Still 'get a lot' by not raising taxes
- Community is concerned about their \$\$\$
- A lot of different voters in the community

Group #5 - \$23MM

- The 'right messaging' is key for this project, this community takes pride in a stellar school district
- Willing to invest in the school district, if it's clear what the value add would be
- Wants metrics related to real estate property values
- Want metrics tied to test scores
- Community wants to see children succeed (their own children, grandchildren, family members, neighbors)
- Disagree - people do not go on straight emotion, can approach it analytically if you give them the right data
- Is this representative of the groups we represent? This project will dictate who my neighbors are, I have to invest to maintain this. The schools are why we live in Barrington.

Group #6 - \$0 tax increase

- How much would it impact the larger number, if want to go +/- \$10 MM what does that look like?
- More likely to pass if it is flat
- It's not a \$150 tax increase for all community members, the large houses are going to pay more and this will have a large impact on this group
- Senior citizens hard to sell their homes - due to current taxes

Group #7 - Green plus (outside community organizations)

- Include a lot from the blue list, need to switch buckets
- Rationale - what the voters would tolerate, rather than the individual
- Flat 'feels better'
- Expensive to downsize >> we need to consider this (older community members)
- Look to Harper College => great marketing highlighting the benefits of their programs. Vocational emphasis (practical). Use terminology that people are comfortable with - plan for the future.

Group #8 - Blue (with reservations)

- See the needs reflected in the blue projects

- Constant issues with space
- Community - is a 'safe' place
- Representative of the individual group - wants to do what is best for the students

Group #9 - \$158 million (+/- \$ 10 mm), depending on what projects are included

- Assuming what is in the bucket, will have something for everyone, need support of all

Group #10 - Red plus

- Looked at it through the lens of the voter
- \$100 MM > spread over time, reasonable
- Voters have been 'manipulated' by government
- 'Go Big - Go Home': in reviewing other community referenda, New Trier, had to return to the community (\$198MM for the high school alone), don't want the same outcome here

6. Whole Group Recap - Cara

After discussions and sharing the data with the committee, the general consensus from the group is to eliminate 'Red' - option - \$107MM and focus on the 'Green (\$158MM) and' Blue only

1. Committee chairs will absorb the information and draft the questions for next week's meeting.
2. **\$158 is the 'right' number > up to 3 wishes, what else would you add or remove?** We want to know what is important and not important at the level you will support (the community will support).
3. ***Committee members will send the following to the committee chairs using survey:***
 - 1 - 3 projects that are 'MUST HAVES'/added
 - 1 - 2 projects that can be removed

QUESTION - what projects are 'connected' to one another

- Jason , DLR (architect) started to review projects and show dependencies. Decided he will review the list separately rather than trying to address at the end of the meeting and will share with the committee.
- Is it more important to have more kindergarten classrooms versus getting rid of mobiles at middle schools?
- Life skills space at high school: (Scott Steib) shared that the last renovation of the space was 20 years ago and our student population has increased by 1000; still using 1 space (gym), Average class of 40 kids have 1 basketball court to play on during a class.

Electronic surveys - results will be presented at Board meeting on November 2