

**Long Range Facilities Use Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2007**

The Long Range Facilities Use Planning Committee (LRFUPC) meeting was called to order on April 16, 2007, at 7:05 p.m. at the South Whidbey District Office by Mike Heinrich.

A motion to approve the March 19 minutes was made by Steve Scoles and seconded by Linda Kast. The motion carried.

Jan McNeely, Director of the Primary School, was introduced as a new member to the LRFUPC.

The business of the meeting was to hear preliminary reports of the four subcommittees assigned at the March 19, 2007, meeting. Each subgroup had 20 minutes to present their findings.

Current Operating Costs/Budgets

Members: Ray Gabelein, Leigh Anderson, Walt Blackford, Donna Riley

An analysis of building-specific costs (janitorial, supplies, copier leases, utilities) was presented on a cost per square foot basis. Maintenance costs were not included because they are currently reported in the aggregate and not by school. Although the costs varied by school, there did not seem to be enough variance to clearly identify one school building as substantially more costly than the others. It appears that the operating costs as presented would not, by themselves, provide a clear picture on which to base a decision.

Factors That Influence Enrollment

Members: Jill Engstrom, Dan Poolman, Mike Shelton, Kathleen Landel

This group gave a power point presentation showing that the Baby Boom generation has driven school enrollments until the number peaked in 1999. Enrollments thereafter have been in decline. The population data predicted a possible small upturn in 2010, but not significant enough to reverse the downward trend. The second correlate of enrollment is local economics – jobs and affordable family housing. With the cost of housing increasing and no changes in the job market, the group is not aware of anything on the horizon to dramatically shift South Whidbey’s economic status. Another possibility for enrollment increase would be to develop a magnet district that would be so attractive as to draw enrollment from elsewhere, but most other districts in Western Washington are experiencing similar declines in enrollment.

Best Practices in Student Groupings

Members: Scott Mauk, Tom Sage, Dayle Gray, Steve Scoles

Many studies have been done on student groupings, but a clear direction is not evident. It appears that the effect of transitions, i.e. students changing schools, has a much greater impact on students than groupings of grades. That impact appears to be universally negative. A conclusion might be drawn that students are better off when the number of inter-school transitions is minimized.

Use of Facilities and Assets

Members: Donna Evans, Frank Rose, Leo Langer, Linda Kast

This subcommittee looked at non-school usage of SWSD facilities. A handout was presented showing multiple uses by multiple groups. The school gyms showed the heaviest use.

Frank Rose presented information on the SWSD property, stating that the District owns 9 parcels: High School, Transportation & Maintenance, Primary School, Intermediate School, and 40 vacant acres adjacent to Intermediate School, totaling 204 acres; 6.3 acres for the Outdoor Classroom; 4 acres for the Bayview School; 1 parcel of 14 acres and 1 parcel of 4 acres for the Langley Middle School. The total assessment for these properties is over \$32,000,000. It was pointed out that school property cannot be sold for commercial property use.

Mike Heinrich asked the LRFUPC if, after hearing the subcommittee presentations, they were ready to make a recommendation to the SWSD. The answer was no. He then asked the committee what they need.

- Look at consolidating facilities.
- Ask SWSD if they are assuming consolidation or do they want numbers, facts, and minutia.
- Does SWSD want recommendations for more than one option?

Community Forum on May 9, 2007. The Community Forum will consist of all the various committees the SWSD has commissioned. It is open to the public who may make comments and recommendations on the information presented. Mike Heinrich asked for volunteers to help him at this time. Tom Sage, Leo Langer, Steve Scoles, Kathleen Landel, Jill Engstrom, and Scott Mauk volunteered.

Mike Heinrich reported that Habitat for Humanity had asked Dr. McCarthy if they could do a presentation on affordable housing to the LRFUPC. The general opinion was that it was still too early in the committee's process to give best attention to or to learn most effectively from such a presentation. Mike will be in touch with Dr. McCarthy and the Habitat representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.