

Informal support for bond issue in 2019

Taylor commented that the middle school has been at capacity since 2017 and the board took too long to get up to speed on putting a bond on the ballot. If we wait until after 2019, there will be new members of the board to educate regarding the issue he said.

Pfaff said that we need a new school not to address growth but to accommodate the students we now have. He proposed that, if the board chooses to go forward with a bond in 2019, it should be only for one school and the board should vote unanimously to support its passage. He supports a bond that would involve little or no increase in taxes.

Upchurch commented that the middle school is very crowded and asked how the board would go about demonstrating to the community that this is an urgent situation.

Brofft cautioned that the board must not consider the exact wording of the bond at this time, as it would limit their ability to promote it. Instead, she suggested a broad wording of a motion. She agreed that the entire board must be behind the initiative.

Director Theresa Phillips said that she also wants a bond and stressed that the new school should be of high quality, with nothing left out to lower the cost of the building. She also stressed that part of the planning of the building should include provisions for special-education uses.

Clawson agreed that the district needs a new elementary and two middle schools. He also agreed that the board should stress that the funding should be used solely for the new elementary. He would like an estimate of the cost of repurposing Bear Creek Elementary as a middle school.

Wangeman said that she would provide the information.

Brofft suggested that the board limit itself to committing to a bond without specifying the cost of the school or its financing. She said that nine months should be sufficient to educate the public so long as the board is unanimous in its support. She said that the district has a committed group of volunteers who are willing to work toward its passage.

Phillips said that if the bond is pushed back to 2020 it would not serve the students.

Pfaff said that 2020 would be a bad year for the bond as everyone would be distracted by the presidential election.

The board informally agreed to pursue a bond in 2019.

Budget goals

Taylor requested that Wangeman explore the priorities in spending among other school districts as compared with those of District 38. The information can be found on the Colorado Department of Education website. He suggested comparisons based on location and student population.

Wangeman agreed to bring the information to

the regular meeting of the board.

Recording work sessions

The board briefly discussed the option of recording work sessions.

Upchurch said that she heard from teachers and others that it would be useful to be able to hear the discussions after the fact. The reason for not recording the sessions was to encourage candor during the discussions.

Pfaff said that he would discourage frequent work sessions because all action is taken during regular meetings.

Clawson said that, were the sessions recorded, the recordings should be available on request.

Phillips said that recording the work sessions would require a change in board policy.

In her superintendent update, Brofft said that the estimate for the installation of the modular classrooms was low. More funds may need to be appropriated or they may need to be installed a few at a time.

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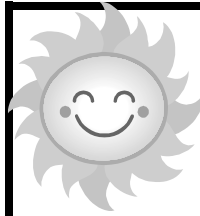
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