



## EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Master Planning Minutes

January 15, 2015

4:00-6:00 PM

Conference Room, PCSD District Office

Members Present: Moe Hickey, Todd Hauber, Jamie Sheetz, Todd Hansen, Tania Knauer, Mark Parker, Sean Morgan, Rory Murphy, Bob O'Connor, Tom Van Gorder, Ember Conley, and Lorie Pearce

Guests: Vern Latham

### **Vote to approve previous meeting minutes- Rory M**

Meeting called to order at 4:07 p.m. Discussion of the previous minutes. Moe mentioned that one recommendation was to hire a Communication Specialist and the Board has requested a scope of work before they can approve.

**Sean made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

### **Previous Grade Re-alignment Background- Bob**

Bob shared with the committee the information from the last grade realignment. During the 2002/03 school year, the Park City School Board made the decision to re-align grade levels in the Park City School District. At the time, Park City High School included grades 9–12 with 1200 students; Ecker Hill and Treasure Mountain were 6–8 Middle Schools with an enrollment of 650; and there were three elementary schools with a fourth, Trailside, coming on-line later that year. Reasons behind the grade level re-alignment included:

- Concern that 9<sup>th</sup> grade students were too immature to be mixed with 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Research, at the time, suggested individual 9<sup>th</sup> grade academies to better prepare 9<sup>th</sup> grade students for the rigor in high school courses.
- Need for more space. Even though PCHS had constructed an addition and major re-model in 1997, the unanticipated growth of the late 1990's had the facility near capacity.
- Balancing diversity throughout the district. There was a large increase in Latino students in the late 1990's, the majority of which lived in the McPolin Elementary and Treasure Mountain school boundaries. The heavy concentration of Latinos on one side of the district created a situation of de facto segregation. By moving all 6<sup>th</sup> graders to Ecker Hill, the classes integrated earlier than if they waited to merge in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- A 3 to 2 school board vote in 1997 approved the re-model of Treasure Mountain instead of building a new school.

The biggest concerns during the planning process included:

- Assigning teachers according to their endorsements and certificates. 6<sup>th</sup> grade is technically elementary school, but it would now be housed in a middle school.
- Most parents actually liked the idea of separating the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from the high school.

Extensive planning took place for two years before implementing the grade level re-alignment. Concerns and problems were addressed throughout the entire process. The actual transition went smoother than anticipated; the preparation was well worth the time and trouble.

Comments:

Tom - Realignment took a number of years and it was well worth it although it was a major change.

Rory - are 9<sup>th</sup> graders too immature to mix with other students

Bob – No, I don't think so.

Mark – They are mixing already because they are making the trek from TMJH to PCHS

Tom – There was no research that a 9-12 or 10-12 is better. This was more emotional because teachers didn't want to move down to TMJH.

### **Grade Alignment National Research – Mark**

In Finland, students attend the same school from grades 2-10 and in Germany, schools are K-4 and 5-12. Utah has historically be an outlier, 9<sup>th</sup> grade kept out of high school. This was done because of space and high schools could not accommodate 4 grades. Trends are going back to 9-12 model. Several of the larger districts in Utah are going back to a 9-12 alignment.

Some of the considerations include: space constraints/alleviation, bussing schedules, staffing, DLI, dropout/success rates (particularly of 9<sup>th</sup>), behavior issues, curriculum and class offerings, professional development and PLC's.

Comments:

Bob – the philosophy of moving was that 9<sup>th</sup> graders would not miss out on any opportunities.

Ember – As talked to other superintendent and they state there really isn't a best, but rather what fits the needs of the community at any given time. There is no right way.

Sean – The reason we are going through this is to get our arms around this, the public is going to ask the question, why are you going back. We are responding to the needs at this point and time. We need to justify this.

Tania – Need to address 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade changes as well.

Moe – Based on Marks research and talking about transitions, what if we had a K-4, 5-8 campus at EHMS creating one less transition for students.

Rory – Ember talked about moving the DO to Ecker where there would less traffic issues.

Ember – We need space for professional development. Space for the community to attend board meetings. Reduce traffic patterns on Kearns Blvd.

Vern – There are numerous scenarios that can be explored.

Rory – Based on the information from VCBO and what Todd has created perhaps we can get the information compiled for the next meeting.

Moe – Would like the Bear Hollow property brought into the scenario as we look at the master plan. The deed indicates that a school has to be built on the this property

Sean – Right now we have two grade alignment proposals. K-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-12 or K-4, 5-8, and 9-12

## Identify Pros/Cons of PCSD Grade realignment- Ember C

Because we have an amazing preschool program and the desire to move to a full day kindergarten, doing a PreK-4 at the elementary gives more us more space. PreK and K spaces need to be designed differently.

Met with Kathy and Traci to discuss DLI. Staffing maybe an issue when the French program comes in Ecker, but managing this maybe easier at a 5-6 school. This is a major influencer in what we do at our schools.

Other needs of the district include:

Warehouse

Professional Development space

Board Meeting space

Comments:

Tom – If the growth is a bubble, it begs the question whether or not we should put money into an additional elementary.

Rory – Trending towards second homes and this will only increase so there will be fewer students.

Vern – Going back through the master plan, projections were for 500 new students in the next five years.

Todd believes it is nearer to 450.

Tania - Concerned about the early start time for high school students.

Bob - Practical application of starting later may not work because students many students have after school jobs and participate in athletics or extra curricular events.

Tom – If we move to a 9-12 model, and there are concerns about the 9<sup>th</sup> graders, we need to involve staff from the high school including the intervention specialist, counselors, etc.

Sean – It may be time to bring in some of the stakeholders to see what their thoughts are on the information so far.

Moe – Staff needs to be involved in the discussion, especially the high school. Getting feedback from them before we go to a survey it is important. This is also an attempt to control the rumors.

Ember will share the pros and cons document with the committee for digestion.

Bob, Mark and Jamie will share information with faculty at Treasure and the high school on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

## **Review Facilities Planner scope, timeline and next steps- Sean M.**

Todd – The Board needs two items prior to the January 20, 2015 meeting. The first one, members of the SIOQ Selection Committee need to be chosen. The Board will need names before the January 20 2015 meeting. Sean is suggesting that 5-7 people should be on the selection committee.

**Tania made the motion to recommend that Todd Hansen, Todd Hauber, Sean Morgan, Rory Murphy and Ember be on the selection committee. Mark seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Draft of the scope of work needs to get to the Board for January 20, 2015 meeting. Committee Members will need to look at what VCBO has prepared and respond with concerns by 12:00 p.m. on January 16, 2015.

**Discuss Public Communications RFP scope, timeline and next steps- Rory M**

Moe: The Board agrees with the concept of a Communications Specialist but they have requested to see a scope of work before approving. We can pay this person until June to communicate what is taking place in this meeting, after June it become dicey as we go to a bond. Public funds cannot be used to lobby.

Todd – Suggested that the committee come up with a complete scope of work, and then he will meet with the attorney to see how they suggest breaking it out.

The committee reviewed the letter to the editor to and made final edits.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

**Items not discussed:**

1. Discuss/Refine Facility Needs & Relationships (30-45 min)- Sean M.
2. Discuss School Board meeting Schedule and recommendations- Sean M.

**Committee Meeting Schedule-**

Wed, 1/21 (4-6pm)

Wed, 1/28 (4-6pm) Ecker Hill Middle School