

WICKENBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
BOARD STUDY SESSION MINUTES
February 18, 2016

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Joe Maglio, President, Mr. Curtis Arnett, Member, Ms. Amy Brown, Member, Ms. Sandee Gill, Member, Mr. Daniel Scott, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Howard Carlson, Victoria Farrar, Lynn Greene, Marcia Hespen, Jeremy Courliss, George Pilicy

Preliminary Discussion for Health and Safety Bond

Dr. Carlson gave the background on the proposed Health and Safety Bond, which will address the direst needs the District is facing. He told the Board he was meeting with staff and community groups for input before moving forward with a bond.

He passed out the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) and discussed the questions with the Board.

He told the Board that the District is eligible for 34 million dollars, but will only ask for 10 million dollars. In this way, the school bond tax rate would eventually go down, showing a lower level in 2018 and another step down in 2021.

Mr. Scott asked if the District was going to replace the bond that would be paid off in 2021. Dr. Carlson told him that bonds are typically for building schools, so probably not. It would be a decision for the Board to make in the future.

Dr. Carlson then discussed the purchasing list document.

The plan would include purchasing buses, shop upgrades to allow bus repair, bus yard renovation (to create a pad so buses would be parked out of any standing water.

HVAC units would be replaced over a 5 year period.

Building security would be implemented and upgraded. This was formulated in conjunction with the Wickenburg Police Department and the Buckeye Police Department. Fencing would create some pathways for students to safely go from one area to another.

Ms. Gill asked if someone could shoot a gun through the wrought iron fencing. Dr. Carlson told her yes, you could shoot through it; the fencing would be used to restrict vehicle access to the campus. Ms. Brown asked if you could use bollards instead. Dr. Carlson told her a truck could easily jump the curb, so the use of bollards in place of the fencing would not be effective. He also told her there are bollards in the plan for other areas.

Lighting would need replacing. The District is looking at LED lighting, which will save money. Key fob software would be installed and would control who has access to the various school buildings. Parking lots would be replaced and/or repaired. HVAC units and roofing will be brought to a 20 year standard/warranty. Refrigerators need to be replaced due to the age of the units. Much of the grounds equipment must be replaced due to age.

Aged and unsafe flooring would be replaced. At the high school, the tile flooring would be brought down to an aggregate finish and be waxed annually. Ms. Brown commented the town has put in carpet squares. Dr. Carlson told her the District has started doing the same thing.

Mr. Scott asked why a riding mower is not going to be placed at Festival Foothills. Dr. Carlson told him the landscaping at Festival Foothills is contracted out. Mr. Scott asked if the District is being conservative in the pricing reflected on the bond expense sheet. He felt it was possible that, when almost done, the District would find there would not be enough money to finish all of the projects. Dr. Carlson told him this does happen, but the District is planning ahead with the funding. Mr. Scott asked about the storage shed at Festival Foothills that no one seems to have access to. He feels this is wasted space and should be rectified. Dr. Carlson said it will be taken care of.

Ms. Gill asked about the LED lighting, and if anyone had followed up with the possibility of free lighting from Arizona Public Service (APS). Dr. Carlson said APS had been called and it will be followed up. She asked if the double steel replacement doors were for the classrooms. Dr. Carlson told her yes, they were the external doors. She wanted to know if there would be a window in the doors so someone coming to the door during a lockdown could be identified. Dr. Carlson told her windows can be put into the doors or a peephole can be inserted.

Mr. Arnett commented there were doors leading from the cafeteria to the outside at McLennan School and an injury could happen to someone walking by when the doors were opened. He felt it would be a safety matter to have a small window in the doors. He also commented he would like to be sure the LED lights would be compliant with dark sky component and asked if the color temperature of the lights would be on the blue side or the yellow side.

Ms. Brown commented that the District should purchase buses that would last the 10 years of the bond and also, as much as possible, stress the fact that items purchased with the bond will last at least 10 years. This would be a strong selling point.

Mr. Arnett concurred that the purchased equipment should last at least 10 years. He also commented a lot of this had to do with preserving the investment that the tax payers have made in these buildings. Essentially, the District also wants to protect the value of the buildings. The taxpayers have made an investment and the protection of the value of the assets is important to incorporate into the bond literature. Dr. Carlson agreed that the assets must be protected or the assets will not be worth anything.

Ms. Brown asked about key fobs, enquiring if there would be anything centralized so the main doors could be manually locked in case of a lock down. Dr. Carlson will look into this.

Dr. Carlson told the Board that administration will bring the bond to the Board by the end of spring for approval

Instructional Workshop on Operating the Surface

Jeremy Courliss and Marcia Hespen gave a training session to the Board on the use of the Surface.

ATTEST: _____

Mr. Maglio, Board President