

Building Excellence II Levy Oversight Committee
Meeting Notes, October 14, 2005
Stanford Center, Room 2765, 7:30a - 9:30a

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Ron Jelaco
Karin Nyrop
Ed Peters

Members Absent

David Hudd
Joey Ing
Mark Melroy

District Staff

Holly Ferguson
Don Gillmore
Ron English
Julie Krick
Fred Stephens

School Board Directors

Mary Bass
Sally Soriano

Heery International Staff

Mike Finnegan
Donald King (DKA*)
Roxann Robinson
Ralph Rohwer
Mitch Romero
John McWilliams (DKA)

*Donald King Architects

PRESENTATION ON SOUTH SHORE OPTIONS, DON GILLMORE AND HOLLY

FERGUSON (Handouts are Holly Ferguson's analysis and a design options report by BLRB Architects)

This is a preview of a presentation that will be made to the Board in a work session next Wednesday. The Committee is being asked to provide input to the presentation and the materials.

Holly's analysis (handout) is still accurate but the options in Holly's report have changed. The appendices option numbers don't relate to the new options. The options that Don presented and the handout by BLRB are the current options being studied. These five options are based on Board and community input. None are within the project budget.

Background:

- The levy that went to the voters in 2001 did not technically call for a middle school. The intent of the levy was to convert the building from an open-space concept to fixed-wall classrooms because of a lack of capacity. Missing from the language was that the capacity needed was middle school, not high school. South Lake alternative high school was in the building at that time.
- South Shore was budgeted in the 2001 levy as a middle school, grades 6-8. When New School moved into South Shore with South Lake it was decided to make the New School program a K-8.
- The problem is that there is not room in the building, with two programs, for the New School to grow into its proposed K-8 program. Right now it's K-3 and is adding a grade a year.
- The New School Foundation pays a significant amount per student. This academic year is the fourth year of funding. The students are doing significantly better academically than other schools in the area. Retention is high and they have an extended school year, into July.
- There is an academic problem with putting South Lake students at a regular high school. South Lake is an alternative high school. The South Lake parents are pleased with the current South Lake program.

- The South Lake academic scores are low. However, academics are not necessarily the best way to evaluate a re-entry program. Better criteria might be if they are satisfied with the program and if they stay in school.

Options (details in handout):

- Option 1 – pre-K- 8 and alternative high school in the building. This option does not provide enough room for the New School to become a K-8
- Option 2 – adds 12,000 sq. ft. existing building. Cost is an additional \$4.6M. Project will be complete by September 1, 2008
- Option 3 – adds 12,000 sq. ft. and moves South Lake to the east side and New School to the west side. Additional cost is \$6.6M because the demolition to convert spaces is more extensive. It moves the New School to an area of the building that already has walls. Open concept works better for high school than elementary.
- Option 4a – this is a 30,000 sq. ft. separate building for South Lake. Additional cost is \$13.5M.
- Option 4b – adds an 8,500 sq. ft. addition to the existing building with a new building for South Lake. Additional cost is \$17.2M.
- Option 5 – This is 4b with a 35,000 sq. ft. building for the World School (secondary BOC) program. Additional funding is \$32.5M. The project would stay on the same schedule but dollars would need to be borrowed from BEX III. The World School is budgeted at \$14M which is allocated in the BEX II levy. This money may not be available based on other levy issues.
 - Within the funding capacity of BEX II, the (option 5) existing building could be built and the other two buildings could be planned. This would not change the construction schedule of beginning construction in July 2007.

Discussion comments:

- The decision has to be to build the best solution for the students and the Rainier Beach community. These are three viable programs; South Lake, New School, and secondary BOC. They are all successful and needed by the district, although this may no longer be what is exactly in the levy.
- The entire building is not needed for a middle school. The capacity need is for maybe 300 middle school seats which the New School would provide eventually. The foundation money does end in 2012.
- The current budget allows for \$115 sq. ft. which builds a 20-year building that is very basic.
- Ed proposes option 6: Demolish the existing building and use BEX II levy money to build a better alternative high school which was in the building when the levy passed. Use BEX III money to build a New School which did not exist when the levy was passed. Design the building as an alternative high school. This would be the closest solution to the levy plans.
- Seventy percent (70%) of the BOC students come from south and southeast Seattle. It's easier to get to South Shore on public transportation (bus and Sound Transit) than the current location of the BOC on Queen Anne Hill. The BOC community

wants to be in its own building because of the special needs of the students they serve.

- Mary Bass suggests looking at all the competing issues and promises at the work session on Facilities Master Plan on November 9.
- Sally and Mary agree that option 6 should be presented to the Board at the work session.
- Fred suggests that in relation to the funding available, South Lake serves a much more serious need. New School does an excellent job but could possibly be accommodated in another way more easily than South Lake.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held.

MINUTES APPROVAL FOR AUGUST 12 AND SEPTEMBER 9 MEETINGS

Notes approval was delayed because of lack of quorum.

Meeting started 7:40a

Meeting adjourned 9:55a

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