

**Building Excellence II Levy Oversight Committee
Meeting Notes, March 10, 2006
Stanford Center, Room 2765, 7:30a - 9:30a**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Ron Jelaco
Mark Melroy
Ed Peters

Members Absent

Joey Ing
Karin Nyrop

District Staff

Ron English
Don Gillmore
Julie Krick
Fred Stephens
Larry Matsuda, consultant

School Board Directors

Sally Soriano

Heery International Staff

Mike Finnegan
Roxann Robinson
Martha Turnbull
DKA
Donald King

BLRB Architects

Tom Bates
Randy Zaddach
Mel Streeter Architects
Sam Cameron

MINUTES APPROVAL FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2006 MEETING

- Minutes of the February 10 meeting were approved.

SCHOOLSFIRST COALITION, PETER MAIER

- SchoolsFirst, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1995. Its sole purpose is to campaign for Seattle school levies. The school District, by law, can't run it's own campaign. The District can provide basic information and pays for the election. School Board directors can campaign but staff cannot.
- SchoolsFirst is a coalition of parents, PTAs, business, and government leaders. For the last election, 400 volunteers made 40,000 phone calls. Thirteen hundred (1,300) people donated over \$330K, the cost of the campaign. There were 400,000 pieces mailed. A campaign headquarters will be needed from late November to mid-February. A volunteer professional campaign staff will be developed.
- Two levies will be on the ballot in February 2007, an M&O and a capital levy. The M&O levy accounts for 24% of the district's budget
- A 60% "yes" vote is required to pass a school levy. Most levy elections are now validated (40% of the last vote) because of mail-in votes. It is mostly non-parents that vote in the elections.
- Seattle has one of the lowest levy rates in the region, probably because of a strong real estate base. Any levy increase would be a result of inflation.

- SchoolsFirst does polling to determine what people are thinking. It goes to PTAs and community meetings to learn what the problems and issues are.
- Challenges for this election will be the superintendent's advisory committee recommendations and the closure/consolidation efforts. The campaign message would be that closure/consolidation provides a greater opportunity to put more money in the classroom and provide better educational opportunities for kids. There will be fewer buildings but they will be of higher quality. The campaign is about students, not about adults. The last few levies have emphasized the renewal aspect of the tax.
- The BEX III levy package will be finalized when closure/consolidation decisions are made. Emerging consensus by the SchoolsFirst board on the size of the levy is to take the existing amount (\$398M) and inflate it by the CPI, about \$60M. The School Board makes the final determination on the size of the package.
- After the School Board approves the levy package then SchoolsFirst begins to market it. The most important thing from SchoolsFirst point of view is to have a solid package that makes sense.
- Director Soriano would like to know the sources of ideas that end up in levies.

CONCEPT DESIGN PRESENTATION ON NEW SCHOOL AND SOUTH LAKE, DON GILLMORE

- Both projects are scheduled for construction in 2007 and are running concurrently.
- A New School design charette last night developed two schemes. Scheme A-1 was preferred.
- Scheme A-1 will interface the new school building with the existing community center. Smaller learning communities will be created within the school building.
- There is a new parent drop off and visitor parking.
- There is a two-story Atrium space in the common area. The cafeteria is part of the commons area and is next to the gym. The gym will connect to the community center.
- The middle school will be at the front of the site. This provides the possibility for a separate middle school entrance. The classrooms will be stacked vertically, with the 6th grade on the ground floor and the 8th grade the sole occupant of the third floor.
- The building is designed for full-student classrooms in order to provide future flexibility for instructional changes. There are three classrooms for K-5 and five classrooms for middle school students.
- The update of the New School Foundation MOU is on a concurrent schedule and should be complete by the time of schematic design.

Site:

- The plaza was designed by the New School, by South Lake, by the Parks department, and community groups.
- It is a common occurrence for the City and the District to negotiate property matters on projects. A lot boundary adjustment will handle the mechanical aspects of the property transfer. The District will get more property somewhere else.

South Lake, alternative HS

- The building is sited at the NE corner of the site. It will be 30,000 sq. ft. and house 250 students.
- The existing parking lot will be expanded to the north and south. Parking is also for the middle school and community center.

- There might be a node of the plaza at the corner of Cloverdale and Rainier to provide a pedestrian connection from the main plaza at the New School to South Lake.
- A daycare could have a separate entry.
- There will be a two-story commons area at the main entry with a cafeteria and administrative offices opening onto the commons. It also opens into a play area on the west side.
- An outdoor seating/amphitheatre at the southwest corner of the building will be screened from the service area of the community center.
- Movable partitions between some classrooms will accommodate the changing size of the student population. There is a coordinated studies group during the day that will use opened-up classrooms or open areas.
- The high school will have access to the Parks gym during the day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- An executive session was held.

NEXT AGENDA

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