

**Tonasket School District #404**  
**Special School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 17, 2014**  
**In the Board Room at 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Jerry Asmussen, with Catherine Stangland, Ernesto Cerrillo and Lloyd Caton present. Superintendent Paul Turner was present. The administrators present were Jay Tyus, Jeff Hardesty, and Jeremy Clark. Also present were Kirsten Williams, Peggy Crandall, Dianna Weddle, Jordon Weddle, Patrick Plumb, Symarah Plumb, Jim Bretz, Janet Bretz, Martha Wisdom, Rob Inlow, Mark McMillan, Scott Olson, Keith Montanye, Tom Bretz, and Gerald Green.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Jerry Asmussen led the flag salute at 7:02 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session at 7:05 p.m. for ten minutes for the review of the performance of a public employee.

The Board moved out of executive session at 7:16 p.m.

**LEVY AND BOND**

Jerry Asmussen thanked Peggy Crandall for her work as the Levy Committee Chair and Peggy in turn expressed her appreciation to everyone who helped. It was mentioned that the numbers for the vote came up to just under 55% on the bond and almost 65% on the Levy. Paul Turner commented that the passage of the levy is great and is a celebration. Mr. Turner brought up three options for consideration:

1. Re-run the bond needing a 60% passage in which the funds all come at once with the pay back over time.
  - a. We can construct now
  - b. Interest is part of the bond.
2. Run a capital levy which needs a 50% passage; the funds are gathered up as it comes in.
  - a. You can borrow against a capital levy.
  - b. The Interest on a capital levy comes from the general fund.
3. Delay for the next election, which is August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Turner thanked everyone who attended the meeting and asked for other options. The Board is interested in learning what the thoughts of the community are. Several community members in attendance expressed their thoughts and concerns. Discussion was held regarding putting together and sending out a survey and to find out what the questions the community members have. A discussion was also held regarding the logistics and timeframes for the next ballots.

**Community Comments:**

Jim Bretz:

- Matching funds are not available for about 5 years. (Paul states about 10 years, then spoke to the appropriations. There are "Rank" issues for the bond issues.)
- Survey done last year states that we have a done a great job taking care of our stuff.

Martha Wisdom:

- What is the risk if we run in April or wait until August? I want to do it now. Maybe everyone is at a 'boil' but we may need to wait but I want to see us do it now.

Rob Inlow:

- Looking at this thing and where we are wanting to build on. What is the function of the big open spaces in the Elementary? (Jeremy Clark spoke to the pod use and the skill groups and works. We can break out into the pods and work with paraprofessionals in the guidance of the Reading and Math Specialist. Collective activities.)
- This can't be used in the gym? (No it's used all day. Cafeteria is used from 10 to 12 for lunch and clean up until about 1:00.)
- Talking with the City of Tonasket there seems to be a water line issue that may be relocated. Proposal is to build in the pods until we have some matching funds.

Bob Ashmore:

- We need to decide about the bond vs. levy and what are the best chances at being successful.
- The primary concern is the elementary space.
- A worksheet to find out where the no votes where what are they for and then identify some non voters and try to find out how to get them up to speed and support it.

Gerald Green:

- I would hate to see us run either issue for less money. I think it would be the wrong thing to do.
- Did the committee go out to the service organizations? (In answer, the school board went out and met with a lot of the community. We did not have an open forum to attend and we did take note of that.)
- What about validation of elections? Has there been a growth in the number of unregistered voters? There is a way to look at that and explore what we can do. It should not be forgotten about. If we can get a brand new voter and convince them you are doing the right thing.

Tom Bretz:

- A number of questions, school built in 1998 with enrollment of 1,200 and 1,089 students now; confused on the overcrowding issues. If it was big enough then, why now? (Response: Full day kindergarten was not the case back then. As we add teachers to the elementary we need new rooms to house them. This work becomes a contractual thing.)
- How does one more class use up more classrooms?
- In the levy, how many more teachers are you going to hire: (Eight)
- Will that eliminate any of the teacher's aids that you have for the cost of \$729,712? \$196,000 is their benefit package. And you are comfortable with that?  
(Jerry Asmussen discussed the ideas about the contractual issues and the funding of those that are for the Title 1 and or Special Education. Paul Turner discussed the increased cost for the Paras for the longer days.)
- They are not full time but they get \$196,000 in benefits. (Jerry spoke to the ideas behind the hourly rates.)
- It does not come out of the M and O? (No, out of state or the government grants. Paul shared that he would be willing to work with Tom to go over the funding stream.)
- A lot of people that I have spoken to will continue to vote no on any bond that continues to have the alternative school attached to it.
- It may be old school to say that these problem children need to be in with the other students to make it. Throwing a lot of money away for problems that are not the school's problems. (Mr. Turner responded, maybe it is the school's problems. It is society's problems. There are many reasons why we want to have students get a diploma and make it in life.)

Scott Olson:

- Big fear if you go to a capital levy, no means no. I am worried that there are issues with that. I understand the issue about the Alternative School.
- Maybe we need to look at the idea of running it three different ways? The idea that it is not successful, our success stories are there and need to be there.

Patrick Plum:

- Need to expound on the Alternative and Outreach. We need to know what that does as a community.
- Regarding the elementary school, does not understand how it is different even from my day. (The pods are very busy in the middle of the day. If it were to be split into two or three pieces it would be a challenge.)
- FFA, has been wonderful and the city has been very impressed. There is odd data about the ideals and the work. It is very important that we do not cut the key things that we need for our kids.
- We cut a chunk of the middle school when we built it.
- We cut a piece of the FFA classrooms.
- We did not get what we wanted we got what we could pay for. Accelerated programs cut.
- I strongly suggest the need to have conversations about this in: Loomis, Waconda, Aeneas Valley and South Pine Creek. This is important and people need to have our folks know. Validation was easily met.
- If you still choose to function, it may be a good idea to do a register to vote campaign. The opportunity is there to get voters. You needed 60 people to flip the vote.
- The number of kids in the district. The whole thought that there was 1,200 students back then and there was 1,000 now. (In the state, there was an initiative for smaller class sizes. You can't have 36 kids in class anymore. By contract and law you can't have huge class sizes. If you have someone employed over part time, you have to pay their benefits.
- Patrick had a map that shows where the bond failed. There is nowhere in the valley that failed. It is shown as a visual. Urgency for outreach. Mail was much more negative than the ballot box at the city.

Kristin Williams:

- Too much money for the alternative school and too much money for the bathrooms. There are lots of ways to reach and teach kids.

Peggy Crandell:

- It points to a lack of trust and confidence between the community and the school district. The board and the district staff. The superintendent and the district staff. Aaron said the biggest concern that I heard was that the school district employees were overwhelmed.
- Until we can bridge that trust issue, we have a very tough task on our hands.

Jeremy Clark:

- Space issue and the inclusion of preschool. We have kids in the building that were not in the plan when it was created. Preschool is a vital part of our community. How do we help out and what will we do with our spaces. We are going to get it done one way or another. Do we split it up and put it out to the community. I know how much time was spent by the team to do future planning and what is best for our community. If we put it out that way, it would not be fair to take a piece and leave the others out. For us to be innovative, we need to have this space.

Janet Bretz:

- Concern about registering to vote. We do want everyone registered and going out to get kids registered just to pass a bond is unfair.
- How much is earmarked for the Alternative/Outreach. (\$800,000) On the one day that Outreach comes in? Outreach is a full day on Friday's but outside of that it is the one day per week for one hour as a meeting for the work.
- Having open forums in town as well. If the bond does not pass and the Levy is to hire teachers what is your plan?

Mark McMillan:

- Five years in a row a levy failed. I am afraid that if you run this again, you may start failing levies too. If you start losing those you could lose everything. If you put a bad taste in people's mouths then you are going to have issues.

Rob Inlow:

- Did a little quick homework tonight. 66.5 million dollar bond. Their assessed rates, were about ½ of ours. Comes back to students in a classroom. If Wenatchee can build for \$1.77 per thousand, why can't we?
- Now we are asking for more from each one of us. Unless I see things tightened up a little bit, it is too frivolous for me to support.

Bob Ashmore:

- The outreach program is a fantastic program. Alternative and Outreach are part of the mandate to serve all kids. Typically, per student spending is less than it is in the standard student population. We are replacing some buildings that are sort of sad when you go in there.
- Chelsie's success and the desire to come back and teach there speaks volumes for the classroom.

Keith Montanye:

- Why is it that those kids can't be in the HS or the MS? Because the cost is so much more to build a different place is so much more expensive. Add them to the school then it would be so much cheaper. If there are 70 some kids, and they go one time per week, why can't we have a couple of classrooms? Add on to the high school instead of having a mini campus. When we try to do additional buildings it is so much more expensive.
- Alternative/Outreach supports the students that work 120 alt kids, and we have three that need this support. I have big respect for students that come to Outreach from the jobs.
- Talked with Hugh Jensen and the water main structure. He is looking to have the pipeline replaced.
- The need for the waterline to be moved is if the MS addition hits.

Jim Bretz:

- Where are we going to put those things for the stadium. The further north you go, there is nothing at the Jonathan Street? Why is it not built at the north end of the track. Talking to Hugh, there was talk about pumps. At first we were looking at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. What we would like to do is make it as frugal as possible.

Patrick Plum:

- Hugh has a boss, two of which are in the room and we have not had any conversations about that. Maybe we could work together to try to make something work. There may be money that we have. Your rates are really high so we can anticipate problems and work them out.

- You need to expound on the unfinished basement. Put the Outreach and alt in the basement.
- Another big thing on Facebook, an underlying topic. Talk that there were some private individuals that paid for the overages from the mismanagement of the last bond. We did do some volunteer efforts at the track. We did do some things where we had to have match funds to finish the track, but I don't know about the school having issues putting stuff out there.

Lloyd Caton:

- Spoke about the community involvement and investment to make the best of the county for our facilities. It has been used so much, we need to take care of it.

Tom Bretz:

- Actually in classrooms, student per teacher ratio, elementary is running at high 20's. (Paul Turner added that one of the issues that we are running into is that there is 80 or so students per grade level. We hope to add another 4/5 classroom. Patrick Plumb speaks about not wanting to have multi grade classes.)

Keith Montanye:

- What about the concessions and the bathrooms. Would it be possible to bring in a trailer or shed? Drag the trailers to the spaces. You would have to look to see if it was worth it. Nice to have a solid facility.

Rob Inlow:

- Asked if the phone can call out for the survey. There is discussion.
- There were a lot of people that just did not vote because they were not for it. A no vote is a no vote.

Jim Bretz:

- Early release Wednesdays. It works really well; gives an extra hour to get the plows out. It works really well up there.

Bob Ashmore:

- Regarding a survey, if the consensus is to put it out to the communities, we need to know if we can find out about the why it was a no vote. If there are some small tweaks that can happen it would be great.

Catherine Stangland:

- Stated that it is difficult as we asked what our students need. Help me understand why we would change it. Why would we not try to help the community understand that.

Rob Inlow:

- There are needs and there are wants. Spoke about the broken down issues for the new things. Here is the amount to maintain what we have instead of what we want.

Gerald Green:

- I want to ask about the alternative school. I went to a board member and asked a question. I supported it anyway. The answer was satisfactory. If you got questions, go up and ask the people.

Janet Bretz:

- Discussion about trust. You want to listen to the community and then listen to the people and just go with what you got, you still have the people that have issues with the school.
- It isn't that they don't want it to pass, it is about happening the way it is happening.
- If we put the alternative school as it's own school would it qualify for state matching funds? Are mandated by the state to do the alternative teaching. It is the school board's decision about where they are housed. (Jerry clarified that it is not required to have alternative schools. One correction for the portables. It was a salvage at the Moses Lake Military base. It was already used and discarded prior to use.)

Patrick Plum:

- Portable Toilets got a rave review. It is a reflection on your community.

Jim Bretz:

- \$500,000 touched on. Four things that are \$50,000 a piece. Then let's maintain the track. Or is it most important to do what when? Doing it all at once I don't know.

Kirsten Williams:

- Do schools run a special levy for athletics? (Yes.)

Mark McMillan:

- Separate as four or five different votes. Asking for our input to see if we would be willing to discuss.

Board Action: Catherine Stangland moved to schedule a hearing on Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting which will start at 8:00 p.m. Lloyd Caton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

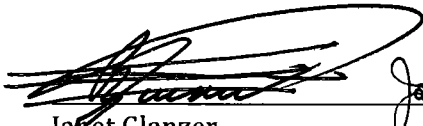
#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session for one hour for the review of the performance of a public employee.

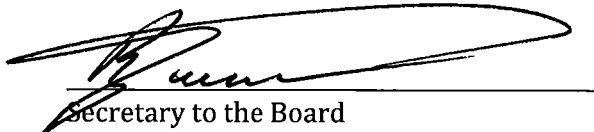
The Board moved out of executive session at 9:45 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Board Action: The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

  
Janet Glanzer  
Assistant Secretary

The minutes of the February 17, 2014 special board meeting (6 pages) were amended and reviewed at the March 24, 2014 meeting.

  
Secretary to the Board

  
Chair of the Board