

February PTO Meeting - Minutes
February 9, 2021
Via Zoom; 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

- **President's Call to Order**
- **Presentation of Proposition R by KSD Superintendent Dr. Ulrich**
 - Introduction of cabinet - Matt Bailey, Ginger Cayce, Howard Fields, Bryan Painter, Mike Romay; appreciate the opportunity to talk and share
 - Power Point Presentation
 - Customized to Westchester, slides will be available
 - What has guided our work?
 - The failure of Prop S
 - Facility Master Plan from 2018-19 - Focused on prioritized ideas over the last few years, ongoing input from principals along with work of the boundary adjustment committee
 - Emphasis of equitable access for all students
 - Parent, staff and community survey - good info that has reinforced previous feedback
 - Boundary committees focus had been:
 - building capacity and utilization,
 - current and projected enrollments,
 - current and projected utilization,
 - elementary school buildable land sites
 - intentional engagement of residents and representatives of Meacham Park,
 - Tillman Split - 6th graders being divided up to NKMS or Nipher
 - Families will have the opportunity to remain in their current school to finish
 - It's been 40 years since we have redone boundaries; it will be a multi year phase in
 - Focus on utilization and capacity rather than equal enrollment in buildings
 - Focus on elementary campuses that have buildable land
 - Hope to fix the Tillman Split
 - Ensure equitable access to resources for every student
 - Younger siblings can remain in current boundary school
 - Shifting boundaries alone will not fix the problem
 - 7-8 of K-12 schools over capacity, we want to be at 85%, if we do no changes we will be at 113% capacity, with changes we would be at 85%, Westchester if currently at 100%
 - Positive steps to alleviate overcrowding and maintain current class sizes - our community knows we are overcrowded and have utilization of space issues; survey told us that our community prioritizes maintaining class sizes,
 - We are projected to grow 4-5% over the next five years

- Dr. Ricker - If Prop R is successful:
 - We have 8 additional classrooms, new library/media center, convert existing library into spaces for personalized learning
 - Dedicated art and music rooms
 - Expansion of cafeteria to accommodate student needs, refurbish kitchen area
 - Additional and updated security cameras and lighting around the perimeter of the building, “Shed some light” if you will in the back of the building, along the woods
 - Might switch to ABC rotation of specials (art/music/PE) which would result in increased music and art minutes for students

Questions:

1. How does upgrade affect the WE building footprint (do we lose green space)?

Romay: There are no plans to take green space away, most of the additional will go in the north playground area. 4th grade wing will connect to gym/3rd grade hallway. It clicks 5 of the 6 original asks of the 2018 masterplan. Might add a couple of classrooms in front of the gym; Woods and fields will not be touched

2. Last bond issue we looked at keeping students below 500 and not making “super schools”. What has changed?

Ulrich: COVID cut estimated growth in half. Additionally, the community voted down the building of a new school, which in turn was a vote for having bigger schools. We are focused on having the right size, student centered solution.

3. Under the bond issue, how will arrival, dismissal, parking be impacted as they are already problems?

Ulrich: We need to get “super elementary” school out of our vocab. I do believe that collaboration with staff and students will be key. Teacher & parent input is important.
Bo: Much of the planning is from the 18-19 plan, no specifics yet to address those issues, but we want to be mindful of effective space usage w/o losing green space and being respectful of our neighbors

4. Comment - A parent has said they could not get behind Prop R as students are not in the classrooms 5 days a week. How would you respond?

Ulrich: I have heard that comment, but first and foremost, we will emerge from this pandemic, and be back to a five day a week schedule. We continue to maximize in person learning as well as keep staff and students safe. Our message has been constant. We are trying to cultivate trust through transparency. Parents are frustrated, we’ve asked more of students, teachers and staff this year than even before Thank for the sacrifices you’ve made. I hope you can look to and expect your superintendent to keep his eyes on the horizon. We are behind. These needs were last year and prop s did not pass. It would have been easier to not do this as a brand new superintendent. But we need to do this and we are able to do so without raising taxes. If we do this in April, we will miss out on opportunities for our students.

5. Jason: Considering Prop S was not close to passing, how can we bring them on board at least to not oppose?

U: I was in communication with the Tax Fairly Group when I was still in CO when PProp S failed. Their stance was Prop S was not a “rightsiae solution”. We believe Prop R is a right sized, student centered. At this time there is no known active “no campaign”. Based on what their opposition was previously, I don’t know why they would object. We can say we listened and presented a plan that right sized, student centered and that it was approved unanimously by the BOE

6. Ellen: Based on what you said to connect the back - would there still be a track?

There is enough space to still have an existing track.

7. Ellen: From an SSD perspective - Will there be some priorities to make sure SSD rooms are placed in good spots, and reflective of student needs.

Bailey: We place a high priority on inclusion, b/c of current class sizes and student needs things have moved around quite a bit. The renderings include a courtyard that some of the newer classrooms will be able to open to and we are looking to include sensory areas, soft surface playground etc. Nurses station and OT/PT area might be included in that area as well.

8. Will there be adult bathrooms?

Yes, staff restrooms are in the plan.

9. Shannon: When can we expect new boundary lines to be published?

Bailey: We haven’t even looked at maps yet. It will be a gradual process. We want to make sure we do this the right way. People have a personal investment in their schools

10: What is going to be done in teh meantime to address the overcrowding issues?

Creative solutions - this year it was art and music on a cart. Even when Prop R passes it will be a 18-24 month process. We do know we need space.

11. When do we get to see the renderings? Will parents be able to comment?

We want things to be accurate. Will be viewable as possibly as soon as the first week of March. THere will be plenty of time for parent feedback as plans will be redefined after the passing of Prop R

12. How fast does all this happen when it passes? At least this summer to refine plans and put out to bid. Construction would likely begin in fall (18 months, two winters). Instruction should not be impacted during construction as interior work will happen during summers. Boundary plans will not go into effect until construction is complete.

13. Ellenn - what do we do next year when we are at 110%?

U: We are living Plan B, or maybe C or D. We will continue to find solutions until the long term need is addressed.

Bo: We have some options that are not as desirable. A lot will be determined by incoming KDG numbers and the numbers of students who return from private schools. All options are on the table.

Ginger: If anyone is excited to help spread the word on Prop R, reach out to her or Dr. Ricker

KHS/NKMS: Very similar to what was on Prop S. NKMS would take over ASC, 8-10 classrooms, instrumental music/band room, enclose some corridors, resurface the track. Exterior lighting, cameras

At KHS it will now add 15 classrooms, welcome center, more secure entrance, Essex site security office, cameras/lighting

Kary: PTO has often raised \$ for playgrounds, classroom etc. Who will fund the furnishings of these new areas?

BO: believes it will be facilities job to equip new areas

- **Review of Minutes**
 - **Secretary Van Horn - Approved**
- **Treasury & Budget Update**
 - **Budget Update after January expenses**
 - Nothing significant -\$68,000 at the end of the month
- **President's Report**
 - **Proposal of Fifth Grade Fun Day Grant; Motion for Approval** - Grant for swag bags, yard signs, maybe a snow cone truck, \$35/head for a total of up to \$3500, What about our virtual students? They will be included. Jason, Ellen approved
 - **Proposal of Kona Snow Cone Truck for Spring social activity; Motion for Approval** - Proposal to replace ice cream social with kona snow cone truck; \$2/student, \$1000, Wed March 17th Time would be TBD Ellen approves, 2nd Jason Passes
 - **Call for volunteers to help with chickens** - Chickens please sign up to help! You get to keep the eggs!
 - **Yearbook advertisements are available for purchase** - Any grade can buy ads, link is live on the ecommerce website \$60, \$30, \$10
 - **Upcoming Dates:**
 - Friday, February 12 – No School
 - Monday, February 15- No School
 - Tuesday, February 16 – Dining Out @ Dewey's Kirkwood
 - Thursday, February 18 – Dining Out @ Dominoes Kirkwood
 - Tuesday, February 23 – Dining Out @ Duffy's Kirkwood
- **Principal's Report**
 - Spring conferences will be occurring
 - There will be school supplies orders coming out in March and early April - KDG parents can participate as well.
 - Ellen: North is doing this - instead of dining out, they are asking families to dine "at", drive business towards our neighbors who support us. - We've given back our checks in a "pay it forward" manner behind the scenes. It was suggested that we put that in the newsletter and share.
- **Vice Principal's Report**
 - **Updates from virtual community**
 - Pick up Valentines and packets Friday

- Look at Monday updates and there are google links for Random Acts of Kindness/Photos
 - Lunch brunch with Dr. Limpert
 - Wacky Wednesday is tomorrow
 - Virtual Clubs as well as student council are up and running
 - If you have Robinson kiddos in your class, opt out if you don't want to be in their yearbook
 - Virtual Staff will be in each yearbook
- Kary - new committees are forming, let us know if you want to be on a committee, change committees, many hands make light work!
 - **Adjourn**