

OSKALOOSA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 27, 2015

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The Board of Directors of the Oskaloosa Community School District met in work session at 7:00PM on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, in the Administration Board Room, 1800 North 3rd Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present were Board members Tom Richardson, Shelly Herr, Carl Drost, Erik Edgren, Nicholas Hansen, Sharma Parlett, and Kraig Van Hulzen.

OTHERS PRESENT

Also present were Superintendent Mr. Russell Reiter, Beth Danowsky, Andrew Jensen, Linda Crookham-Hansen, Willy Van Weelden, Jason Van Zetten, Michael Schrock, Andy Hotek, Mike Dursky, Ken Allsup, Eduardo Zamarripa, Scottie Moore, Dave Krutzfeldt, and Chad Vink.

DISCUSSION REGARDING RECREATION AND CHILDCARE FACILITY

Mr. Reiter took the floor to provide a summary and the history of recent discussions regarding the need for improved YMCA and childcare/preschool facilities. He noted the glaring needs for education and provided some estimated costs with various scenarios for renovation and construction.

Richardson asked about the depth of the possible renovations, and Beth Danowsky of the Mahaska County Development Group noted that, even with renovations, it would still have insufficient features that are desired for a preschool and early childhood center. Edgren wondered about the depth of insufficiency, and Danowsky noted that the limited space makes schedules tight, which makes it hard to provide the required length of certain instruction.

Richardson and Parlett then inquired about using SAVE sales tax funds, as well as what other funding would be involved in the construction and operations of the facility. Mr. Reiter and Vink noted that there was a means to provide funds through a 28E lease agreement, and that the funding should be both sufficient and stable to meet the needs of both our facilities and leasing a new facility. Mr. Reiter added that it is yet to be seen about operational costs. Danowsky conveyed that a fundraising campaign would be initiated and that grants would be pursued, including from the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Edgren mentioned that, while he supports the District involvement with a pool, his preference would be a location much closer to the High School. Drost noted that he certainly endorses supporting a childcare center, and he supports a pool as well if there will be ample student use.

Edgren queried Danowsky about membership costs compared to value, and Danowsky replied that they were still analyzing the possibilities, but the potential was that fees would remain the same, but due to higher value, the volume of memberships would increase.

Parlett followed that by asking about the future of the Alternative Program site. Reiter answered that the current YMCA site has some prospects due to size and location.

Hansen indicated that he wants the Board to determine its priorities to create a focus in making this decision. Van Hulzen added that he wants to make sure that the District has alternative plans in place in case this project doesn't move forward or doesn't move forward soon enough.

Drost and Parlett both stated their support for the project, noting the benefits to education, the previous cooperation with the City and County, the promising site, and the community involvement. Herr said that she could support further exploration of the project, including stating Board intentions. Edgren noted that he fully supported the project, but was concerned with School District involvement, and particularly whether the spirit of the use of sales tax funds was being maintained under what is proposed. He encouraged a tour of the current YMCA to envision the possible uses there, and emphasized the importance of the learning environment at all of the District's facilities.

Hansen, Mr. Reiter, and Richardson acknowledged that such a facility can make Oskaloosa more attractive over other communities and help stimulate economic development, but didn't want to end up with abandoned buildings either. Drost and Van Hulzen added that we should look to act in some way so other parties can act as well. Danowsky said that the City of Oskaloosa would like to act by January to meet deadlines for ballot language for a planned Local Option Sales and Services Tax election. Vink recommended the drafting of a Statement of Intent to provide a framework for the Board's commitment one way or another.

Discussion ensued and a consensus was built that, if it felt secure that the funds were available and alternative plans were in place, the Board wished to collaborate in the construction of a recreation and childcare facility. It was also agreed to discuss a Statement of Intent, including the dollar amount of support, at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:46PM.

Chad M. Vink, Board Secretary