

School Board Meeting Summary

October 13, 2010

The meeting included:

- An update about the facilities construction project. Jim Walton announced that most work on the elementary wing has been completed. Solar panels have been installed on the roof and should be functional soon. Solar power is expected to cover 80% of the district's energy needs. Floor mats in the front entry will be installed during the December break. Air conditioning is planned for the two south-facing second floor classrooms. Two bids have been submitted, one for \$78,000 and one for \$75,000; these bids were quite a bit higher than expected, and neither has been accepted.

Construction of the multipurpose room continues to be on schedule. Steel beams will be delivered this week and next; concrete will be poured on October 19. We expect the gym to be completed in September 2011.

- A discussion of the 2010-2011 budget. The operating deficit as presented was \$102,397; this deficit is expected to decrease with upcoming budget adjustments. The Board will continue its discussion of the budget at the November meeting; 3-year projections of revenue and expenses will be presented.

Mark Pressmann, our bond consultant, discussed particulars of the administration of Qualified School Construction Bonds.

- Pattie Dullea and Greg Hamilton discussed the STAR scores and the increase in the API score, which rose from 911 to 939. This is a significant increase, and is unrelated to recent changes in criteria used to determine cutoff levels for advanced and proficient scores. Teachers encouraging passion for learning, a more organized testing environment, consistent testing procedures and improved student awareness of testing were cited among the factors leading to the improvement.

- A continuation of last month's discussion about the PEP survey results. Parental concerns voiced in the survey included playground behavior and differentiated instruction, among others.

- An update about the Kindness Campaign. Suze Rutherford discussed the overall initiative, which helps to create change gradually, leading to a more supportive, inclusive, and kind community. Respect week, held in September, focused on teaching empathy and compassion. The Kindness Campaign this year will support student led initiatives such as Ross School Kindness Ambassadors and Community Outreach, and introduce students and staff to a common kindness language and conflict resolution tools. Parent education meetings, will also be held monthly throughout the year

- A discussion about revisions to the interdistrict transfer policy. It was agreed to move quickly to implement changes to the policy to address concerns about the new state Open Enrollment Act, which allows students from identified low-performing schools to transfer to schools outside of their district. This policy will be discussed again October 27; a final policy will likely be approved in November or December.

A special School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27th at 7:30pm in the Ross School Library to discuss the interdistrict transfer policy. There will be a closed session at 6:30pm.

The next regular School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10, in the Ross School Library. Closed session starts at 6:30pm; open session starts at 7:30pm. Please join us!

The Ross School Board of Trustees