

District Advisory Council Minutes
Talking Points
March 21, 2013

Facilities Master Planning and Capital Projects Update

The School Board has conducted extensive public outreach and developed key understandings for a future bond approach. The Board has arrived at a consensus on the following three (3) major projects with the intention to make a final bond proposition decision in early fall 2013:

Draft Bond Proposal

1. Build a new 4th K-5 elementary school on district-owned land near the high school on Southeast 40th street and 86th Avenue SE. Cost = \$30.4 million
2. Expand the existing Islander Middle School campus, including 14 new classrooms, larger student commons area and a new gymnasium. Cost = \$33.2 million
3. Expand the existing high school by adding an additional eight to ten classrooms including four science labs in two-story addition. Cost = \$ \$6.7 million

Total Cost: \$70.3 million

Timeline

- March – July 2013: Development of Educational Specifications and community involvement
- Fall 2013: Board decision on bond measure
- Spring, 2013 – Winter, 2014: Privately funded campaign
- Winter or Spring, 2014: Public vote

If the board picks winter (February) of 2014, the bond will appear at the same time as the M&O Levy reauthorization. A decision on when the election will occur is slated to be made later this summer/fall. Earliest date for completion of bond projects is Sept 2016.

Administrative Vacancies

Pat Turner and Kathy Morrison are retiring this year. The district is also adding one itinerant Assistant Principal position for all three elementary schools. The two main reasons are growth of student population and the added work of the teacher evaluation system.

Public Records/Information Coordinator

This position is needed to comply with the increasing number of public records requests.

iPads and Technology Tools

FAQ's about the district's iPad initiative are posted on the district web site.

We have been piloting these tools in classrooms for three years and expanded the district network to accommodate more data use.

Main reasons for selecting the iPad over Microsoft Surface are:

- More applications available for iPad.
- Volume discount from Apple, none from Microsoft. Additional \$200,000 to purchase the Surface.
- Lack of experience with Surface.

Bridge the Gap Breakfast is April 30

All are invited to the Breakfast as Gary's guest. The goal is to raise \$1.2 million for 18-20 teachers, an art specialist and instructional coaches at IMS (1) and MIHS (3). We will make staff reductions, if we don't raise ample funds by May 15.

Bond Publicity

Ralph Jorgensen, Paul Bergman and Rob Spaulding are involved in discussions around a campaign committee for some future bond. This group might become the next Committee for Mercer Island Public Schools (CMPS).

I-90 Tolling

- This will be a burden for 2/3 of our employees.
- A stipend for staff who might have to pay for tolls (assuming we could afford it) would cost the district \$500,000/year.
- Tolling will limit our ability to attract and retain employees.
- It could lower the value of our real estate; also hamper our effort to pass the bond. Tolling is inevitable. The question is which option will help us the most.

Elementary schedule

Schools will start 5 minutes earlier to gain more instructional time.

World Language in elementary schools

Gary would like to engage parents in a discussion about having each school offer a world language – such as Chinese, Spanish and French. The cost is estimated at \$250,000/year once fully implemented.

EES (Educational Effectiveness Survey)

It was suggested that we conduct these once a year, from 5th grade on.

