



West Bend School Board Committee of the Whole Meeting October 14, 2019

On October 14, 2019 the West Bend School Board held a Committee of the Whole meeting.

- The board approved the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote.
- The only other agenda item was a presentation of findings of the West Bend School District Private Task Force.
- This group of private citizens formed the task force on their own. It was not at the request of the West Bend School Board.

Recap of West Bend School District Private Task Force Presentation

- The members of the private task force include:

Mike Chevalier
Ed Duquaine
Dan Garvey
Chris Kleman
Owen Robinson
Kraig Sadownikow
Chris Schmidt
Tim Schmidt
Randy Stark
Kevin Steiner

- Zimmerman Architectural Studios was retained by the task force to offer consultation pertaining to facilities in the educational environment.
- The sponsors of the task force are Tim Schmidt from Delta Defense and Kevin Steiner of West Bend Mutual Insurance.
- Kraig Sadownikow referenced the failed facilities referendum in April 2019 and said the district goals were not in alignment with public opinion.
- He stressed that the task force is a private entity and its views are independent of the West Bend School District and the West Bend School Board.
- In addition, he said the task force is not an elected body and therefore have no authority to implement their ideas and recommendations. It is up to the West Bend School Board as the elected body representing district taxpayers to determine how to move forward on the matter of district facilities.
- The members of the task force agreed on the recommendations made to the board.
- Sadownikow reviewed the steps the task force took to gather information.
- [Review background information.](#)

General Findings

- Sadownikow said the task force recommends the school district implement a 25-year facilities and maintenance plan that is updated frequently with up-to-date data. The findings also said the district does not have a central campus and its buildings are spread out geographically, making them harder to maintain. He also reported that the district should have meaningful communication with the public about facilities and increase communication to engage citizens.
- Other general findings include the fact that the condition of the facilities are about to negatively affect the education level and the capital maintenance budget is inadequate.
- [Review general findings highlights.](#)

High Schools Findings

- Owen Robinson of the task force reviewed their findings related to the high schools building.
- In addition to touring the building, the task force members talked to staff, reviewed other schools, and reviewed reports and data on maintenance and the facility.
- The task force believes the building should be a modern facility that meets the educational needs of students in the future.
- Robinson outlined the five priorities for the building that the task force identified
 - Safety, create one main secure entrance
 - Efficient and Functional Assets, fix and update locker rooms and update lighting and HVAC
 - Modernization of the existing footprint including libraries, study hall, offices, and some classrooms
 - Functional Assets, create a courtyard from the current open area in the middle of the school
 - Duplicate Community Assets, use collaborations, current community assets, and private money for some of the current CTE classes such as welding because the current equipment is sub-optimal and needs work
 - Robinson shared the estimated costs associated with the findings
 - [Review high school findings.](#)

Elementary/Facilities Deployment Findings

- Randy Stark reported that the task force reviewed options for elementary facilities and other district facilities objectively and purely through a business lens.
- The group reviewed closely the age, condition, and capacity of the current elementary schools and how well they are suited to educating kids in today's environment
- The task force closely reviewed the current usage of elementary schools and the age of the schools, reporting that 81% of the elementary facility square footage is more than 40 years old
- The current capital budget for the entire district is \$1.5 million per year and the task force feels that leaves a gap versus what needs to be done
- The four strategic options that the task force examined:
 - #1: Do nothing
 - #2: Retain all buildings and make all necessary capital improvements at existing sites
 - #3: Replace Jackson Elementary at the new site
 - #4: Construct one new school (capacity 780+) at a south side of West Bend location and expand Green Tree

- Include district maintenance facility and district offices at the new location
- Close and sell Jackson Elementary School, the land purchased for a new Jackson school, Decorah Elementary, Fair Park Elementary, the Education Service Center (district office), Rolfs Education Center, and the district maintenance building.
- Redistribute students accordingly.
- Review the [elementary findings and advantages and disadvantages](#) the task force identified for each of its options.

Additional Elementary/Facilities Deployment Findings

Ed Duquaine and a representative from Zimmerman Architectural Studios presented information to support the task force recommending option #4.

- The task force reviewed enrollment projections and current enrollment numbers.
- A theoretical plan for a south side of West Bend elementary and campus includes six sections for each grade level but room for seven.
- The district offices and maintenance facility is attached to the school.
- Green Tree Elementary would add five classrooms to the back of the current building to increase the capacity of the school.
- Review [conceptual plans by Zimmerman](#).

Operations Efficiencies Findings of Subcommittee of Task Force

- A subcommittee of the task force reviewed potential cost savings due to operations efficiencies.
- They identified savings through reductions in staff, teachers, administrators, and maintenance by consolidating six physical facilities into one.
- In addition, a local real estate broker worked with the subcommittee to provide an estimate of revenue from selling old properties.
- [Review details of the proposed financial investment.](#)

[Full West Bend School District Private Task Force Full Presentation](#)

These recommendations from the West Bend School District Private Task Force will continue to be reviewed by the West Bend School Board. They will be taken into consideration as the board moves ahead with its duty to ensure the best educational experiences and opportunities for the students of the district.

The next regular board meeting will be on October 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Education Service Center, 735 S. Main St., West Bend.