

Bethel School District

Long Range Facilities Task Force



Meeting #8 Summary

Bethel School District Long Range Facilities Task Force Meeting #8
Thursday, February 21, 2019
5:30-7:30PM
Pierce County Skills Center, 16117 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup, WA 98375

Task Force members in attendance

Althea Clark
Ashlee Walker
Bill Taylor
Brian Streleski
Carie Ann Lathom
David Knight
Debby Morgan
Demetrius Forte
Dennis Leingang
Jay McIsaac
Jennifer Van Gieson
Kathleen Jones

Kim Price
Marilyn Wood
Paul Marquardt
Peggy Brayton
Porsche Appleman
Rebecca Sok
Rick Knutsen
Ron Mayberry
Sandy Williamson
Terry Hurd
Tina Lee
Tracy Hennessy

Members absent

Amy Briggs
Audra Brown
Bernadette Patton
Charis Storrs
Dan Ferreira
Denise Clark
Dick Thurston
Jeffrey Johnson
Joe Hoge
Melanie Thomas

Mike Christianson
Mujaahidah Sayfullah
Robert Crewse
Robert Stanley
Scott Martin
Shannon Zimmerly
Teresa Smith
Thomas Munoz
Todd Mitchell

Meeting observers

Penny Mabie
Cathie Carlson
Leigh Ann Dryer
Doug Boyles
Joel Stutheit
Tom Seigel
Jennifer Bethman

Lori Haugen
Brian Grassi
Amy Pivetta
Marlene Anglemyer
David Hammond

MEETING PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The Bethel School District Long Range Facilities Task Force met for their eighth and final meeting on February 21st at the Pierce County Skills Center. The meeting's key objectives were:

- What is included in the 2019 bond measure?
- What are the district's plans now that the bond measure has passed?
- What are the Task Force's recommendations for addressing the capacity needs at the elementary school level?

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

With the passing of the 2019 Construction Bond, Cathie Carlson fielded questions regarding timelines and schedules for the construction projects. Cathie explained the priorities for the construction program schedule, which will be presented to the school board for acceptance on February 26th.

Included in the 2019 Bond:

- Three new schools, including a new Bethel High School
- Renovation and expansion of six other schools, including a new wing at Graham-Kapowsin High School

Length of time it will take to implement these projects:

- Building a new elementary school – three years
- Building a new high school – four years
- Renovate & expand existing schools, using the current Bethel High School as a swing school – three years

Priorities for the construction program are to relieve capacity at the elementary and high school levels first, all subject to the school board's approval on February 26th.

David Hammond then spoke regarding the short term options the district is considering implementing to manage capacity demands until the new capacity comes online, now that the bond has passed. Having an end date in sight when a new school will open helps immensely in the capacity issues, but there is still a need in the interim. The district is trying to implement changes without moving the same students too frequently. A strategy being considered is having students from new housing developments that are coming online soon be assigned to a school that has available capacity, rather than the closest geographically. Temporarily moving some programs out of certain schools to create capacity could also be an option. David thanked everyone for their work, their input and their dedication.

Tom Seigel then spoke about the importance of the work the Task Force has done the recommendations will be useful in the future not only for Bethel School District, but for other districts as well. Mr. Seigel, the board of directors as well as the school district is very appreciative of the Task Force's time, effort and

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY LEVEL

The Task Force has two options still on the table regarding the elementary capacity issues:

- Change one middle school to elementary school
- Change grade bands to K-4 & 5-8

Penny explained that it the goal is not necessarily to have just one option, it is perfectly acceptable to recommend both options to the board. The Task Force discussed the differences between the two, and their pros and cons. After a brief discussion, it became obvious that both options had benefits and drawbacks, so the Task Force decided to include both options in its recommendations, so either could be considered, depending on the needs of the district at the time.

Penny confirmed with the Task Force their high school level recommendations and caveats, as well as their agreement on the elementary school level. The Task Force members were in agreement and satisfied with their final product.

NEXT STEPS

- Penny and her team will review, edit and finalize the final report
- Jay McIsaac volunteered to be the Task Force representative and present the Task Force's final recommendations to the school board on March 12th at 7pm in the ESC Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.