

CROSBY-IRONTON SCHOOLS
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
February 27, 2025

Item 7.2a

The buildings and grounds committee met in the District Office conference room on February 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. with the following present: Laura Lee and Tommy Sablan. Jamie Skjeveland and Bill Tollefson were also present.

Updates from February Finance Committee – The committee reviewed the discussion outcomes from the February 26, 2025 finance committee meeting. The finance committee meeting had continued work on development of budget reductions for a first reading at a special Board meeting on March 6, 2025. There were modifications to the prior list, as well as new items added and support for breaking the process down into a two-year plan, with the adoption of year two reductions at the September 22, 2025 regular School Board meeting so that the public would be aware of those reductions prior to a potential operating referendum election in November 2025. The meeting on March 6, 2025 will focus only on year one reductions that will take effect for the 2025-2026 school year. The finance committee had adjusted the focus of extra-curricular budget adjustments, which had previously been discussed to be fee increases to cover more of the cost of the activity; to now be reduction or defunding of junior high sports for an estimated savings of \$40,000 and an additional \$100,000 in reductions to be determined in conjunction with the activities director. This lowers the total reduction in the extra-curricular area from \$200,000 to \$140,000. Other modifications included changing the reduction of a part-time secondary social studies teacher to restructuring of high school teaching positions and using School Support Aid and expected changes in teacher licensure to make a portion of one position qualify for the School Support Aid funding criteria. National Honor Society was removed from the reduction list. A target of a \$25,000 reduction to the school supplies budgets was added, as was a reduction in funding for field trip transportation on the assumption that the CRES PTO and other organizations might be willing to step up to donate to the School District to cover those costs. Software licenses and subscriptions will also be reviewed, with no target set; and operating overhead in the custodial area, including evaluation of custodial supplies and repair costs. In total, this decreases the previous list from around \$300,000 to approximately \$277,000 in budget adjustments. Buildings and grounds committee members expressed concern about the level of General Fund unreserved fund balance that will be consumed and concern that the public may question that the School Board is not doing what they say they will do. Additional discussion will take place at the special School Board meeting scheduled to be held on March 6, 2025.

Revenue Generation to Soften Budget Reduction Needs – The committee was tasked with budget reduction work alongside the finance committee, which included generation of ideas to increase revenue as a way to soften budget reduction by elimination of expenditures. After a period of brainstorming, the committee suggested further investigation of the following concepts: ACT prep to be provided in conjunction with a partnership with the homeschool community who could contribute toward the actual ACT prep activities, while the School District could provide the facilities; expanded promotion of sale of school-produced items, especially Ranger Made, both in school and possibly throughout the community at partnering stores who may be willing to provide storefront space in all geographic areas of the School District; options for alumni support, while knowing that the Cuyuna Lakes Education Foundation (CLEF) reliance on this avenue of support for their operation; and options for adjusting the sports fees for homeschool participants so that more of the cost of the activity is covered by the fee in the absence of General Education revenue for this segment of the school population.

Phase VI – Combination of Sourcewell and Traditional Bidding – The committee was updated on the Phase VI project. Phase VI has become the most complex and demanding of the remodeling construction phases to-date. Given the extensive volume of work to be completed and the significantly long lead time on materials for some areas of the project at the high school, a part of the project will be procured using the Sourcewell pre-bid construction process and the remainder of the project will be procured following the traditional bidding process. The Sourcewell process will be used for the classroom and office remodel areas, the remodeling of the Family and Consumer Science foods lab, and the remodeling of the restrooms on the north end of the secondary building. These spaces will need to have construction start after the school year ends and be completed by mid-August in order to be ready for use of these spaces at the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Traditional bidding will be used for the Woock Gym portion of the project. The Woock Gym area will be started after the end of the current school year, but will not be completed until at least October 2025. Certain equipment elements of the Woock Gym project will also be procured directly by the School District using a Sourcewell pre-bid option, including bleachers, the wood

gym floor and athletic equipment needed in gymnasium spaces. The committee was in agreement with this concept and plans will move forward using this format.

The committee also discussed the need for all three restroom sets at the north end of the high school building to be remodeled over the summer of 2025. After discussing several options, the committee decided to recommend that the restrooms nearest the CTE wing at the bottom of the long corridor ramp would not be included as part of the Phase VI project. Due to the late nature of this recommendation, design work will continue, but the scope of work will not be included in final construction contracts. This recommendation will be forwarded to the School Board for action to modify the previously adopted Phase VI plan at the regular March School Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by William Tollefson