

Jerome Prairie Closure Consideration Committee Board Work Session

April 1, 2013 – 7:00 PM – Jerome Prairie Elementary School

Attendance: Debbie Sauro, Rob Harrington, Cece McKee, Kim Flow, Mandy York, Lise Van Brunt, Mande Obien, Kirk Baumann, Dave Valenzuela, Justin Tocher, Debbie Breckner, Doug Ely, Stephanie Allen, Ron Crume, Bob Litak, Ron Lengwin, Dan Huber-Kantola, Leslie Meier, Shelly Quick

Intro:

Dan Huber-Kantola: addressed and thanked the committee for the time and effort they've put into reviewing the information.

Agenda:

1. Committee Introductions: Debbie Breckner advised the committee will introduce themselves and their role in the process. Dave Valenzuela is a facilitator and reviewed the transportation numbers, Justin Tocher is taking the minutes for the committee sessions, Cece McKee is the kindergarten teacher at MD & JP, Lise Van Brunt is the principal at JP & MD, Kirk Baumann is the assistant principal at Lincoln Savage Middle School, Kim Flow is a PTA parent at JP, Mandy York is a PTA and site council at JP, Mande Obien is a site council parent at MD, Rob Harrington is the 4/5th grade teacher at JP, Debbie Sauro is an educational assistant at JP representing the Classified staff.
2. Statement from Committee: Kim & Mandy prepared a statement. Kim and Mandy wrote it from a parent prospective and hope to answer the in depth questions. This statement is a brief summary of the emotional and mental challenge we have been placed to review. We know we are facing a budget shortfall. The amount of info received has been overwhelming at times, as JP parents we have been facing this before and there is a pervasive feeling from the parents that JP is not having any representation. We feel that we (JP) have been set on a path to lower moral to make the decision easier to close. Concerns that we have brought up are: longer bus routes, higher class rates, lower property value. We appreciate the Board being here and the decision is yours and we know that the board won't take it lightly. **DB** – we have updated numbers that we will present and from the first time we've presented in January.
3. Recap of the Process: **DB** - The Board Workshop book was created for the board members to take and look at. We started in February and began to get a sense of where people were at and how they were feeling. The committee has a meeting tomorrow for them to make a recommendation(s) for the Board to consider. **MY** – I feel we needed more time. We are trying to solve the big problem in a short amount of time.
4. Explanation of Information: **DB** - The estimates were given in January to move 3 portables. 1 from AP 2 from LSMS, it's been changed to now move 3 from LSMS. **DV** - the early task was to see if it was feasible to move the JP enrollment to MD. Lise had worries about CPU lab, Title 1 space, and being able to offer the space needed for those services. The 3rd portable at LS could be used and was found with Kirk & Damian. We are trying to get some firm numbers with companies for bids (numbers in page 1). The map on page 2 shows the modifications needed.

We would have to make physical mods at MD and some things need to be considered regardless of the JP outcome. **DE** - Right side of the map with the red arrow shows additional parking lot for staff. The red arrow establishes an additional bus routes. We've had ROBCO give a rough estimate and to extend the parking lot 100' it would create 22 spaces. Also, we would have to pave to property line and it would be an extra \$1,500. Parents could turn left and busses could turn right and it would create a lot less congestions. It may cause a minor annoyance for parents where their home is faster to turn right. ---- **Bob**: what is the enrollment of MD? **LVB**: approximately 220. **DV** - with JP added to MD it's projected to be 336. **Ron**: has the parking changed? **DHK** - The multi handicapped busses now are included in the area where they once weren't. - Parking price is \$20000. **Bob** did the District actually get bids? **DE** - yes did get bids from employer in Cave Junction who moved the GP portable when they were doing their renovations. They could move them without moving the parking lots. It would take a couple of days for each one. **DB** - The updated staff savings is ball-parked because it depends on the decision. One thing that we changed is the wording about 10 day cut. If we had a full contact the savings would be higher. One of the concerns the committee had was class sizes and Dave has projected 356 students. If Applegate road boundary changes the enrollment would be 336. MD would be staffed as we staff other schools 25/28 students. **Bob** - how many blended classes? **LVB** - we have 2 at JP and 2 at MD. **Ron C** - it would be nice to see a map of the boundary change. **DB** - Behind tab 2 is the March 19th meeting information with questions, agenda, and handouts given. There are questions for the meeting tomorrow. Tab 3 has March 4th, tab 4 is February 21st, tab 5 is February 5th and tab 6 is the original board presentation from January. ---- **LVB** - what questions does the board have for the committee, what do they need to know from the committee? **Leslie** - are we going to get info and make a decision on 4/15 about Applegate boundary change? Are we getting feedback from ppl affected? **Bob** - the parents need to know. **LVB** - there was information given at the last meeting, so it's not totally foreign but it wasn't a main topic of the meeting. **Leslie** - it's something that we've talked about before, I think it's a good plan, but it's different when it impacts your own family. How much money would we truly save? What about the longer bus routes? **DV** - the bus route was 1st thing we tackled and our longest bus route would be 57 min long which it is still 7 min short than our longest route in the District. It would be 7-12 min extra than it is now. **Bob** - how does it compare to JP routes now? **DV** - it would be about 7 min longer. There is an issue with the return route and a solution is to do an exchange like we do in Sunny Valley. **Bob** - there will be a 3rd bus? **DV** - yes, it could save the District money in the long run. **Bob** - how many kids does a normal bus hold? **DV** - 64 students. **Bob RC** - couldn't we run smaller busses? Ones that are more economical and cheaper? Could we negotiate compressed natural gas busses? It would save money. Our busses are half full. **DHK** - off the top of my head, there isn't a large difference in gas mileage with a small bus than the larger bus. **Bob RC** - maybe we need an evaluation from someone other than Rowdy. **Leslie** - I think it's a good idea to get an outside opinion. **KF** - a lot of parents say the same thing. That is why we are looking into a waiver about bussing. **DV** - sometimes it's more expensive to run 2 busses on the same route. **Bob** - what kind of information that you can give the board? **KF** - one of the biggest concerns is class size, but also the potential for growth. If we create a large school with no room for growth what are we saying to our communities? The way we are now JP and MD has room for growth. We need to get more kids to come to our District. **Bob** - how many more students could MD support if we got an influx of students? **DB** - we have 4 classrooms at MD that would be able to be used. Next year we are looking to move some of the multi handicapped classes to NV area. **Stephanie** - K-5 multi handicapped classes serve all of HV & NV area the proposal now is move some to NV. With high needs students comes a lot of staff and the move would free up parking and staffing. --- **Cece** - I had a parent voice a concern

that they have the world to live since they work from home, but they wanted the JP community feel and chose to live here because of the school location. **KF** – what our down fall is that we have small classrooms, and we have a lot of kids with needs, and having time with their instructors is good for them. We bought our home with JP in mind based on recommendation from IEP. There are a lot who come to this area for this school. --- **LVB** – there is a lot of community feel here, it's one of the oldest schools the District has, community members have expressed the uniqueness of the school. **Ron C** – this is a tough job that we have to face. I have nieces and nephews who have gone here, if you come to the budget meetings you would understand where we are at. **Leslie** – it's not what you do well that is making JP a consideration. It's the District budget. I want our communities to be heard and have a chance to ~~know what is happening~~ come up with ideas because none of them want to do this; nobody's mind is made up. You wished you had more time, are their specifics; are there specific ideas or things that the committee was talking about? **MY** – we have just started to explore a 4 day school week. Kim has researched other schools that have been successful. DV & DB expressed there are some schools who tried and went away. **KF** – we are running out of schools to close and we are running out of people to let go. We need to do something different. Meeting 3 we realized it's more than just JP. We looked at other consolidations but the high schools can't support that. We discussed slightly about grant writing. The board has discussed 4 day weeks and transportation. **Leslie** – regardless the JP outcome will help financially. **Bob RC** – We do good in a lot of things, but we can always do better. We need to get more students in the district, but it's just not happening. **Leslie** – we do need a marketing department. **KY** – we need to get the realtors behind us, we need to let people know about FBLA, sports, the activities that we have. **Cece** – I don't hear parents complaining, I feel our parents are happy. **Leslie** – it's coming from the press or other communities. **KF** – we need to promote ourselves. For example there was no one from TRSD available to comment about PERS reform. --- **Leslie** – is there any reason to think the numbers being given ~~are accurate~~ aren't solid numbers because they have, in the past, wondered if on prior closures, if we have saved the amount of money that we expected to save? **DB** – I'm confident with staffing number. **Leslie** – any other concerns that the board should hear? **Cece** – the research I read shows 4 day work week it lowers absenteeism, moral is higher. I think that it will be the opposite with a consolidation. I think that moral will be lower and the transition will be hard. The consideration of people is important too. **Leslie** – the money is important but the question and answers are important because it's important to know we are doing the best job we can. **Bob** – I hear a lot, it's all about the money, but it's about the kids. We need to educate our kids. It's a matter of prioritizing to get the best education for our kids in the District. – **Leslie** – if ~~considering the JP closes~~ closure what would change my mind ~~if it can be shown that after the consolidation if it was bad for the kids~~ is if she could be given evidence that once everybody got through that, that it would be bad for kids and that it would be bad for their education. Even if there is pain involved, if we are providing the best education we can. **MO** – I have a 4th grader at MD and I asked her what she thought about the consolidation and her answer was – “they don't have enough money for me, how would they have enough money for everyone else?” MD is stretched thin already --- **LVB** - the District has been struggling for a long time and I fear they (staff and kids) don't get the best of me. Since they don't have a person with them every day. The consolidation would be good that the kids would have their administrators, their principal's, and teachers with them every day. --- **Bob** - what's the impact on all day kindergarten have on this? **KF** – we addressed this. I believe there would be substantial cost with moving MH. **DHK** – we are going to move the MH class to NV area and the savings will be in the bussing. It will be cost neutral or a slight savings. **DV**- our plan is to use the MH classes @ MD for all day kindergarten. **DHK** – it's better for the kids to be in there local area. **MY** – the

emotional plea of how our community is quaint, the community hall, the church, the store supports JP. We are more than a school we are a community. **KF** – we have had a part time administrator for years and we want and willing to adapt. We are willing to have another part time admin next year. --- **Ron L.** - did we do any research of getting away from bussing? **DB** – we are still looking into the waiver because of the state law that having to have seats. **Ron** – any idea about savings in transportation from closing JP? **DV** – it would be neutral to \$5000. North Applegate would be cost neutral to \$20,000. **Ron C.** - anything looked into if we rent the building? – **DB** – we have the facility use fees. – **KF** – we were told they pay a nominal fee and they take care of the maintenance. **DB** – how do you advertise to a rent building if the building isn't vacant? **DHK** – it would be \$10 to \$40,000. **Bob** – how much will it cost us to keep it maintained? **DB** – we didn't include savings from tech, maintenance because they are soft savings and hard to get a solid number. **KF** – we would like to explore a bond issue for the District. **Bob** – what would it be for operating or specific? **DHK** – could be for operating. Do we want to make a decision on the 15th or wait till May? **Leslie** – I would like to get something ahead of time so we can review it and look at the info on the 15th and if we need to delay we can. **DB** – I have concerns if Board delays the decision then it gives us 4 weeks to have kids visit notify the staff changes. I feel the board will see more than one recommendation. **KF** – we have used most of the time answering questions. **DB** - If the decision is made we would like it done in a way that is respectful in a way. The Board will try to make a decision on 4/15 if we can if not we'll postpone it. --- **Bob** – we are really appreciative of the committee. **Leslie** – I wish we could mobilize ~~the District~~ school communities before the communities feel threatened.

5. Board Questions

6. Community Comments

A community member's mother remembers with JP was built. --- No questions addressed.