



BOND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

POLICY ISSUE / SITUATION:

In May 2014, voters approved a new bond for the students of the Beaverton School District. The Board has requested a quarterly report addressing the status of the bond program implementation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the September 29, 2014 School Board Business Meeting, the Board established the Capital Construction Bond Citizen Accountability Committee and approved its charter.

The Bond Accountability Committee receives a quarterly report from staff. The Charter requires the Committee Chair to submit a quarterly report to the Superintendent and School Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Beaverton School District Board of Directors receive the Capital Construction Bond Citizen Accountability Committee's report.

District Goal: WE empower all students to achieve post-high school success.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.

BSD Bond Accountability Committee – Report and recommendations to the School board

February 22, 2016

- **The Bond Accountability Committee (BAC) held our regularly scheduled meeting Monday January 25, 2015 and a second special meeting on February 8, 2016.**

The Committee, along with staff, felt it necessary to meet again on 02.08.16 to further review and examine the status reports presented to us on 01.25.16.

The committee recommends that going forward we coordinate with staff and all members, a meeting schedule that would include regularly scheduled meetings be held **once monthly** instead of quarterly. This has become a necessity due to the drastically changing construction market conditions, cost escalations, compressed scheduling on all projects, timely updates and reviews necessary to meet the requirements of the Charter given to us at the onset of the Bond Project process, and to allow for our timely updates and reports to the School Board, as well as the stakeholders.

- **The Bond Accountability Committee is charged, by Charter, with communicating key information related to the bond to District stakeholders, in a timely fashion.**

The committee agrees that we have not received this information for sharing with stakeholders in a timely and complete fashion. We would **request and recommend** that all pertinent information be communicated with the committee in a timely and accurate manner, so as to allow our carrying out of our communication responsibilities with the stakeholders.

- **The Bond Accountability Committee recommends that the School Board approve the revised and updated budget numbers for the South Cooper Mountain High School and that work advance within those newly budgeted figures.**

After extensive review, discussion, suggestions and a split vote, the committee agreed to recommend that the Board approve the changes and increases and that work continue and advance within staff's revised and updated budget.

BSD Bond Accountability Committee Recommendations to the School Board:

1. The Board should approve all expenditures of bond funds for any projects not on the original bond measure project list.

Rationale: Given the high rate of projected cost inflation, which has already been experienced with the high school project, it may be challenging to pay for completion of all projects on the original bond measure project list. The BAC feels additional spending on unlisted projects should not occur unless the board itself authorizes it. The Board will take the heat if listed projects cannot be completed because bond funds run out. This could cause voters to lose trust in the district's ability to fulfill its promises.

2. Staff should be directed to prepare, for BAC review and Board approval, a cost control plan to be used during the remainder of the bond program.

Rationale: Staff has acknowledged that, in hindsight, they should have done a few things differently, such as asking for a second estimate of project costs when drafting the proposed project list and soliciting construction bids earlier. Members of the committee have also expressed concern about staff agreement to costly design changes requested by the Beaverton Planning Commission for the high school, and the possibility that will happen for upcoming projects in Beaverton that will be reviewed by the Planning Commission. A cost control plan would address these and other issues.

3. The district should send a district-wide mailing on the status of the bond program this spring, focusing on the final approved budget for the high school, the reasons for its increase over the previously approved budget, and implications of the higher project cost for other bond measure projects.

Rationale: Staff practice to this point has been to send out a district-wide mailing on the status of the bond program annually, in the fall, while communicating by other means more frequently, such as updates on the district's web site and using social media. However, given the milestone of establishing a final budget for the district's largest project and potential community concerns about the impact of cost increases for that project on other bond projects, the committee majority felt it would be best to communicate with the community by all means about the status of the bond program within a reasonable amount of time after the final high school budget is set.