

## Town Hall Meeting

### Hillsboro R-III School District Facilities Master Planning

November 15, 2005  
Hillsboro High School Theatre

#### Meeting Notes

##### I. **Introduction**

Mr. Charles welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7:03 p.m. He then explained that the Town Hall meeting was arranged by the district facilities committee, and highlighted the purpose of the committee.

Mr. Charles asserted that the meeting was to serve two purposes: to make people aware of what has been accomplished in the district and by the committee, and also to invite those in the audience to share concerns and comments.

Co-chairs Mr. Tom Muzzey and Mr. Dave Tucker were introduced.

##### II. **Review of Project Signs**

Mr. Muzzey explained to the audience that the committee had been careful to research what campaign promises had been made in 2004. He then went through slides representing the signs posted in front of each of the academic buildings. Mr. Muzzey explained what items on the lists had been attended to, and what had not.

##### III. **Explanation of Current Projects**

Mr. Muzzey then shared projects that are currently in the works regarding the demolition of the condemned portion of the Intermediate building and the completed survey for construction of a new track at the High School.

##### IV. **Construction Budget**

Mr. Muzzey went through a budget spreadsheet, reinforcing that several of the numbers from the campaign had been grossly underestimated, such as the Junior High project, which went over budget by 1 million dollars.

## V. **Presentation of Facility Needs**

Mr. Tucker told the audience that committee members had toured each of the district's facilities, and compiled lists of needs for each. Slides listing these findings were presented to the audience.

## VI. **Community Input**

Before people in the audience came forward to ask questions, it was suggested by Russell Schmidt that Title IX be explained. Mr. Charles and Mr. Muzzey reported that it is basically a law that stipulated that educational facilities and programs have to be equitable for males and females. What one gender has, the other should have.

### 1. **Paul Waldt**

Mr. Waldt asked questions regarding district paving projects, and suggested that it would be more economical to do them all at once.

Mr. Muzzey agreed that it would, and explained that up to this point the district has had to give attention to emergency issues in terms of paving.

### 2. **Mark Winchester**

Mr. Winchester posed many concerns regarding our baseball fields. He also said that a baseball/softball combination would be a bad idea. Mr. Winchester said that if the fields were going to be addressed, it needed to be done correctly.

Mr. Winchester also asked about the whereabouts of scoreboards that had been purchased for the fields.

Mr. Muzzey answered that there is no power to the soccer fields, so the scoreboard could not be erected yet on that field. While there is a scoreboard for the baseball field, one for softball has not been purchased.

### 3. **Ilette Gibson**

A. Mrs. Gibson asked if bond money had been used to purchase land.

Mr. Charles reported that it had not. The District has worked out a financial arrangement that allows for the land to be paid for over a long period of time, out of the regular budget.

- B. Mrs. Gibson asked for definitions for short and long term time frames.

Mr. Charles explained that short term indicates things that will be taken care of within the next two years. Long term refers to projects that would be planned beyond the next two years.

- C. Mrs. Gibson said that she feels that those parents and Students who helped to get the bond issue passed should receive some benefit while they are still in school. She indicated that the JV soccer team cannot play toward the end the season because the field is not lighted, and that soccer is not a new sport to the district.
- D. Mrs. Gibson went on to voice her concern about the general maintenance and upkeep of district facilities. She notices a lot of trash, and areas where the mowing is not kept up. She asked if we are looking at spending money to maintain what we already have.

Mr. Charles responded that the Board of Education had Recently approved a \$70,000.00 budget amendment to hire or contract out additional services to better take care of facilities. Additionally, \$200,000.00 has been approved for improvements to sites for fencing, etc... These projects are being completed as weather allows.

4. **Alice Bowman**

Mrs. Bowman asked for clarification regarding a wall in the science lab area of the Junior High and whether or not it is safe.

Mr. Muzzey answered that the wall is an issue, and one that goes back 30 years. The district has contracted with an engineering firm who is co-monitoring the wall over the next 12 months, and reporting findings every three months. Currently The wall is a cosmetic problem, but could become a safety issue. The district wants to see what the engineering firm finds so the money to repair it is spent correctly.

5. **Paul Waldt**

Mr. Waldt indicated that he has been a patron of Hillsboro sports for a very long time. Over the years many promises

have been made regarding sports facilities but none have become priority.

Mr. Charles said that he has heard similar comments several times. He reported that the Facility Committee has made it clear that the district should communicate what will be done, and then do those things. The committee understands how important it is to have the trust of community because Hillsboro is growing and will need support in the future. Public relations are very important to the committee.

6. **Al Kheegans**

Mr. Kheegans expressed frustration that over that past 15 years he has heard about improvements that were to be made to the outdoor facilities and is tired of sports being threatened every time there needs approval from the community. He feels that to not already have a plan in place is disappointing.

Mr. Muzzey agreed that the district has said it would do certain things, but now has the money to actually accomplish some of these goals. Mr. Muzzey also said that he did not have the authority to deal with sporting facility needs before now because there was phase one to complete.

Mr. Charles also asserted that the current Board of Education should be congratulated for giving the direction to form the committee to formulate a plan. The board wants to let community members know what is being approved. The main purpose of the committee is to present a plan to the BOE in December on how to spend the remaining bond issue money.

7. **Paul Waldt**

Mr. Waldt told the audience that he volunteered to do work on the press box at the football field. He was the only one who showed up, and though he was there on a voluntary basis, the BOE paid him. Mr. Waldt said that the only people who were present to work were himself and two of his own workers. He shared that Mr. Muzzey was instrumental in getting that project off the ground.

8. **Joe McCraith**

Mr. McCraith first mentioned that the school board has not changed significantly over the past several years. He went on to ask if bond money will be spent to construct new buildings to

accommodate growth, which would result in pushing the sports facilities further behind.

Mr. Charles answered that 3 million dollars would not pay for ½ of a building. He said that we will have to go to the public in the future, but first we have to make them happy.

9. **George Englebach**

Board member Mr. Englebach told the group that he is concerned that there are no provisions to get rid of water that collects under the High School. He said that he knew from the start that the wrong construction manager had been hired for the HS project. He went on explain that the district now has new architects who have needed to take time to get acclimated to the district. It took a lot of time and extensive research to decide how to raze the old Intermediate South building safely.

10. **Kevin Finch**

Mr. Finch asserted that he would like to see a priority list developed by the committee.

Mr. Charles invited the audience to the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

11. **John DePriest**

Said he has sat in on every meeting of the committee and that The concerns of the audience are much the same as the committee's.

12. **Ed Moreno**

Mr. Moreno asked if input from coaches would be solicited as new sports facilities are planned.

Mr. Charles said yes, it would be a gross oversight not to involve those coaches who know the intricacies of the fields. He said that though he and Mr. Muzzey have construction knowledge, it might not be the experience needed.

13. **Jim Turner**

Mr. Turner expressed that he feels Mr. Muzzey and Mr. Charles have done more than any other administration. He also pointed out that the scoreboards cannot be put up without planning and that maintenance had no knowledge of them.

14. **Doug Goforth**

Mr. Goforth asked what kind of method is used to prioritize needs.

Mr. Charles answered that the committee decided that all decisions would be reached by consensus. A recommendation would have to be so good that all members can live with it. He reported that the committee has made some sketchy lists, but did not want to go too far without input from the Community.

Mr. Goforth then asked if risk is factored into decisions, or are they based on popularity?

Mr. Charles explained that the committee toured the buildings, studied the promises made to the public, will look at cost estimates, and will take a recommendation to the BOE. The BOE will have final authority.

15. **Joe Callahan**

Mr. Callahan asked if portable lighting systems had been considered for fields/facilities that have no lighting.

Mr. Charles said that the committee is looking into solutions that would address multiple needs.

16. **Brett Meyers**

Mr. Meyers said that Musser Lighting has portable lighting systems. He went on to express that the field that the band practices on is littered with potholes. He said that many of the facilities are not good, and if something is not done, we send a message to the kids that we don't care. He said that kids put their hearts and souls into practicing and playing, and that he has faith that the administration and Board will do the right thing.

17. **Alice Bowman**

Mrs. Bowman suggested that the feelings and perspectives of kids be taken into consideration.

18. **Joe Callahan**

Mr. Callahan said better facilities are owed to the kids giving 200% to their sports or activities.

19. **Sherry Phillips**

Mrs. Phillips said that although she understands the need for Sports, we should understand that we do have needs in the academic facilities as well.

20. **Kevin Finch**

Mr. Finch shared that sports are always dangled as an area for Cuts during campaigns, but are always put on the bottom of the list, then when construction money dwindles, sports fall by the wayside. Sport issues are what were promised, so those items have to be addressed. Mr. Finch then asserted that if they were not, taxpayers would not support any thing else.

Mr. Charles relied that the committee is made up of a variety of people; and includes those interested in both sports and academic facilities. So far, the needs lists have been separate, but the lists will have to be merged and prioritized.

21. **Keith Woodland**

Mr. Woodland said that he feels items like restrooms should not be on a list dedicated to bond money. He said that on Friday nights ½ the student body is somehow involved at the football field. He stressed the importance of not letting athletics go by the wayside. He agreed that stakeholders would not support any further bond issues if athletics were not addressed.

VII. **Adjournment of Town Hall Meeting**

Mr. Charles invited those interested to the next meeting of the Facilities Committee to be held Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m., in the Junior High library.