

SHELDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SHELDON, IOWA

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MARCH 28, 2012

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Gary Ihnen called the Special Meeting of the Sheldon Community School District Board of Education to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Sheldon High School Library. Present: Gary Ihnen, Kecia Hickman, Randy Merley, Susan Rensink, Robin Spears, Bill Borchers and Allison Suesse. Absent: Glen Goedken.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Randy Merley and seconded by Susan Rensink to approve the agenda. Roll Call vote: Kecia Hickman, Aye; Susan Rensink, Aye; Randy Merley, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye. Motion carried.

Superintendent Spears reviewed the finances of the District Funds that could be used for projects and improvements.

**PPEL** – estimated to have \$32,000 as the balance @ June 30, 2012. In FY 13 the PPEL Fund will have to repay \$115,000 loaned from the General Fund, and the payment on the Voter PPEL Capital Notes is \$166,000. The estimated taxes to be raised for the PPEL Fund for FY13 is approximately \$308,000, so there will not be a lot of extra funds available for maintenance and capital improvements during FY13. There will be approximately \$140,000 available for FY14, after paying the Voter PPEL Capital Notes payment of \$169,000 during FY13 from the estimated FY13 taxes of \$308,000. In FY15 & FY16 there are no commitments against the PPEL funds, so there should be approximately \$310,000 available in each year.

**LOST** – The Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) fund is anticipating a balance @ June 30, 2012 of around \$500,000. During each of the fiscal years, FY13, 14, 15 and 16 the fund is anticipating to have approximately \$200,000 available for use on projects and improvements. The LOST fund is used to pay off the Refinanced Middle School Bonds, and any available funds after paying the yearly bond payment can be used for projects and improvements.

At 6:08 Glen Goedken arrived.

**III. FACILITY**

**A. East Elementary –**

Some of the places around town that have been mentioned that could possibly be used to help with the overcrowding as East are the Armory, St. Pat's, Sheldon Christian, Children's World, and the Methodist Church. After checking with the locations, all are either full with no extra rooms, or there aren't enough rooms. That being said the options left are: 1) Bond Issue-Earliest vote would be in September – If Bond Issue passes, construction would be about 18 months, with the earliest to get in the building would be fall of 2014. 2) Portable Classrooms – could be funded through PPEL/LOST. 3) Make do with the current building – temporary wall in the lunchroom

–space west of wall about size of a classroom. Another option would be to see if there was space in one of the other buildings. The principals felt that there might not be rooms available without causing problems. Also discussion was about the sizes and number of rooms needed and their usage, whether daily or if there were off days. It was the consensus of the Board that the best option would be to pursue a bond issue. Might be able to set some of the LOST funds aside to help with construction of a building addition. Robin & Tanya will meet with the Excellence for East group.

**B. Baseball/Softball Fields**

A couple of new options #5 & #6 were caused by needing bleachers for about 100 people. The cost would be about \$8,000/set of bleachers. The softball fields were shortened to 170'. The restroom, concession building would have storage for the baseball/softball supplies and also equipment. Need to finalize the plan and get estimates from the architect. Will irrigate the football practice field for the safety of the players. Option 5 has a road connecting the Bus Barn area with the Middle School, and Option 6 does not. There was discussion on possible moving at least one of the softball fields to allow 180' similar to the Orab Softball field. Would allow the area to have two softball fields the same size. There was discussion on the possible problems with the road in Option 5. By consensus the Board favors Option 6 with no road and moving one of the softball fields to increase the size to 180'.

**C. Other – Some projects that might be undertaken this summer, MS Flag Pole area, Sidewalks to fix uneven areas, Signs, maybe some classroom painting.**

**IV. BUDGET PLANNING/FINANCIAL ISSUES**

- A. Financial Projections –** Superintendent Spears reviewed some charts and graphs showing the projected financial status of the District. Adjustments will need to be made to future expenditures to maintain the financial viability of the School District.
- B. Long-Range Staffing Plans –** The Administrative Team will need to evaluate the educational programming of the School District and identify programs that are required by Chapter 12 of the Iowa Administrative Code and what programs are not required. This information will be used by the Board, Administrators, Staff, parents and community members to help determine staffing needs in the future.
- Will need to keep the public aware of what the finance and needs of the District are:

At 8:03 p.m. President Ihnen said there would be short break.

At 8:15 p.m. President Ihnen reconvened the meeting.

**V. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/INSTRUCTIONAL ISSUES**

- A. Professional Development Planning –** The goal of Professional Development should be to increase the quality of the teacher and decrease the variability of instruction. Will be able to use an hour before school or an hour after school to pick up some of the time needed. Will use the Iowa Core Curriculum Money or some of the other Professional Development Funds. Will use the Professional Learning Center (PLC) concept. Will need to have a guaranteed and viable curriculum that insures the success of all students.
- B. Technology/One-to-One Computing –** Estimated cost of One-to-One for K-12 for all students to have a Tablet Computer is approximately \$500,000. Will need to make sure that the technology is presented to the teachers at least a year before the students, so we can get the most from our technology dollars. By using new technology it will help the teachers determine if the students understood the lesson, or if it needs to be reinstructed the next day. Will allow the teacher to adjust the instruction for better comprehension.

**VI. BOARD POLICIES**

A. Student Conduct/Eligibility Code – There was discussion concerning these two policies.

**VII. ADJOURN**

At 9:20 p.m. the motion was made by Glen Goedken and seconded by Randy Merley to adjourn. Roll Call vote: Susan Rensink, Aye; Kecia Hickman, Aye; Randy Merley, Aye; Glen Goedken, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye. Motion carried.