



PUBLIC FORUM NOTES

Date: December 11, 2013

Project: RSU #19 Major Capital Improvement Projects

Subject: Corinna Public Forum

Discussion:

1. Darren Briggs gave a quick introduction of the project and added how the public needs to be involved.
2. Greg Potter explained that Oak Point Associates (OPA) is gathering ideas from the public at forums, through email, website, etc.
3. Greg explained where we are in the process. The district has two approved state funded projects, #3 Nokomis Elementary School and #6 Nokomis High School. He explained concept approval and planning.
4. Greg emphasized that these are state funded projects and that OPA is currently instructed to stay within the state funded dollars for design. The district could raise additional money for enhancements if they chose to do so.
5. Greg explained that the high school may be new or renovated but the elementary school would be new as recommended by the state.
6. Greg explained pre-concept and concept contracts with OPA and how that money is reimbursable if the public votes yes for the project.
7. Greg emphasized that the community having to pay for the school is a rumor.

Q: Can you provide the funding in written form?

A: Yes, we will try to get information from the DOE website or Scott Brown.

C: We should provide factual rebuttals to counter any of the rumors.

8. Greg introduced OPA

9. Rob Tillotson explained the process and how we like to have many public forums.

10. Rob explained how we are in the analysis phase of the process. He explained new versus renovation analysis and the elementary school process.

11. Rob explained how we are in the evaluation and information gathering stage and have been interviewing staff and students as well as conducting public forums.

C: It would be good for public to hear the students' comments.

12. Darren explained the efficiency of putting all buildings on the same campus where they own the

land and could possibly have a central heating plant, but may look at other sites if that doesn't work out.

Q: When will the project be completed?

A: Approximately 3 ½-4 years depending on new construction or renovation.

Q: How long did it take to construct the existing high school?

A: Not entirely sure, but about 1 ½ years.

13. Rob explained how the state wants us to look at all options for the district and present several ideas.

Q: Will the state fix the road and sidewalks at the high school location because they currently are not safe.

A: The state will only fix the road work and sidewalks that are associated with the construction of the school.

C: It took 5-6 years for the state to fix Nokomis road. They should put in a turning lane.

Q: Where would the new athletic fields go?

A: They would be on the same campus, but it has not been designed yet.

C: The lagoon is for the HS but hopefully there will be a new sewer line for the school. The town would have to commit to paying for their portion of the sewer line before referendum vote.

Q: Where does the water supply come from?

A: It is town water – Newport water district.

Q: Does the state like the Nokomis High School campus site? The road is very busy.

A: The state can weigh in on it, but they will not fund road repair beyond the school boundaries.

Q: Hypothetically if the high school and elementary were adjacent would we get more auditorium seats?

A: No, only high schools get auditoriums so it would not matter.

C: It would be great to enhance the auditorium and allow more community use.

Q: In your opinion does it look like we will get a new school or a renovation?

A: We do not decide. Our negotiations with the state are not complete yet. We think a new school but cannot be sure.

C: The windows in the elementary school are very small.

14. Rob explained how the windows today are insulated and much better than older windows so we can make them bigger and that the state will fund a wood chip boiler and solar domestic hot water.

Q: Will there be a new elementary school and what will it cost.

A: We do not know yet.

Q: What will the new high school cost?

A: We do not know yet, but Mount View was 32 million.

C: Would like to see a new building to get the community excited about the school and education system.

- Q: I heard the state was supposed to pay 100% of a school project in a different town but they only paid 80%. Is this true?
- A: We have not heard this, it may be a rumor or it may have been a revolving renovation fund project.
- Q: How long has the school funding program been going on, when did it begin?
- A: Not sure but can find out.
- Q: Where does the money come from?
- A: It is a state bond.
- Q: Are there some schools that have not been 100% financed.
- A: Yes, because the districts chose to add locally funded enhancements like a larger gym or auditorium.
- Q: Do we have a map of what the state gives?
- A: It is on their website.
- Q: How many students are currently at the high school?
- A: 670 but it is projected to drop to 580.
- Q: You are building on projections, but what if we grow?
- A: We design with expandable end walls.
- Q: What happens to all the old stuff in the school?
- A: It goes to the district, then to public sale, then to donation.
- Q: Have alternate sites been located?
- A: No
- Q: How much money has been allocated for the study phase?
- A: \$87,000 for pre-concept to first straw poll. If the project has a successful vote, the state will reimburse the district. If the vote fails, the district will be responsible for the \$87,000.
- Q: How many school board members are there?
- A: Seven
- Q: Who is hosting this meeting?
- A: The school board
- Q: Who is taking notes?
- A: Oak Point Associates
- Q: Can I get copy of the notes?
- A: Yes
- Q: How can I get a copy?
- A: The board will figure out how to make them available.
- C: Make sure you provide plenty of parking on the site and make sure the road is safe for students driving and pedestrians.
- Q: Where is your company located?
- A: Biddeford, Maine
- Q: Are there any other non-connected school people here?
- A: Yes, two.
- Q: Why is the new school important for education?
- A: The old building is inadequate and newer learning methods call for more flexible spaces. Lost education time, lack of collaboration space, no student areas, portables, no staff development areas, lack of technology.

- C: We should get senior citizens into the building and offer walking path, use of space, etc.
- C: Stick to the benefits of education as a selling point for the new school, do not use economics.
- Q: Can you put together a summary/check list of what a new school would have?
- A: Yes
- Q: Can a list of consumption of resources be created for the buildings?
- A: Yes
- Q: How does the idea of making one giant school mix with the school's mission statement?
- A: Need to balance funding with best education practices.
- Q: How do older community members find out about concerts, plays, etc.?
- A: They are advertised in different ways such as RSU webpage, Facebook and in the Rolling Thunder.
- C: Not everyone has a computer.
- C: Rolling Thunder is a district newspaper.
- Q: How did older audience member hear about the meeting tonight?
- A: Bangor Daily News.
15. Darren commented that the more a person comes to meetings, the more informed they will be.
- C: You should have a daytime meeting, one on each side of the district.