

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

“2017/2018 Yearly Report”

**Presented to the Coeur d’Alene School Board of Trustees
May 7, 2018**

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT #271:

On March 19, 2018 the LRPC was asked to send their recommendations for future needs of School District #271 to Pam Westberg. Pam collated the suggestions; the suggestions were then transformed into a “presentation”. The “presentation went through two reviews by Board representative Lisa May, Vice Chair Jerry Anderson and Chair, Steve Casey.

After those reviews, the “presentation” was sent to the PRPC members for their review and input. The attached document reflects a synopsis of the thoughts and suggestions of the LRPC members and its officers.

**Steve Casey, Chair
Jerry Anderson, Vice Chair, President-elect
Lisa May, Board Representative**

As has been customary since the inception of the LRPC in 1995, this committee presents a formal report to the school board at the conclusion of the committee's fiscal year. It is with gratitude and honor that we have been allowed to serve the school district board of trustees in an advisory capacity. With voices that represent each and every school in the district, local community members, district employees and professional business representatives, we believe this committee to be of vital service when searching for community input and "transparency" in evaluating and updating the long range plan of School District #271.

On behalf of the long Range Planning Committee, "thank you" to the board of trustees for the opportunity you have given us to serve our community.

In March, 2017 our community approved a bond levy request of \$35.5 million at a 77% approval rate; once again demonstrating their support of our school district. The timing of the bond, however, had a ripple effect on the typical plan of the LRPC. At the request of the board, the traditional end of the year report was delayed in the spring of 2017 and the committee focused their time and energy on assessing potential school sites.

As time went on, frustration grew in the committee because they felt the information provided to them regarding the Hayden site and the integration with the City of Hayden was limited, making it difficult for them to reach a consensus opinion. In addition, the lack of finding other building sites added to their frustration. Many began to feel

that their input wasn't valued by the school board and the issue of "transparency" came into play.

Laying the foundation for next year's work became the focus. Looking at and determining future growth patterns and reviewing the status of our existing schools was paramount in projecting the feasibility, location and timing of future capital projects.

Based on the report from Piper/Jaffray, the school district's bond consultants, the school district may be in a good position for additional capital projects as early as 2021.

We listened to reports from the principals of Atlas, Skyway, Ramsey, Fernan and Hayden Meadows elementary schools and Woodland Middle School regarding their student capacity, physical needs and how the location of the next elementary school will affect their schools.

Woodland Middle School is currently at capacity and has to rely on transfers to other middle schools to keep within their capacity. We found this situation alarming and it certainly captured our attention on the pressing need of a new middle school. This information encouraged our committee to continue to look at current demographics as we plan for future growth.

We heard a presentation from local economist, Alevia Metts, illustrating the direction and density of future growth in the Coeur d'Alene and Hayden areas. Her report also indicated areas of economic

diversity and poverty. As we all know, poverty has a direct effect on educational success; a fact that may play a role in the size and location of future elementary schools.

We reviewed all of the new Building Construction Evaluation Form (BCEF) numbers as provided by Bryan Martin and how they may be addressed in future bonds. Much to our surprise, we discovered there are 14 portable classrooms located at Atlas, Skyway and Ramsey elementary schools. Some as old as 30 years!

At our March 19, 2018 LRPC meeting we asked our committee to provide direction on what they feel are the most important issues facing our school district moving forward. From that request and the information provided in the previous mentioned presentations, we submit the following as recommendations to School District #271:

- School district #271 should immediately develop partnerships with the cities of Coeur d'Alene and Hayden to begin a legislative process for school land to be set aside with each proposed development or subdivision**
- Review BCEF numbers when considering what was eliminated/delayed from the 2016 bond**
- Replace all portable classrooms immediately due to health and safety concerns**
- Re-evaluate the length of future plans and provide strategic planning for 2 year and 5 year cycles. 10 years may be too long for our fast growing region.**

- **Assign internally or externally, a project manager to oversee all capital projects**
- **Partner with the Post Falls and Lakeland school district in the formation of “permanent school district boundaries”**
- **Purchase additional land for a second elementary school and a new middle school immediately and a new high school in 5 years in the areas of the most growth**
- **Assign “planning for future growth” as part of the job description for a district office employee**

Once again, thank you to the Board of Trustees for allowing the Long Range Planning Committee to play an active role in the decisions that affect the future growth and development of School District #271.

BRIEF SUMMARIES OF LRPC MEETINGS

(The following comments were not read to the board but included with presentation)

September 25, 2017: (1st meeting: minutes from 4/24/2017 meeting)

- The LRPC usually gives a report at the end of the year in May or June. This year is different because of the timing of the bond
- The board is asking members to bypass the board report this year and begin again next year with long range planning.
- Contracts were awarded to LCHS for renovations, Lakes Middle School, CHS renovations, Dalton Elementary and the search for land in the northwest portion of the district on which to build the new elementary school

October 30, 2017: (2nd meeting: minutes from 9/25 2017) meeting)

- Student population increased 66
- Search continues for the next superintendent
- Fernan Elementary parking lot was put on hold
- Hayden Meadows gym floor was completed
- LCHS and Lakes stage curtains have been replaced
- CHS track has been replaced
- LCHS track was replaced and a long jump added
- The district is working on two different property offers...sites cannot be disclosed at this time
- District Board Policy 807, which specifically addresses construction and communication, was discussed
- Bryan Martin encouraged the LRPC to tour the schools that are to be remodeled so the committee can get an idea of the scope of the projects

Note: The next several meetings focused on the purchase of land for future projects, the progress of the remodels, the presentations of elementary school and middle school principals regarding the specific needs at their schools, the continued search for land on which to build the new elementary school, discussions with the City of Hayden regarding the use of the NeXA site, Piper/Jaffray presentation regarding the status of our bond in regards to future requests, summaries of the Data Summits, presentation by Economist Alevia Metts illustrating the direction and density of growth in the CDA and Hayden areas, etc.

March 19, 2018: (6TH meeting: minutes)

The committee was given the current BCEF numbers developed by Bryan Martin, the list and projected costs of “future needs of the district” as discussed by the committee in the development of the 2016 bond and they were informed as to how much was being spent on the purchase of land for the new elementary school, the use of NeXA and projected costs in partnering with the Hayden City Council and a current review by Economist Alevia Metts regarding growth patterns in School District #271.