

School District 271 Long Range Planning Committee  
Bond Levy Recommendation  
Approved by LRP April 25, 2016

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The Long Range Planning Committee (LRP) of the Coeur d'Alene School District respectfully submits the following amended recommendation and addendum to the Board of Trustees. Please refer to the document submitted for the board's April 4 Board Meeting for details about background, purpose, data and findings.

The LRPC met for a sixth time this school year on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss several issues the board remanded back to the LRP:

- Recommended date for running a bond measure.
- Provide specifics about cost and rationale for Phase I recommendation.
- Provide a Phase II recommendation.
- Consider all possibilities for the long-term use of the Hayden Lake site.

**Recommended Bond Election Date:**

The LRP had spirited and deep discussion about this during our March meeting. A majority (10-4 vote) recommended an August bond. The LRP recognizes the challenges of running a bond measure so soon. While the group stands by the urgency presented by the Construction Services Group (CSG) report, growing population and current use of portables, the new recommendation (unanimous LRP vote) is to run a bond no later than March of 2017.

**Rationale:**

- Need for space is now. Need to minimize time lag of actual construction.
- Costs of construction are growing.
- Flat tax rate window is limited (harder to pass a bond measure if tax rates dip, and then subsequently have to be increased).
- Bond rates are low (but growing).
- Need will grow/grow more urgent the farther into the future a bond is passed.
- Original recommendation also considered past bond success in August (KTEC and CdA). March, while it may be asking a lot at once, also allows for a single campaign (more efficient) and a clear message about the different needs met by a bond vs. an M&O levy.

Note: A March 2017 bond passage would enable the district to potentially open a new (11<sup>th</sup>) elementary school in the fall of 2018, for the 2018-19 school year. A Phase II bond issue, again keeping tax rates flat and predictable, could be run as early as 2020.

### **Phase I Specifics: Cost and Recommendation:**

The LRP unanimously voted to keep our recommendation for Phase I which included:

- Acquire land and build a New Elementary school facility in the northwest portion of the district (area of strongest growth).
- Upgrade/finish both high schools.
- Upgrade/finish Lakes Middle School.
- Sell the Thomas Lane property.
- Sell the Hayden Lake site.

The LRP believes that the rationale for these choices is clear in the CSG Facility Master Plan report regarding demographic growth and specific recommendations on Page 6-5.

Specific costs for this recommendation are provided on a separate document entitled, "CDA School District – Long Range Planning Committee – Phase I Bond Projects."

Important caveats to this recommendation:

- LRP agrees that the Hayden Lake site should not be sold until after a bond is passed, a new site in the NW section of the district is secured, and a new elementary built and opened. (Selling earlier than that was never the intended message of LRP).
- Due to this fact, Phase I will need to be broken into smaller phases – experts will need to determine which parts of Phase I can be delayed until funds are secured for them through the sale of the Hayden Lake site.

### **Phase II Recommendation:**

LRP voted unanimously on the following Phase II recommendation:

- Second new elementary school – land acquisition and construction.
- Accommodate for middle and high school growth.
- Upgrade space for programs needed at select elementary schools.
- Address needs of facilities with lowest BCEF scores.

As mentioned in the *Recommended Bond Election Date* above, this should be planned in order to keep to the flat tax rate planning as outlined by the district's Financial/Bond Advisor.

Specific projects and potential costs associated with needs the district is currently aware of are included on a document entitled, "CDA School District – Future Facility Needs." Please note that these needs are what are currently identified. By the time another bond measure would be considered, other needs and priorities may arise.