

5/29/19

**Coeur d'Alene School District**  
**Long Range Planning Committee**  
**Year End Report to the Board of Trustees**

Chairman – Jerry Anderson

Vice Chair – Jenn Decker

Thank you Chairman Morrisroe, Board Members, and Dr Cook for the opportunity to address you this evening. I am here today with Jenn Decker, the incoming chairperson for Long Range Planning, to give you an overview of the past year as well as a summary of our recommendations to the Board moving forward.

In many ways this year has been a continued exercise in uncovering the obvious. To be sure of our direction we have spent the year accumulating information from a variety of informed sources. We have had six Long Range Planning Committee meetings and Ms Decker and I have had an additional six meetings with district staff and our Board liaison to plan strategy for the committee.

To properly frame our summary with this report I need to step back into last year with some of our background information. We had two presentations during the 2017-18 Long Range Planning year by regional economist Alivia Metts addressing demographics. In the spring of 2018 we also had short presentations by each of the elementary school principals addressing conditions in their schools and especially outlining the foibles of dealing with portable classrooms.

Stepping into this school year we continued seeking information from informed sources. A presentation early in the year by Sam Wolkenhauer, a regional economist with the Idaho Department of Labor dealt with Kootenai County population trends.

Debora Nelson, a member of our committee, offered a presentation reviewing the most recent district attendance committee activity and findings. She also brought with her our own Dr Mike Nelson who gave us a history of demographics and growth projections in our district.

The districts Jay Prickett gave a demographics report outlining where families live per elementary school, middle school, and high school.

We invited the middle school principals to a meeting this spring in order to get a first hand understanding of the operation and condition in each of their schools.

Demographic information and potential for the most new growth along with the need for new schools, consistently points to the western portion of our district.

On the subject of deferred maintenance, Jeff Voeller our Director of Operations has given several reports outlining the needs and deficiencies of our deferred maintenance policies. A plan to provide untouchable funding for that is recommended.

Toward the end of the year after hearing from many sources, we broke our committee into several small groups and asked them to each discuss and compile a list of the districts most pressing needs based on the accumulation of information that we had assembled during the year. A summary of the top five needs within the district included in no particular order, another new elementary school, a new middle school, property acquisition for those schools, continued security upgrades, an ongoing deferred maintenance mechanism.

Copies of some of the demographic information accumulated can be found on the Long Range Planning link online.

At this point Ms Decker is going to address our land assets and data analytics.

(Ms Decker – comments here)

The last activity of the year involved having the Long Range Planning Committee members each fill out a questionnaire without attaching their names in order to be sure that we were getting a candid opinion from each member. The questionnaire dealt with the topics of land, elementary school, middle school, security, and deferred maintenance. Eighteen members responded.

Beginning with security, it was unanimous that we highly encourage maintaining a policy of ongoing security improvements throughout the district.

Regarding deferred maintenance, it was unanimous that we develop a plan for ongoing funding beginning with a line item on the next bond or SPFL.

On the subject of land, the questionnaire dealt with Hayden Center Site and Hayden Meadows property. Regarding the Hayden Center site, the results were split between selling/trading this property or keeping the property for future use. Regarding the Hayden Meadows 10 acre site, the majority chose to sell or trade this property.

On the subject of an elementary school, all respondents chose to build a new school with the majority favoring a school in the western portion of the district and some still favoring the Hayden Center site.

On the subject of a middle school, all but one favored building a new middle school in the western portion of the district.

The directive that we embrace is to get ahead of the need rather than frantically scrambling from behind. It is OK to have some space available in our schools. Portables have become too easily accepted in some of our schools and are really a blight on our educational system in many ways. The continued reliance on the Hayden Center is also a difficult solution to accept. There is certainly no finger pointing here as we are all in this together. For years, Long Range Planning has encouraged steps to eliminate all portable classrooms. The district has certainly made good progress with the elimination in recent years of several portables and most recently those at the high schools. We need to collectively keep our focus on working to stay ahead of the need.

Pursuant to the further growth analysis that Ms Decker outlined, it would be the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee that the Board pursue a Bond or SPFL to address at least the five items of priority outlined by our committee.

1. Security upgrades
2. A new elementary school
3. A new middle school
4. Ongoing deferred maintenance funding
5. Property acquisitions