

## **School District 271 Long Range Planning Committee Recommendation 2018/2019**

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) of the Coeur d'Alene School District respectfully submits the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Please refer to our committee minutes for details about background, purpose, data and findings.

The LRPC met six times through the school year with the Chair and Vice Chair meeting an additional six with district staff and the LRPC board liaison, Trustee May. The committee heard a presentation from Sam Wolkenhauer, a regional economist with the Idaho Department of Labor. Mr. Wolkenhauer spoke to Kootenai County population trends. These findings were similar to the demographic presentation given by Alivia Metts the year prior. Debora Nelson, a member of the LRPC, offered a presentation reviewing the most recent district attendance zone committee activity and findings. At the same meeting, Dr. Mike Nelson offered insight on district growth projections. Seeing the need for continued study on this data, Jay Prickett gave a demographic report on where families live per elementary, middle and high school. The middle school principals were invited to our spring meeting in order for the committee to hear first-hand the operation limitations and conditions in each of their schools. Jeff Voeller, Director of Operations, updated the committee on the newly acquired deferred maintenance software, the current status of our buildings and the concerns of not having ongoing deferred maintenance funding.

After these informative meetings, we broke our committee into several small groups where they were asked to discuss and compile a list of the districts most pressing needs. The top five needs of the district in no particular order are:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> new elementary school
- New middle school
- Property acquisition for another new elementary school – after the liquidation of current land assets
- Continued security upgrades
- Specific budget for deferred maintenance

In order to successfully plan and executive the above items, the Long Range Planning Committee recommends the Board of Trustees hire a data analytical company. As outlined in the curriculum audit recommendation 9, we are called to design and implement a long-range facility planning process to provide for short-term and long-term facility and maintenance needs. As a long-range planning committee, we have arrived at a point where we feel it is necessary to hire a company who specializes in school data analytics. The audit specifically states: “For school districts with multiple buildings serving the same grade levels, this means attendance zones and policies affecting campus enrollments need to be visited periodically. Planning should be based on careful analysis of factors that affect learning environments such as enrollment trends, population shifts, curriculum needs, instructional practices, technology expectations, and the support services needed to maintain the system. Multiyear long-range facility planning ensures that a district is prepared for future economic and financial conditions.”

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As a district we need these questions answered:

- How will district enrollment change in six years vs ten years?
- How do forecasts compare for elementary, middle, and high schoolers, and what schools will they attend?
- For any given school, where in the district are students travelling from?
- We want to use data to drive equitable attendance zoning which was a recommendation in the curriculum audit. What is equitable given our socio-economic makeup as a community?

As a committee we looked at our land assets closely. Jeff Voeller did an excellent presentation regarding our property assets. We broke into small groups for discussion. A common theme between the groups was the need to look at our land assets and liquidate what was no longer serving our district's needs. To maintain fiscal responsibility, we need to sell properties that do not meet our long-term needs. The committee discussed the possibility of trading the 10 acres behind Hayden Meadows Elementary School to a developer for property in an area that would better service our districts students and families. We ask that you too consider these options. Our goal as a committee is to reach a point of proactive versus reactive in terms of property acquisition and future planning.

To summarize, we recommend that the board hire a data analytical company that will provide a road map that will guide us in building out our district in a fiscally responsible manner. With the objective data in hand, we will be able to prioritize our top five recommendations in order to pursue a bond or SPFL to address: security upgrades, a new elementary school, a new middle school, ongoing funding for deferred maintenance, and future property acquisitions.

Thank you for considering this recommendation.