

NORTHERN HUMBOLDT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

SPECIAL SESSION

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Arcata High School Library

1720 M Street, Arcata CA 95521

6:00 pm

MINUTES

1.0 OPEN SESSION

Board members present: Brian Gerving, Brian Lovell, Theresa Grosjean, and Dana Silvernale (arrived late).
Board member absent: Jennifer Knight

Others present: Roger Macdonald, Superintendent; Cindy Vickers, Director of Fiscal Services; Eric Agliolo, Dan Aldag, Anne Avelar, Dave Avelar, Jack Bareilles, Marci Barker, Rachel Barnett, Brianne Beronilla, Adam Braun, Jordan Briggs, Keoki Burbank, Tahnia Campbell, Frank Cheek, Devin Conway, Mike Cox, Jody Crandall, Aydney Dieker, Josh Durham, Madilynn Durham, Dora Dutra, Dustin Dutra, Ben Ebet, Mike Foget, Merritt Ford, Rebecca Garwood, Troy Ghisetti, Kristie Ghisetti, Ronite Gluck, Mark Gorge, Ray Hamill, Janey Harris, Jim Hogan, Becky Howard, Kayla Jay, Loretta Jay, Paul Jay, Mitch Kane, Ken Keasey, Kim Keasey, Amber Kees, Carrie Kelly, Justin Kelly, Adam Knoeller, Noah Levy, Grace Lovell, Davita McGoldrick, Laura McNulty, John McPae, Chad Meadows, Lori Meadows, Sarah Moxon, Steve Murphy, Dave Navarre, Jared O'Barr, Craig Parker, Mike Pigg, Tammy Pires, Andre Price, James Price, Michael Pulley, J Ramirez, Joel Rodelander, Allan Schmidt, Dave Sears, Kyle Sheldon, Colleen Toste, Craig Tucker, Bob Wallace, Carly Wallace, Justin Wallace, James Washington, Mike Williams, Yoshi Uemura, Troy Vizenor, Dana York, and Denise Ziegler.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

2.1 Agenda Items

Individuals will have an opportunity to speak on items on the agenda before Board discussion on that item. Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda item. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to twenty minutes.

3.0 INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Discussion on the scope of the Measure Q AHS Physical Education facilities

Board President Brian Gerving began the meeting by explaining to everyone the structure of tonight's meeting along with goals that the Board hoped to reach this evening.

Superintendent Macdonald started the presentation by sharing, as a new superintendent, what process he has gone through in order to continue moving forward with the AHS PE facility project. It had been determined that AHS would have a track, meaningful PE facilities and better interscholastic facilities. The district is committed to providing continued access for football, soccer, and baseball to outside facilities. The financial decisions that are made on all of our projects need to be done with the intent of keeping the district fiscally solvent in future years.

Last June, there was a community meeting to discuss wants/needs of the AHS PE facilities. It was at that meeting the Board and district determined that we did not have enough funds in Measure Q to give the project what was needed. Along with other facility needs

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS continued

throughout the district, the Board decided to pursue Measure N.

Based on input from a variety of sources the Board voted in August of 2017 to not move forward with synthetic fields. The financial commitment and other issues impacted the Board's decision.

Devin Conway from the district's design firm, Verde Design, presented a fully developed AHS PE facility concept. The current specs have a nine lane track/field, baseball field, and a football field. There is room for an 850 spectator seating around football/soccer field, a press box, and concessions building. Mr. Conway shared that the wet nature of this site has been the largest dilemma for this project. Verde and SHN shared their plan to contain and divert rain water. Mr. Conway discussed issues with the culvert and insurance risks that affect the layout of the field locations.

Jared O'Barr from SHN Engineering spoke about the environmental challenges of the fields. Mike Foget spoke about the constraints that led to our plan this evening.

Brian Gerving asked Devin Conway what the projected cost for the fully developed concept was. Devin shared that the current plan presented is estimated at a cost of \$8 million. There would be increased costs to make baseball field a competition field vs practice field. The rock alone that is needed for drainage will be over one million dollars.

Theresa Grosjean asked about the maintenance and work that would be required to keep up the fields and drainage. Devin Conway shared that the track surface maintenance would be the most costly. District will need to plan to resurface every 10-12 years. This will be necessary due to the moisture.

Brian Lovell asked about the surface of the parking area. Devin Conway answered the parking is currently asphalt.

Theresa Grosjean asked about costs to make baseball a game field vs practice field. Devin shared approximately \$75,000 if you look at adding additional seating, dug-outs, and fencing in outfield.

Brian Lovell asked about what type of seating numbers we would need. It looks like the current plans would account for adequate seating.

Cindy Vickers shared the district just sold Measure N bonds today and we should be receiving \$9 million.

Theresa Grosejean asked if there was any way to create partnerships with outside entities to help with costs on playing facilities, for example with City of Arcata for playing baseball.

Roger Macdonald shared that so far there haven't been any.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Navarre – Shared that in 1979 the board had voted to do studies to find ways to build fields for AHS. For over 40 years we have been looking to do this. It's been close to a decade from Measure Q with still no fields.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS continued

Mark Gorge – Asked what the cost would be to turf the baseball field? Noted that infield will be in shade.

Troy Ghisetti – thanked everyone for showing up tonight. Wanted to know who had input on the design. Troy wants AHS athletics to practice and compete on their own fields. Feels it's a board and superintendent issue on how to make bond funds work to get the project done. Feels school has had subpar facilities for students. Shared issues with scheduling when using community fields. Troy wants regulation fields.

Jack Bareilles – shared that he believes practice fields for soccer teams would be an issue with new layout.

Jordan Briggs – Would football and soccer have to share and split usage?

Marci Barker – Asked about accommodations for football and soccer. Asked about lighting for Friday night games.

Adam Knoeller – shared that the majority of the North Coast section soccer teams play a winter schedule. That could help alleviate conflict with football but other issue is our weather in winter. Could HSU give soccer the same access as they do football?

Bob Wallace –Doesn't feel a facility that would meet the needs of all groups has been put together. Believes taxpayers that voted for Measure Q were voting for the intent of synthetic fields.

Yoshi Uemura– Feels this is a compromise and thinks that because of the money, we have to compromise and not everyone is going to get what they wanted. There were numerous opportunities for people to give input. He wants to see something get done.

Denise Ziegler – Denise shared she's been to every meeting. It seems like everyone is doing their best at the district/board level. This is a compromise. Everyone is speaking about athletics but the concern should be all students in PE. Denise feels this is the best plan that she's seen done so far.

Lori Meadows – Believes that coaches and athletic director haven't been included in the process. She is disappointed and would like to see that happen.

Frank Cheek – There are softball field issues here at HSU. He would like to see proper turf put in. No matter what drainage you do, he believes it will not work.

Noah Levy – It seems that coaches and athletic director should be included. We need to do artificial turf.

Craig Tucker – Understands this is a hard project to do. In an effort to please everyone, no one will be happy. He would like to see a team of community, staff and parents put together to look at the best use of this parcel and utilizing other properties in town. He wants to see the schools kept up with roofs etc, not just stellar athletic facilities at the costs projected.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS continued

Mike Pigg – please consider how you can benefit the most people. He wants to see the track for the PE department for our students to run. Natural turf – would we do our own well to water the field? Spoke about the age of the culvert (60 years). The City of Arcata is responsible for cleaning the culvert. It would be a tragedy to have it fail and ruin the fields. Mike shared that this process has been going on for 10 years. There have been numerous opportunities for people to have input. He mentioned bleachers should be on same side as finish line on the track

Colleen Toste – would like to see the input process addressed so folks know. Voters voted for an all-weather track and field and she understands there has to be compromise. She feels parking shouldn't be a big concern.

Audrey Dieker – Asked about the costs of adding lighting.

Michael Pulley – asked about moving the culvert.

Eric Agliolo – Asked if this is the only design on the table. Roger shared this is an evolving design that has come from numerous years of analysis.

John McPae – Concerned with baseball team having to travel to away games so often due to lack of field availability here.

District Responses to Questions from Public:

The price to add turf baseball field would be \$600,000 plus or minus; football/soccer field would be \$550,000. It's a warrantied 8-year product. District would need to plan to replace every 10-12 years at a cost is about \$500,000 per field.

If field went out to bid as planned next year, the field would be completed by year end of 2020.

There will have to be cooperation for soccer and football teams for shared field use. District is working to find other practice options.

Coaches would be brought in to finalize plans and scopes. Brian Lovell feels it's not fair to say that no one has been brought into the discussion. Roger Macdonald spoke about the process to get where we are. The design team was hired because of their expertise to design a field that would work for our area. There have been numerous board meetings and community meetings that have given time for input but we could have done a better job of outreach.

Dave Navarre was happy to see that when we get to the fine tuning the fields that everyone will be brought in and included.

Bob Wallace concerned that the design presented will be approved even with all the concerns brought tonight.

Theresa Grosjean is curious as to what kind of additional fees could be brought in by the community to put in synthetic fields and maintain them. She would like to see analysis as to what money we already bring in for fields and games. Yoshi Uemura shared that we may have to increase fees.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS continued

Blue Lake Rancheria is applying for a grant to build a field.

Theresa Grosjean would like to be brought up-to-date on pros and cons of the synthetic fields since she was not on the board at the time a decision was made. How would we afford to maintain them going forward? Dana Silvernale shared at the August 2017 meeting there was in-depth discussion.

Brian Lovell shared his concern with synthetic turf and the health issues. Brian has heard issues of getting rid of the materials when it's time to replace. Brian's biggest concern is parking and its effects on the surrounding community. Also concerned with the \$8 million cost and then the cost of the additional costs with synthetic fields. More concerned with our facilities and other costs such as repairing roofs, heating, and electrical that effect all our students. Athletics are important but not the focus of the school.

Dana Silvernale spoke about being at graduation at HSU and the plastic particles she noticed. She is concerned with the pollutant issue.

Brian Gerving thanked everyone for their comments tonight. Happy to see many people involved. There are things that could have been done differently but there have been many opportunities for input. Feels that this design is the best compromise to provide the greatest benefits to everyone. Brian's concern is the ongoing long-term financial commitment to installing a synthetic field. Doesn't believe there is a way to generate enough funds to maintain the synthetic fields by holding tournaments and increased game fees.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT at 8:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

**Roger Macdonald, Secretary
Board of Trustees**

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