

## **CAC Minutes – November 21, 2005**

**Next CAC meeting: Monday, December 19 at the Board of Education Building, 7:30.** Please advise Sherman Bishop, Lee Field-Starks or John Doucette in advance if you will be unable to attend the meeting.

Attendees (10): Lee Field-Starks (presiding), Dr. Jim Costanza (Superintendent), Tom Mays (Board of Education), Marcia Columbro, John Doucette, Anne Pevnev, Jean Seasholtz, Carrie Tate, Christie Wiedt, Eddie Williams

Absent with notice: Garn Anderson, Sherman Bishop, Andy Call, Polly Schumach, Linda Wade

Absent without notice: Leslie Brusk, Bridget Ebenger-Balla, Kevin Kanareff, Kate Lowery, Dan Walsh

The following are the minutes from the November 21, 2005 meeting at the Board of Education building:

### **Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Lee Field-Starks at 7:35 p.m. Since a quorum was not present no formal business was conducted.

### **Superintendent's Report by Dr. Jim Costanza**

Dr. Costanza discussed several topics and distributed copies of a Power Point presentation he used.

- HB 66
  - HB 66 calls for an accelerated phase-out of the personal property tax on businesses.
  - Revenue from this tax will end in four years, the 2009 tax year.
  - About 10% of the District's revenue comes from this source.
  - This will be offset somewhat by revenue from the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT). This provision will hold the District harmless with respect to revenue shrinkage – we will not lose any revenue but there will be no growth either.
- District Finances
  - Without the levy the District faces a \$3 million shortfall this year.
  - That results in a \$1.2 million balance at the end of FY 2006 and a \$4.2 million deficit in FY 2007.
  - The deficit rises to \$11 million in FY 2008 and \$21 million in FY 2009.
  - We will experience a drop in debt service of about \$1.2 million in FY 2007.
- Operating Levy Strategy
  - Plan to have the levy on the May 2006 ballot. Need to file by February 16, 2006.
  - Board will decide millage at next meeting:
    - 6.5 mills gets us even in FY 2009
    - 6.9 mills generates a surplus in 2009
  - Increased millage relative to last May's levy is the result of the delay
  - Ballot language will have to call this additional tax, not "replacement".
  - The Board will issue a list of program cuts that will be enacted in the levy fails.
  - Failure to pass the levy will result in these cuts being enacted as well as State intervention.

### **Board of Education Report by Tom Mays**

The Board report covered several topics:

- Bradley Road Property Sale
  - Proceeds will be used for permanent improvements and used to pay for items that have been deferred due to budget limitations.
  - Sale price not established yet. City has a \$1.7 million appraisal but the Board thinks this is low due to the commercial potential of the property. If we sell to a developer for more money the property is lost forever. We would prefer to sell to the City because of buy-back language and the City's plans to use the property for sports fields.

(continued over)

- Financial Matters
  - Re-iterated plan to put levy on May ballot and that the Board will set the millage at their next meeting.
  - Will consider student fees as a source of revenue but this will not be substantial.
- Performing Arts Center
  - Will hold a working session in December with Heather Drago to promote the PAC and set up an Arts Center.

**Committee Reports:**

- High School Research (Lee Field-Starks)
  - Linda Wade met with Cathy McGinty regarding information provided to students on clubs and other activities. Linda also met with WHBS regarding programming and was informed that the station does not do PR activities.
  - John Doucette obtained a copy of a parent attitude survey already conducted and available for secondary analysis. The team plans to target surveys of both students and the community.
  - A small-scale shadowing program is in place at Burneson where students are paired with High School students who can serve as positive role models.
  - Team will look into information provided by Realtors to people who are considering purchasing a home in Westlake.
- Business Partnerships (Carrie Tate)
  - Still collecting data on existing partnerships.
  - Met with Career Connection at the High School
  - Looked into a regional program for Vocational Education.
  - Investigated companies who agreed to provide internships as part of tax abatement agreements. Turns out that the problem is lack of response from the High School in providing candidates.
- Levy (Christie Wiedt)
  - No report at this time.
- Performing Arts Center
  - No one from committee in attendance,

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Lee Field-Starks at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by John Doucette

Corrections/missing items/amendments may be made during the next meeting as needed.

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