

Task Force Recommends PSD Seek Bond/Mill Election in 2010

A Poudre School District task force charged with studying the feasibility of and the need for an operational mill levy and bond issue election brought a recommendation to the Board of Education in October 2007 that the district move forward with an election in 2010.

“Our committee advises that the district plan for a mill levy and bond issue election in 2010,” said committee co-chair Barb Wallner, Ph.D. “This allows ample time to solidify and organize the needs of the district and schools and plan a successful election that will make a great school district even better. We are asking for the Board’s permission to proceed to regroup and expand the committee, and begin communication with schools and the community to prioritize needs.”

Board of Education supports Task Force recommendation

While no formal action is required by the PSD Board at this time, the committee asked for the Board’s go-ahead to form a planning committee and subcommittees, according to Dr. Wallner.

Board members responded positively to the report and request, thanking the committee for its work. Board members expressed support for the committee to expand and continue its work, bringing back information in coming months on needs for a possible bond and/or mill levy election.

If a bond and/or mill levy override election is held, the ballot language must specify how the funds raised will be spent. The Board of Education will review and approve ballot language prior to the election.

Task force takes year to study reports, feasibility of bond/mill election

In spring 2006, the Board asked that a task force be formed to study the feasibility of an election. The task force, comprised of parents, community and business members, and school and district staff, has been meeting since November 2006, taking into consideration data and reports to learn more about the status and needs of the district.

The committee’s report was made during Tuesday’s Board of Education meeting, during which the committee chairs shared information on the 14-member task force’s process and deliberation leading to the recommendation.

Over the past year, the task force took into account presentations and reports on curriculum, transportation, facilities, finance, technology, early childhood, and full-day kindergarten, as well as committees studying grade configuration changes, boundaries, school choice transportation, and the needs of smaller schools.

Task force identifies possible categories of critical need for 2010

The task force discussed possible categories of needs for a 2010 election, such as funding for curriculum and instruction, gifted education, health and safety, maintenance, partnerships, pre-school/all day kindergarten, early childhood, security and school safety, special education,

changing demographics of the student population, vocational/technical and career education, sports/athletics, technology, support services, and whole child development.

“These categories will now be studied, tied closely to the district’s learning goals and priorities and the Board of Education’s newly adopted General Ends Policy, as well as a long list of critical needs,” said task force co-chair Jim Sarchet, PSD’s Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, which oversees the district budget.