

West Fargo Public Schools Planning & Development Committee Meeting January 17, 2022 - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. LEC Boardroom

Attendees:

Committee Members: Patti Stedman and Dan Schaeffer (Jon Erickson was absent)

District Staff: Beth Slette; Levi Bachmeier; Rachael Agre; Vince Williams, Mark Lemer, Heather Sand, and Alicia Severson

Other Board Members: Jim Jonas

Media: None

1. New Elementary Timeline

- a. Because of difficulties in the supply chain, there is a concern that a fall of 2024 opening might not be possible. The board has options to make it more enticing to get it done at that time such as incentives to the builder for getting it done early.
 - i. An example mentioned was a dollar incentive to offset some of the labor costs for extra effort.
 - ii. Another thing to consider is the longer we set out the completion date, the more likely the cost would rise as prices are steadily rising on things.
 1. Possibly this would mean that we pay an incentive to get it done early or we pay more in materials because the prices keep rising and have a later opening date. Could cost the same either way.
- b. The district could also just plan for opening sometime in 2024 and have a temporary space place for all or a portion of the 2023 school year for those students.
 - i. Could we plan for a time during the 2023 school year to open such as after winter break or January 1? The difficulty with that is students that will go to this school will be spread out all over the attendance area
- c. When we ask for bids on structural steel and joists we will also ask for the delivery date so we can make a plan, however, we are still unsure that a Fall 2023 opening is possible.
- d. Picking an opening date in 2024 is definitely safer. Make Lemer will look at different options to get the school done as soon as we can and bring them back to the board for discussion. Possibly at the workshop in February?

2. 2018 Bond Budget

- a. There are three million dollars left in the bond budget.

- i. The majority is going to the Brooks Harbor addition and about \$400,000 is going towards furniture and equipment at Horace High School.

3. Land North of Main

- a. Looking out toward the year 2050 we may need to put another school up north. There are parcels for sale now that we are looking at. It would be better to buy now rather than later as land prices will continue to increase. If the land the district buys isn't quite in the right spot when it comes to build, we could always see if a land swap would work at the time.
- b. The district is growing and there are no signs in the near future that it will slow down.