

**Meeting Minutes:** Planning Committee – District Office Board Room

**Date/Time:** February 21, 2023 – 7:30 a.m.

**Start:** 7:30 a.m.

**End:** 7:55 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Jim Johnson, Katie Christensen, Nyamal Dei, Tracie Newman

**Committee Members Absent:** Seth Holden

**Board Members Present:** Greg Clark

**Staff Members Present:** Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Jackie Gapp, Tara Brandner, Dr. Robert Grosz, Missy Eidsness

**Guests:** James Hand

**Recorder:** Amy Patterson

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions
<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b>	Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting.	Minutes will be posted on the Board's section of the public website.
<b>Teddy Roosevelt Marker</b>	<p>Guests John Strand and Beth Jansen and David Hubin from Bonanzaville addressed the Committee with an offer to rehome the Teddy Roosevelt Marker with Fargo Public Schools on the District or school property. John Strand explained that when he was a volunteer for Bonanzaville, retired State Representative Steve Zaiser informed him of the history of the marker and the relationship and agreement that he wanted Bonanzaville to be aware of and track. Teddy Roosevelt came to Fargo on a train to speak at a Fargo college, and he gave his famous speech just behind this building in the grove of trees. There was a footstone inscribed with "Donated by Andrew Carnegie, Dedicated to Teddy Roosevelt" on the property.</p> <p>Chair Jim Johnson shared his knowledge of the arrangement. He explained that when Western States sold this building to RDO, they remodeled and removed shrubs and trees. Jim Johnson believes that RDO contacted Bonanzaville and asked them to hold onto it for the time being, with the idea that this property would still be its home.</p> <p>It is believed the original agreement was a temporary loan, and Bonanzaville has just been stewards of the marker in the meantime. The hope is to get the marker back to its original home, where it should be. The hope is to put it back on this property or the nearby school property and turn it into a learning, historical reference point that can be enjoyed for generations to come. Discussion was had and questions were raised about the marker's history and the requirements of the marker going forward.</p> <p>Dr. Rupak Gandhi requested that Tara Brandner draft an agreement, and that Tara and James Hand work together to bring a plan back to this Committee. The Committee will communicate with Bonanzaville when a plan is approved.</p>	Tara Brander and James Hand will work together to bring a plan back to the Committee.

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<b>Student Parking Fees</b>	<p>The Board received a concern from a parent about the parking fees at the high schools. The Board sent this to the Planning Committee to review. Committee discussion was had on the history, rationale and budgetary effects of parking fees.</p> <p>Jackie Gapp reported that this has been a long-standing practice to charge parking fees. Parking is \$40 for the year and there are scholarships for those who cannot afford the parking fees. The parking fees offset a small portion of the costs associated with the student parking lot (i.e., sweeping, snow removal, resurfacing, cleaning, maintenance, and repairs). The District is not making money from the fees.</p> <p>Schools have a limited number of parking spaces for students. The fees help to guarantee a spot for the students who drive to school. Chair Jim Johnson shared that we do offer free bussing and we should be promoting bussing for a smaller carbon footprint. Free parking does not promote bussing; it does the opposite.</p> <p>If we were to remove these fees, we would have to take money from somewhere else in the budget to replace these fees. This is something that only affects a small segment of the student population, and a change would only benefit a small segment of the student population.</p> <p>Discussion was had about how we communicate with parents and students about the fees and the importance of clear communication. Committee members verified that the parking fees are communicated to students and parents in a variety of ways. The parking fees are in PowerSchool, written policy, in the handbook, and on the website.</p> <p>There was consensus that this is not a big problem for today. It was suggested that we discuss this publicly during a later Board meeting.</p>	
<b>Kolba Playground</b>	<p>The Kolba family approached the Fargo Public School District about the “Kolba Playground” sign at Clara Barton. The “Kolba Playground” sign was originally erected to honor employee Joe Kolba. The Kolba dedication was approved by the Fargo Public School Board and has not been rescinded. At some point, the sign disappeared. It is unclear why the sign was removed or who removed it. The Kolba family is requesting a new sign or dedication placard be put up.</p> <p>Committee discussion was had on the naming process and questions were raised about how long the naming and dedications should last. Is it for 5, 10 or 20 years or forever? The consensus was that we need some guidelines for naming and dedicating buildings.</p> <p>James Hand reported that he did not find any Board action on the Kolba playground, but if the Board authorized it, we need to honor it and put a placard up. We do not need to take action on something that has already been authorized.</p>	Recommendation to accept the proposal if they fundraise all the money.

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<b>City of Fargo Tax Increment Financing</b>	<p>There is a request by the developer that will bulldoze an entire block on South University and will reconstruct commercial and apartments in that zone. Estimating that the property currently pays \$38,000 in property taxes, after all of the improvement and the TIF comes off, there will be approximately \$452,000 in property taxes, which is an additional \$415,000. The current rate will stay until they start paying the higher taxes.</p> <p>This will be put on the consent agenda to have the Board approve it, even though it will be too late to take any action. Discussion was had about the tight turnaround time for action.</p>	
<b>North High Track &amp; Field Light Project</b>	<p>MBN Engineering submitted a proposal to provide engineering services for Fargo North Sports Field Lighting-- adding lights to the new North High track. The benefit of this lighting is that we can utilize the facility at all hours of the day, not just during daylight hours. It was reported that we have a group led by Greg Hamas who want to fundraise for this project. The request is to approve the project so they can start fundraising. Once fundraising is complete, we will move forward, but not until all funds are raised. Discussion was had on the economic risk to the District and the extra work put on the District. It was opened up for questions and comments. Consensus was reached that there was no harm in letting them try to fundraise the amount. Discussion was had on which tracks at other schools have lighting.</p> <p>Discussion was had about what would happen if they are short, do we continue and come up with the missing money. A question was raised about the cost to the District. James Hand confirmed that the maintenance costs and electricity are not significant and the cost benefit analysis is definitely worth it. Discussion was had about equity and precedence.</p> <p>Consensus was reached to approve fundraising, but we will not move forward without 100% of the funds raised.</p>	
<b>Budget Review (through January)</b>	<p>Jackie Gapp reported that there were a few minor changes. The District received additional funding for adult education programs through the Department of Human Services. There were increased student related costs for special education services required under IEPs. We are contracting those services out so needed to add some money to that line item.</p> <p>Also, there were increased costs for conferences and conference-related travel. Post-covid, educators are now back to attending conferences so there are increased costs there.</p>	
<b>Long Range Planning Update</b>	<p>Ongoing maintenance should cost the District \$4 MIL a year. We have only been spending \$2 MIL a year. We are trying to be good stewards of tax dollars, so there is a need for the District to really prioritize its many needs. We need to figure out the best way to do that and look at when do we decommission some of the older buildings that are underutilized and costly.</p> <p>The plan is to take a pause and bring in an outside consultant to determine the longevity of what we have and what is the best use of the available space. Are the buildings designed to</p>	

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	<p>meet today's education needs? Then we can determine what additional space is needed and the best way to get it. Then we can bring a plan back to the Board.</p> <p>Everyone has different priorities and outside eyes are good. James Hands requested to put out a Request for Proposals for facility condition assessment. We did this 10 years ago, and we are working off a report that is 10 years old. There are new requests and new priorities. It's time for a new assessment that will prioritize all facility needs from critical needs, all the way down to wants and wishes and help with data to recognize the deficiencies from building to building. We can address those needs systematically. It will analyze HVAC, plumbing, finishing, enclosures, roofs, windows, doors etc., and create an interactive plan.</p> <p>We will need a second RFP for software for maintenance and capital improvement planning. It will look at the 30-year life cycle on all of the buildings. The life cycle of buildings is much shorter now--even 30 years is really a stretch. It will look at our systems and determine what the costs over the next 30 years for all our buildings will be so we can evaluate some of the older buildings.</p> <p>This will be a large budget item (approximately \$300-500,000). We will pause until we have accurate means of prioritizing and will focus on the analysis. Priority will be given to critical needs and student safety.</p> <p>We will continue discussing how priority items are selected. Consensus was reached to move forward with the request for proposal process for facility condition assessment and capital improvement planning.</p>	
<b>Next Meeting: March 21, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.</b>		