

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Martinez called the special joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and School District RE-1 School Board to order at 8:05 p.m.

LASALLE TOWN BOARD PRESENT: Paul Aragon, Tony Asbury, Gary Bruce, Andy Martinez, Mike Miller, Jane Rumrill and Tony Trevino (arrived 8:15 p.m.) Also present: Carl Harvey-Operations Director, Barry Schaeffer-Public Works Director, Clint Dudley-Recreation Director, and Toni Polland-Deputy Town Clerk.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1 BOARD PRESENT:

Marsha Harris, Dave Eckhardt, Kenny Garcia, Pat Montoya, and Randy Ray. Others present: Dr. Jo Barbie-Superintendent, Jeff Cogburn – Director of Personnel & Auxillary Services.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Martinez opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance, and introductions of all present. There was a public comment period, during which time many members of each board expressed their satisfaction of this joint meeting. Martinez noted there were only three items on the agenda which would be followed.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT/FACILITY USES

Grants

Martinez opened discussion regarding the advantages of intergovernmental agreements when applying for grants or other funding sources. Partnerships between entities are encouraged which results in higher scores on grant applications, according to Dudley. School board members questioned whether this was the only need for an IGA, whether a letter of support could suffice, and that even with an IGA in place it would not necessarily constitute support by the school.

Facilities

Harvey explained that other components of an IGA could include coordination of uses, identification of responsibilities and establishment of guidelines for each entity. The town had distributed sample IGA'S and a breakdown of current facilities usage by the town and school. Dr. Barbie noted that the role of the district is governed by policy, simply stating the school's use is first and the town's would be second. There was considerable discussion regarding expectations of the school and town. With employee, and boards changing there becomes a lot of gray matter that has not been identified. Responsibilities once born by the school have now become the town's duty with manpower and funds. Dr. Barbie stated she also has sample IGA's and could also complete a cost vs. cost analysis on uses similar to what was provided by the town. Harvey said an IGA could help dispel rumors of the town being difficult, which may cause the Valley softball team to go to another community. Dr. Barbie stated they preferred Platteville's facilities rather than LaSalle's and they had not heard the rumors cited by Harvey.

Conclusion

In finality on this topic, each board agreed to work together to produce an IGA document. The primary contacts for this project will be Jeff Cogburn, Dr. Jo Barbie, and Carl Harvey. Once a draft is completed the boards will meet again to review.

WATER AUGMENTATION PLAN

Water Shares

Cogburn noted the school had purchased two shares of water that are to be used throughout the district and are not solely for purpose of augmenting the LaSalle well. Harvey asked if one quarter of the two could be used by LaSalle as it would benefit LaSalle's augmentation plan. Central Weld Water dictates where those shares go in the district and is set for a hearing in 2009, according to Randy Ray. The school only has 30 acre feet for the three towns in the district. Dr. Barbie emphasized the school wants and needs to be included in the Town of LaSalle augmentation plan. Harvey stated the town is in the process of securing effluent water from Thornton and Aurora. Ray commented there are plans for an augmentation pond scheduled to be built in Gilcrest in November which will provide an additional 20 acre feet of water when completed. Ray questioned whether it would be feasible to utilize existing water taps for irrigation vs. the well. Harvey indicated the town does not have enough water to carry the school with that approach.

The 2007 cost agreement signed by the school and the town as relates to the augmentation plan was reviewed. Dr. Barbie and Cogburn each remarked there was not a clear understanding of their responsibilities with the plan. Barbie requested clarification on what the district has been paying for to date. Depletion costs for leased water, in addition to attorney and engineering costs which was more clearly defined by Harvey. He added the town has been delayed in water courts due to the additional water needed, and are now in an extended sixth year. Ray then recognized the school district would be responsible for capital costs involved with senior water purchases. Asbury provided information regarding Godfrey Ditch water shares that may be available for purchase.

Conclusion

Dr. Barbie explained the school board has a work session scheduled for July 29, after which time she will contact Harvey with their decision on how to proceed. She also stressed the budgetary concerns with such a purchase and limited fund availability.

PETERSON WAY ISSUE

School Position

Dr. Barbie initiated discussion regarding the Peterson Way area for bus drop offs. She offered information contained in a recent CDE audit that encouraged the drop off point to be Peterson Way. She stated the district simply wants to alleviate an accident waiting to happen. The street has been measured and is 61' curb to curb, and would provide direct access to the building. The only times buses would use Peterson Way would be 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. With these specific hours, the school feels there would not be any conflict with other traffic on the street. She reiterated that there are current designated curb cuts for the buses. Harvey stated the diagonal parking on each side of Peterson Way would conflict with the bus drop off. Marsha Harris noted she had personally witnessed several near misses in the parking lot where students are now being dropped off.

Historical Background/Possible Solutions

Harvey proceeded to convey historical data surrounding the school bus drop off situation. He stated previous school boards, along with town involvement had specifically requested the parking lot drop off due to complications at First Avenue and Peterson Way. The design of the street was flawed from the beginning which has caused the problems we experienced.

Dr. Barbie suggested South 4th Street as a drop off area, which Harvey felt could be explored. School board members pressed the issue of Peterson Way and suggested a one-year trial period. During the period, parents could be “trained” to not congest the bus drop area as this as worked in Gilcrest and Platteville. After a certain amount of time the school board feel the parents are cooperative and comply with signage and direction which they could supply. There were other suggestions offered besides Peterson Way. One would be to split the parking lot directing bus traffic one way and parents another, or provide an alternative off street drop off through the school property by the bus barn was suggested. Dr. Barbie stated she envisioned a half a million dollar cost in water and bus drop off improvements, dollars the school does not have available. She again requested a trial period on Peterson Way. Harvey emphasized the bottle neck issues previously experienced and that the safety of the children had already been compromised with the area. He encouraged the school to at least review the internal split of the parking lot, and the town will explore the South 4th Street area. Dr. Barbie declared parking is a huge problem for the school, and splitting the parking area would present more problems. She again referenced two separate studies which call for the school to use Peterson Way. These reports will be provided to the town for review. Dr. Barbie stressed the difficult economic struggles the school is encountering. There was continued discussion regarding which alternative would be most cost effective without impacting children’s safety.

Conclusion

Mayor Martinez emphasized the children’s safety should be the primary goal of both boards. He added the town is not convinced Peterson Way is the solution. In the interim, each board should continue to work together and strive to clearly define new board philosophies which have been overlooked or undocumented in the past. The town will look at the South 4th Street alternative, the school will provide the referenced studies, in addition to exploring the suggested alternatives of splitting the parking lot and a drive through near the bus barn.

School Board President reiterated the conclusions reached with each topic discussed.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Toni Polland
Deputy Town Clerk