

Hinsdale County School District
Leslie Nichols – Superintendent
614 N Silver Street, Lake City, CO 81235
leslien@lakecityschool.org 970-944-2314

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake City School Board Continues Facilities Planning Process

The Hinsdale County School Board continued work on a District 10-Year Facilities Plan at their regular meeting December 15, 2016.

The Board reviewed the results and discussed actions from the November 16 workshop that engaged representatives from key stakeholder groups – parents, teachers, neighbors, property owners, businesses, and other community members (reported in *SILVER WORLD*). During the workshop, the participants discussed and prioritized ideas for three key questions on the future of non-core programs, how large spaces should be used, and what basis should be used to define the facility size.

Since that workshop, additional input on current facility adequacy has been gathered from surveys of Lake City teachers and middle and high-school students.

School Superintendent, Dr. Leslie Nichols said "the voice of the public in this process is essential. When we plan for facilities, we are really creating the future of education in Lake City. This community strongly values educational excellence, and only with adequate facilities can we continue that tradition."

During the December 15 board meeting, Welborn & Associates representative David Primus shared the work in progress to develop an initial plan draft. The Welborn team has researched other master facility plans from several school districts across the nation. Elements that fit the Hinsdale process have been incorporated into an outline which was discussed with the Board.

"The school district team is intent on this facilities' process with community members in creating a sensible plan that addresses our students' essential educational needs" commented Phillip Virden, School Board President.

Board members continued to emphasize that the facilities planning process is more than focusing on a new gymnasium. It is much more comprehensive, including study of the adequacy of all spaces – including core and non-core classrooms and instructional areas, support spaces, and other large assembly areas.

A second workshop is scheduled for March 9 for review of the draft 10-Year Plan. It will include participants from the November workshop, where possible, and fill in where needed to ensure good representation of the same key stakeholder groups. The Board will review the draft in February prior to the workshop. Materials for the March workshop will be provided in advance to the participants.

Comments from the Board indicate they are particularly sensitive to ensuring the process includes ample public input. Once the plan is completed in the spring, additional public education and communications are planned.

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