CHEWELAH SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 20, 2019

Those in attendance: Ruthanna Frizzell, Zackary Levchenko, Rich McFarland, Susanne Griepp, Kevin Herda, Megan George, Steve Savitz, Judy Bean, and Jerry Schlatter.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

The minutes from the 10/9/19 meeting was approved.

The group celebrated the passage of the capital levy and Superintendent McFarland made a toast with sparkling cider in celebration.

Things learned from this levy for the next levy/bond election.

* With the next capital levy, it was suggested having more concrete details on the project.
* Suggested publishing the project progression as each phase is completed.
* More advanced planning. Start the planning a year prior to election will also help with campaign fundraising.

Updates on capital levy planning:

Zachary Levchenko is investigating different camera vendors and reviewing camera locations for the system upgrade. Zachary participated in a webinar with one vendor and is currently looking at three major vendors. Two of the camera systems are cloud based storage but there are other options.

The District’s current phone system has multiple issues such as the caller id shows only the phone’s extension number along with reliability issues. Zachary has been looking at internet-based phone systems and Microsoft based systems. In the past, Erate funding was available to offset phone system costs; Erate is no longer available for the actual phone system cost, but Erate can be used towards the cost of switches. The District will submit paperwork in February for Erate funding. The phone and intercom system replacement and staff training will be scheduled for the summer of 2020.

All purchasing will follow the bid process once it has been determined what components we are looking for. Question was raised as to the function of the facility group and how much input they will be providing. Superintendent McFarland shared that the District and staff will determine what the exact needs will be. Question was raised as to if a middle person would come in and be a “spec writer” detailing what the exact bids entail. This option will be investigated.

A meeting will be held with district staff to review District technology needs. This process will be a little further down the road.

Jason Tapia met with McKinistry on the planning phase for the Small School Modernization grant. This grant is just for project planning. Receiving the grant is an indication that the District is a finalist for the actual project grant. The District will find out in January or the first of February if Chewelah is selected for one of the project grants. We have requested 1.8 million dollars for the boiler replacement at Jenkins Jr./Sr. High School. The preliminary plan is to replace the boiler in the current location (attic area of the building). Engineers were in the District today and selected three other locations that the boiler could be relocated to. The best option would be to locate the boiler in the main building area. The boiler is currently losing water and the maintenance staff is trying to track down the leak.

The recent wind storm damaged the roof on the Quartzite Learning building. The insurance paid for the $30,000 plus in damages to replace the roof. The cost to the district was the $1,000 deductible.

Faculty Study and Survey is in process.

The levy passage will be certified the end of November and we will begin collecting funds in April 2020. The question raised, was do we want to phase the projects and complete as we receive the funds, or do we borrow the levy amount up front to complete all the projects. Because so much of this project is technology based and with just two people managing the technology department, it seems best to complete the projects as the money is collected rather than borrow. The group was in consensus to not borrow money.

The question was raised if the District can lock down the buildings with one button. The answer is no but we are looking at all the options. The more we investigate, the more options there are to consider.

Jerry Schlatter suggested using the State of Washington Construction Group to help effectively manage these projects. Jerry will invite a representative to the next facility meeting.

Next meeting date will be January 8, 2020 at 5:30 at the District Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.