

REEF-SUNSET UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL JOINT CITY MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2013
AVENAL THEATER

A special joint city meeting of the Reef-Sunset Unified School District Board of Trustees and Avenal City Council was held on this date in the Avenal Theater/Pegasus room located at 233 E. Kings Street, Avenal, CA 93204

Mr. Casida, City Mayor, called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENT:

Gail Monohon, Leticia Lopez, Chris Collins, Jose Barrera, David East, Isavel Cancino, Harlin Casida, Alvaro Preciado, Bill Woolley, Martin Maldonado, Lou Gravelle, Melissa Whitten, Frank Gornick, Ken Stoppenbrink, Don Warkentin, Edna Ivans, Nick Ivans, Celina Garcia, Bill Hatcher, Dagoberto Ovalle, Jim McGee, Margaret Drummond, Shawna Mathis, Rosa Moreno, Gloria Preciado were present. Lorena Venegas, presiding as recording secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Ms. Monohon explained reasons for scheduling this meeting and gave some background regarding the 2008 WHC Bond Measure E. Bond money was to be used to provide a learning center in Avenal.

Measure E, 2008 West Hills College Bond Measure:

Ms. Whitten stated that the City invited Dr. Frank Gornick, WHC Chancellor to give information on the WHC Learning Center for Avenal and to answer questions that the City and Board may have. Dr. Gornick introduced Edna Ivans, Nick Ivans, Ken Stoppenbrink, Don Warkentin and Celina Garcia. Dr. Gornick showed a power presentation on the Measure E Bond. He explained that prior to the Bond passing in 2008 he spoke to the City about the benefits of the Bond measure and went over the total amount of the Bond. WHC District was able to pass all proposed bonds. He explained that in the 3rd SFID (includes all of Kings County and a little bit of Riverdale) they generated up to \$33 million dollars. Dr. Gornick explained how those bonds needed to be spent within those areas.

WHC – Avenal Learning Center:

Dr. Gornick explained how they looked at different locations for the Avenal WHC center as they only have \$2 million dollars to spend. He stated that they had looked at a facility near the Paramount Child Development Center but there were issues with property lines and traffic. Dr. Gornick explained how educational facilities are built taking into consideration population and demographics. He stated that when building, they also had to budget 4% for building maintenance costs.

Dr. Gornick explained how they have started to look at a joint-use facility in Avenal due to the limited budget of \$2 million dollars. They've been looking at the Avenal High School Science classroom, Science Lab, and Earth Science classroom. He explained there is a large push to provide Science and Technology classes. The mission of WHC is also to provide opportunities for adults in the area. Temporary facilities at Avenal High School parking lot were also discussed. Dr. Gornick showed a collaborative design plan that interests the WHC Board of Trustees. Plan shows Ag tech and nursing programs. In these classes; physics, biology and geology can be taught all in one place. Dr. Gornick explained that for the dollar amount they have available they can create a science and technology center at the high school creating a WHC Avenal facility. He provided a copy of a DRAFT agreement for a joint-use facility.

Mr. Casida then explained how the City was approached regarding Measure E, and that Avenal would have a separate facility. Dr. Gornick and the City had met to look at different possible locations, but were not good enough for Dr. Gornick. He stated that Avenal was never presented with a remodeled classroom like the currently proposed joint-use facility. He feels Avenal should receive what was originally proposed. Mr. Ovalle asked for permission to speak and stated that he was in agreement with Mr. Casida's comment.

Dr. Gornick stated that circumstances had changed as far as how they are funded and that his intent was not to deceive anyone. His intent is to bring and offer classes here in Avenal. He reported that WHC does not have funds to sustain the original plan for Avenal. Ms. Monohon read minutes of the Oversight Committee for the original bond. She stated that if WHC now asks Avenal residents for their opinion, they probably will not approve for a joint-use facility at the high school.

Mr. Warkentin, President of WHC Lemoore explained how they met with the City to discuss a center in Avenal and informed city officials that WHC had \$2 million dollars. They approached the City to see if they can help with a facility and provide infrastructure costs, such as electricity, roads, parking lot, etc. He stated that the City of Avenal never offered to give funding for infrastructure costs. Dr. Gornick stated that the City never gave an inclination they would help with funds. There was a question and answer session where board, city, students and community members expressed they would like to have WHC classes offered at a different location other than the high school but nonetheless in Avenal.

Long Term Vision for Center and Program:

Dr. Gornick reported they have to look at enrollment numbers. He would like to survey the citizens of Avenal (English/Spanish) to see what they would like. He proposed to:

- Continue the WHC Avenal Learning Facility dialogue with the City
- City of Avenal- What other ways they can assist with the WHC Avenal Learning Facility
- Other people may need to help, such as Paramount, ERA or Chevron.
- Continue to consider proposed draft agreement for WHC center at AHS
- He will take discussions made at this meeting to the WHC Board

Questions/Comments:

Ms. Monohon asked Dr. Gornick if he could come back soon with the results of the survey. If residents state they would like a separate facility can they come back with other options? Dr. Gornick stated they would. Mr. Collins thought the City should get involved in making the project happened. City should commit to assisting WHC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Secretary to the Board