

**JOINT MEETING  
LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD  
MAYOR**

**Monday, April 3, 2006, 7:30 a.m.**

**Lincoln Public Schools District Offices  
Board Room (E102)  
5901 O Street**

**AGENDA**

1. Minutes of June 6, 2005 (attached)
2. LPS 2006 Bond
  - a. Ten-Year Facility Plan and Critical Path Matrix – Susan Gourley and Dennis Van Horn
  - b. LPS/City Collaboration – Susan Gourley, Mayor Seng
3. Flashing School Zone Lights – Scott Opfer
4. Continuing Business
5. New Business
6. Future Meeting Date

# MINUTES

## JOINT MEETING LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION/ LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL MAYOR LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD

April 3, 2006

Lincoln Public Schools District Offices

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**    **Board of Education:** Kathy Danek-President, Lillie Larsen, Ed Zimmer  
                                  **City Council:** Patte Newman-Chair, Jon Camp, Robin Eschliman, Dan Marvin, Annette McRoy, Ken Svoboda  
                                  **Mayor** Coleen Seng  
                                  **County Board:** Deb Schorr-Chair, Ray Stevens

Mrs. Danek called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Self-introductions were made by those present.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the June 6, 2005, joint meeting of the Lincoln Board of Education, the Lincoln City Council, the Lancaster County Board, and the Mayor were approved as distributed.

### LPS 2006 BOND

#### Ten-Year Facility Plan and Critical Path Matrix

LPS Superintendent Susan Gourley reported that Associate Superintendent for Business Affairs Dennis Van Horn and Facilities Director Scott Wieskamp are providing leadership and direction of the District's 2006 bond projects. She advised that the Ten-Year Plan document was developed to convey the School Board's commitment with the passage of the bond. Dr. Gourley further advised that the District's Critical Path Method (CPM) flowchart was developed after the successful passage of the bond, by 63.7 percent of the voters, to outline the scope and sequence of projects and critical decision-making points for the Board to keep the District on schedule. She indicated that after Mr. Van Horn's and Mr. Wieskamp's presentation, Mayor Seng will join her in sharing information from joint meetings to ensure collaboration on behalf of the City and the School District regarding possible joint facilities.

Mr. Van Horn reported that the CPM is an aggressive approach to doing all of the projects covered under the bond issue. Those funds, plus the existing funds, equal approximately \$314 million to complete a long list of projects, including new schools, additions, upgrading, and space for all-day kindergarten. The goal is to complete all of the work within four-five years. The advantage of this aggressive schedule is that it

gives new facilities and upgraded facilities to students as soon as possible and it also gives the advantage of bidding the projects to the community.

Mr. Van Horn talked about Groups A, B, and C projects to be funded, which are included in the Ten-Year Plan. He advised that staff and the Board will also look diligently for money to fund Group D projects through any realized construction savings and other funding sources. The projects are divided into three groups. Currently, requests for proposals have been issued for design services for all Group A and part of Group B projects. Groups of projects have been identified as: the four older high school projects; the two new elementary schools (one design and one contractor); and additions for four existing elementary schools. The District will use the Construction Manager approach for the additions projects, and RFPs have also been issued for Construction Managers as Constructors.

Mr. Van Horn reported that the School District has been working with City staff from the beginning on these projects, and the two staffs meet on a monthly basis. He advised that the north Lincoln school, at approximately North 14th Street and Alvo Road, will require some infrastructure prior to construction. Timing and cooperation with the City is very important.

Mr. Van Horn advised that the School Board has committed to an annual review of the projects, as there may be reasons to change the scope of the CPM. He also talked about the School Board's commitment to review the current policies and practices related to transfers and attendance areas. On April 11, the Board will take action on how to proceed on this study. It's anticipated that new policies will be in place in the fall of 2008 when there is space available in existing and new schools.

Mr. Van Horn pointed out that the diamonds on the CPM represent points when the School Board will be actively involved in moving projects forward. It will be a busy schedule for the next several years. He advised that LPS staff is in the process of assembling a Construction Review Committee—volunteer citizens with knowledge or expertise in construction—with some retired individuals, some from the financial world, and some from property management. This committee of approximately eight will meet on a monthly basis to review the process and make recommendations to the Board regarding how facilities should be constructed.

In response to a question from Mr. Marvin, Mr. Van Horn advised that the additions to the elementary schools would add the capacity for approximately 250 students per school, and the District will also be adding space to elementary schools for all-day kindergarten. Mr. Marvin asked about the maximum number of students for an elementary school. Mr. Van Horn stated that the research is not clear. Principals indicate that unless elementary schools can be below 300, they don't see a critical point until the enrollment is about 750 students. He noted that the District has reached that point at some elementary schools with the use of portables, and staff does a good job at those facilities, but they can do a better job with the proper facilities.

Ms. McRoy asked about the site for the new Arnold Elementary School. Mr. Van Horn responded that the District is in the process of site selection and has received 12 responses from the issued RFPs. LPS will be working with the City regarding infrastructure, will narrow down a site, and hopes to make a decision within the next six months. The timeline will be based on finding a site when the infrastructure will be

available when the new school is opened. Mr. Van Horn added that the School District and the City are also looking at some joint facilities for the neighborhood.

At Mr. Prettyman's request, Mr. Van Horn talked about the Construction Manager model, as well as the size of the project groupings. The Construction Manager as a Constructor is a methodology allowed under state statute. With the help of legal counsel, LPS pioneered this model with the new high schools. The CMC has oversight for the building of a school or group of schools. Every package is then bid jointly by the CMC and the School District, which is different than a general contractor. Under the general contractor method, the District has a design and the general contractor puts together a team of subcontractors who bid on the project. The subcontractors have the opportunity to get bids and if they can find a subcontractor to under bid, they make more profit. This is not allowed under the CMC. The District feels the CMC is better and the District also gets a guaranteed maximum price. The CMC has to document every expenditure, and if the expenditures are below the guaranteed maximum price, that's what the District pays. Another advantage of the CMC is that the CMC becomes a part of the design team. It's felt that this method works well for large projects. Mr. Van Horn noted that the estimated cost for the work on the four older high schools is \$90 million. Another advantage is volume purchasing.

When additions are added to Cavett, Campbell, Roper, and Maxey, Mrs. Larsen asked if there will also be expansion to the core facilities—restrooms, media center, lunch room, etc. Mr. Van Horn answered that the projects anticipate adding the necessary core space, not just classroom space. Mrs. Larsen noted that with the CMC arrangement, staff doesn't bring back each step of a project to the School Board, which expedites the whole process.

Mrs. Danek thanked the community for its support of the bond issue, which will help the achievement of all LPS students.

### **LPS/City Collaboration**

At Dr. Gourley's request, Mr. Wieskamp talked about the ongoing collaboration of LPS and City staff. Mr. Wieskamp reported that the process began two-three years ago when Steve Henrichsen, Planning Department, and he began meeting about development and planning around the city. As these meetings continued, additional staff members were added to discuss the impact of projects around the City. This is a good investment of time and allows staff to have a heads up on things going on in the City.

Dr. Gourley reported that she has asked Mayor Seng and her staff to join LPS staff in a meeting to review the CPM and to deal with any issues relative to any interest in shared facilities. Mr. Van Horn added that LPS put together the plan and asked for City commitments. Issues have been identified on which to work.

Mayor Seng thanked staff who have been meeting, which gives everyone a good heads up on logistics regarding what is best for the community. She reported that she worked on timelines with Dr. Gourley and her staff, as no one wants what happened before with new schools to happen again—road construction not in place when a school was opened. Mayor Seng talked about the importance of planning together to get everything done.

Dr. Gourley indicated that LPS staff will plan to meet with Mayor Seng and her staff periodically so issues that need to go back to the City, the County, or the School Board will go back in a timely manner. She noted that there are challenges in collaboration, but everyone shares the desire to continue and strengthen collaborations. Dr. Gourley added that keeping the communications lines open will be helpful in benefiting the citizens and children the three entities serve.

Mayor Seng observed that it may be difficult for Public Works, City Libraries, and Parks and Recreation to collaborate on facilities, particularly if the City does not have the money to do this. She again thanked all staff involved, and acknowledged that City staff has struggled on some of these issues.

Ms. McRoy asked what projects the City and the School District are actively collaborating on at this time. Mr. Van Horn responded that the School District's plan is based on the City/County Comprehensive Plan, and LPS projected growth is the City projected growth. He observed that part of the Comprehensive Plan is that every time a school site is selected, there should be some presence of Parks and Recreation—sometimes in a shared facility, sometimes in a neighborhood park. Mr. Van Horn advised that the School District offers the opportunity for this at every new school. The new Arnold School and the new school at North 14th Street and Alvo Road could have Parks and Recreation facilities at those sites. He added that, virtually, every project has the potential of having Parks and Recreation there.

Mayor Seng noted the successful collaboration of a teen center at Park Middle School. Mr. Van Horn reported that it's been determined that the School District's Fallbrook site would not be a good place for Parks and Recreation, so the District is partnering with the YMCA at that location. There will be soccer fields, which will be used by the City, LPS, and the YMCA. He noted that this is prudent use of facilities.

## **FLASHING SCHOOL ZONE LIGHTS**

Ms. Newman reported that she recently learned that the flashing lights at Hartley Elementary School would be removed – without anyone's knowledge.

Scott Opfer, Public Works advised that there is no policy regarding removal of 25 mph school zones. He talked about a UNL study comparing the effectiveness of prepare-to-stop lights versus 25 mph school zones. In this study, drivers show more respect for prepare-to-stop lights. Mr. Opfer added that the City will not, however, change all of its 25 mph school zones to prepare-to-stop lights. Last summer some 25 mph school zones were removed. City staff monitors 25 mph school zones, and also takes input from the Police Department. Other areas scheduled to have the 25 mph school zones removed are 27th and Jameson North, 51st and Holdrege, and 62nd and Normal, as children are not seen crossing these locations. The intent is to have more push buttons where a light flashes and traffic is stopped when pedestrians are present.

Ms. Newman noted that there still might be children crossing at these areas. She asked if Public Works notifies schools when there will be a change at a crossing. Mr. Opfer advised that they do. He added that in the case of the changes last summer, there were no children crossing. He indicated that he will make a policy of notifying the schools. Mr. Opfer stated that the goal is to make the crossing safe, and it's felt that

prepare-to-stop lights are better, as they operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week when someone is at the crossing.

Mr. Marvin requested an example of a prepare-to-stop light. Mr. Opfer responded that there is one at Old Cheney/The Knolls/Tipperary Trail. The light doesn't flash unless someone pushes the button. Another location with this type of signage is 70th and Lincolnshire, and there are a number of these at middle school locations.

Mr. Camp asked if there is any difference in the cost of equipment and if the plan is to use more prepare-to-stop lights in the future. Mr. Opfer responded that there is no equipment difference and it is the plan to use more of this type of light in the future.

Mrs. Danek talked about the recycling of neighborhoods, and asked how the City decides when to put lights in and take them out. Mr. Opfer reported that crossings are monitored annually and they look for a trend. The general rule is if there are 20 children crossing in the half-hour before and after school. Specifically at Hartley, because of the congestion on 27th Street, it's felt that a full signal, with speed zones, is not appropriate, so the speed zone has been removed, and a prepare-to-stop light installed. Mr. Opfer added that he feels this trend will continue. Ms. Newman observed that there are many other things in the location near Hartley, as well as children crossing. Mr. Opfer responded that the City has to weigh the overall safety and looks at the history of the intersection, and if there is any indication where speeding is thought to be an issue. He added that a flashing school zone doesn't serve anyone but school children. Mr. Opfer reported that there has been a history of 40 crashes per year in this area—many rear end because of the changing speeds. He assured everyone that there is no intent to make this crossing less safe.

Ms. Newman talked about the importance, when making changes, of letting schools know to ensure everyone is aware of the changes. Karl Fredrickson, Public Works, reported that City staff discuss all of these issues on an ongoing basis with LPS staff.

Mr. Svoboda asked if the number of citations issued in these speed zones is also reviewed. Mr. Opfer responded that it isn't specifically a part of the study, but they do work closely with Traffic Enforcement. It was determined about a year and a half ago that the City needed to do something about the 25 mph school zones because tickets were being written, but there were no children crossing. He emphasized that the City wants speed zones to work, but if drivers are losing respect for them because there are no children present, they don't work, and they don't help anyone. Mr. Svoboda recognized that the City will not put the children of Lincoln at risk, and he expressed appreciation for all that Public Works does.

Mrs. Danek asked if there is any research on how many accidents are caused by children darting across a street. Mr. Opfer answered that there is nothing specific, but staff does monitor the number of car/pedestrian accidents daily, broken down by school-related crashes. Mrs. Danek noted that good common sense dictates slowing down when near a school. Mr. Opfer reported that staff talks to driver education classes, and Mr. Fredrickson noted the importance of education of both students and adults.

Mr. Stevens expressed appreciation for the count down for pedestrians on O Street and Capital Parkway, and indicated that he hopes there will be more signs like this. Mr. Opfer advised that all downtown pedestrian lights will be changed to this.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

There were no continuing business items discussed at this portion of the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Camp talked the rental of space at schools to outside organizations, and he asked if there are any policies regarding use of facilities when there are not as many children at a school. Even with new buildings and additions, Dr. Gourley advised that LPS will still have full classes and full schools. During the bond campaign, it was clear that the public feels portables are not the best investment for the School District's educational environment, and a number of portables will be eliminated. Dr. Gourley indicated that she doesn't believe the District will be projecting that it will have unused space. If there is, the District has need for space for some special programs that are now in leased spaces.

### **FUTURE MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Lincoln Board of Education and the Lincoln City Council was scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2006, with the City hosting. A time and location will be determined at a later date.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 a.m.