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LANCASTER COUNTY
BOARD

AGENDA

JOINT CITY/COUNTY/LPS MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2000

7:30 A.M.

CITY-COUNTY BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM 113

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (June, 8TH, 2000 Joint Council/LPS Meeting)
- II. STARTRAN - Student Ridership (Larry Worth)
- III. KIDS VOTE - USA (Jerry Shoecraft/Jeff Fortenberry))
- IV. COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS (5 Min)
(Barb Bartels) - Lincoln Public School Foundation
- V. PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH OF THE COMMUNITY (Parks & Recreation -
Lynn Johnson)
- VI. UPDATE ON NEW HIGH SCHOOLS (Denny VanHorn)
- VII. LEVY OVERRIDE BALLOT ISSUE (Ed Zimmer and Cliff Dale)
- VIII. UPDATE ON LPS BUILDING PROJECTS BY QUADRANT (Cliff Dale)
- IX. OLD BUSINESS
- X. NEW BUSINESS
- XI. FUTURE MEETING DATE
 - A. Request received for Update and Discussion on LB-271 (Peter Katt)
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE
LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL//LANCASTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD//MAYOR DON WESELY
SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2000

County-City Building - Conference Room 113

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Shoecraft, Jeff Fortenberry, Jon Camp, Cindy Johnson, Annette McRoy (Late), Coleen Seng.

MAYOR: Mayor Don Wesely

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bob Workman, Kathy Campbell, Bernie Heier

SCHOOL BOARD: Superintendent Phillip Schoo, Shirley Doan, Jim Garver, Peter Katt (Late), Lillie Larsen, Mike Nolan, Ed Zimmer.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Director Larry Worth, Brian Praeunes, Michael Weston, StarTran; Tom Statler, Board of Directors, Barb Bartels, Executive Director, Lincoln Public School Foundation; Jeff Cole, Director Public Engagement Program; Tim Kenney, NIFA; Dallas McGee, Urban Development; Clint Thomas, City Real Estate; Mark Bowen, Mayor's Office; Darrell Podany, Aide to Councilman Jon Camp; Lynn Johnson, Parks & Recreation Department; Denny Van Horn; Gwen Thorpe, Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk's Office; Cliff Dale, Jean Mann, Marilyn Moore, LPS; Larry Potratz, Lincoln Housing Authority; Joan Ray, City Council Secretary.

Mr. Jerry Shoecraft, Chair of the Lincoln City Council, requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last Joint Meeting of June 8th, 2000. The motion was made, seconded and the minutes adopted as presented by unanimous consensus.

This meeting was called to discuss the following topics:

STARTRAN - Student Ridership (Larry Worth)

KIDS VOTE USA (Shoecraft/Fortenberry)

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS (LPS School Foundation)

PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH OF THE COMMUNITY (Parks & Recreation)

UPDATE ON NEW SCHOOLS (Denny Van Horn)

LEVY OVERRIDE BALLOT ISSUE (Ed Zimmer/Cliff Dale)

UPDATE ON LPS BUILDING PROJECTS BY QUADRANT (Cliff Dale)

FUTURE MEETING DATE (Discussion on LB-271 - Peter Katt)

STARTRAN - Student Ridership - Mr. Larry Worth, StarTran Director, made a brief presentation to the gathering which is summarized in the attached hand-out material (Attachment A) Ms. Shirley Doan stated that she had been approached by parents wondering if this kind of service could be extended to other schools. She asked Mr. Worth if StarTran was interested in that concept. Mr. Worth noted that it depends on what other schools are on the closest route as to whether he has a time to be able to do that. He suggested to Ms. Doan that she have the parents give him a call and they would look into it.

KIDS VOTE USA (Shoecraft/Fortenberry) Mr. Shoecraft gave a brief presentation outlining the "Kids Vote" concept and noted that he would get written materials to everyone at a later date.

Mr. Shoecraft explained that he and Mr Fortenberry had been approached by State Farm Insurance Company with a concept called "Kids Vote - USA". Currently in Lincoln, there is a very successful program called "Student Vote", which is a program where they register highschool students and introduce them to the concept of voting, with the hope that by the time they're 18, they'll go out and vote

This concept proposed by State Farm has been introduced to Election Commissioner Shively, and the deputy commissioner with various information being distributed to them. This program is a curriculum concept for K-12. It would be within the public school system and it would teach the kids the important aspects of voting. But the difference between this program versus the program that exists in Lincoln right now (the "Student Vote" program) is that the kids actually go to the booth...to the voting polls with the parents and actually vote alongside their parents. There is a separate voting booth set up for the kids.

Where initiated, this concept has shown that it has increased voter participation in some countries and some cities by as much as 70- 80%. It's an exciting concept that is being introduced around in the country right now, specifically in South Dakota and some other neighboring states. It's also been very successful in some other countries. It's a little bit different from "Student Vote" because it actually demonstrates that when the kids go to the voting polls with their parents, it increase voter participation, which is something we all care about. It's a very non-partisan concept that has been received well throughout the country and we're trying to get it implemented here in Lincoln on a pilot program within a year. Hopefully, if it takes off, it can be a state-wide program. State Farm is very eager and supportive of the concept and their sponsorship has already been guaranteed, which means there are no monies needed from any public school system or tax payers.

Mr. Shoecraft indicated that he would get more information for all three of the bodies in attendance today so that each group would have that information. As the program progresses, there will hopefully be meetings with the League of Women Voters and some other interested parties such as LIBA, regarding this concept. He stated that he and Mr. Fortenberry were excited about the concept and hoped that everyone in attendance at this meeting would be too, as you learn more about it.

Mr. Shoecraft summarized, stating that the project has demonstrated that younger kids are the ones to get Mom & Dad off the couch to go and vote. It's shown to be very successful in a lot of countries with up to an 80% voter turn-out with this concept in place. Hopefully, the pilot program in Lincoln will succeed with the support of the Lincoln Public Schools. Mr. Shoecraft indicated that the help of LPS is needed tremendously and informal meetings will be set up with Dr. Schoo and the School Board. Then, we'll go from there after we see if you like the concept and we can determine where we want to go with it.

That is, in a nut-shell, "Kids Vote USA"

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS (LPS School Foundation) Mr. Tom Statler, Board of Directors of the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation, stated that he was at the meeting with a group to talk about the community learning centers. He noted that many in attendance today have been introduced to this project, which grew out of the Public Engagement Program at the Foundation. The concept here will be addressed by Barb Bartels who is the Executive Director of the Public Schools Foundation. Jeff Cole, the Director of Public Engagement and Tim Kenney with NIFA will also be presenting today.

Mr. Statler gave a hand-out to the meeting participants and stated that he wanted to set up the problem. He stated that children bring a lot of baggage to school with them, even here in Lincoln. Another problem that has been identified is that a lot of the community services that are out there are not easily brought to bear on the problem. One of the over-all objectives of the Public Engagement Program is to bring innovative partnerships together in order to address some of these problems. The Community Learning Centers are part of this partnership.

Ms. Bartels came forward and talked about the problem that is being discussed. She noted a specific child that had been featured in the newspaper as the winner of the Fair Housing Essay Contest. His story shows that each child comes to school with a lot of problems. Ms. Bartels' question was how can we, as a community, help this child? If we can see how we can help with the issues that each child carries, then we can help each child be a better achiever in the long run, and make this a better community.

Ms. Bartels explained that the Community Learning Center concept is reviewed in the hand-out material's 'Executive Summary' which shows what a community learning center looks like. Probably one of Lincoln's greatest assets are the neighborhood schools. Ms. Bartels noted that we can look at that asset as a place our children and their families and the neighbors can use as a heart of their neighborhood. Across the country, this concept has been utilized in many communities. Ms. Bartels mentioned that Federal dollars have been going out across the country for this use.

She continued, noting that when we look at this concept as a different way of delivering services, it's not about building new programs or new services, it's about a different venue for delivery of services where we can meet the families and the children at one site in the heart of their neighborhood.

Ms. Bartels stated that the study conducted was a grant from the Lincoln Community Foundation. It very closely followed the national statistics on community learning centers: 88% of the community was interested in the concept and would like to go forward and look at it further. In the second phase of the grant, the community foundation is given an opportunity to see how this could work in our community. There is funding from the grant to look at pilot programs and Ms. Bartels explained that Mr. Cole would discuss that in a moment. Ms. Bartels continued, noting that the types of services were laid out on the next page of the hand-out material. These services could be ongoing at a community learning center in any of the schools in our community. She stated that they would start by talking about the pilots

Mr. Cole came forward and stated that after the community emphasis, that was one of the points that came out ... the need for strong site-motivational leadership. Early last month a request was sent out for proposals asking for schools to come together with community organizations and submit proposals saying how they would be the site-coordinator in an individual school.

The RFP asked for proposals to be turned in at the end of...by Friday, and seven really solid proposals were received. Mr. Cole explained that the last two attachments in the hand-out gave an over-view of where the pilot program is currently. He stated that in the year '01 they'd like to be able to start four pilots from these seven proposals received. He stated that four of the strongest proposals have been accepted as pilot sites to be started next year.

Mr. Cole reported that there will be a site coordinator for each site who will wake up everyday thinking about how to bring additional services to the needs of families and students and the community residents in those schools. They'll be bringing other resources to meet the human service needs and additional needs that students and families have in those schools.

The last hand-out shows that this is the first phase in a five-year plan. We are looking to do an additional four sites next year and would like to grow the program at five schools per year through the year 2003.

Mr. Cole went on to explain that funding for this last three years of the project hasn't been secured, but there is funding for the areas that are outlined in the dotted lines on the last handout. It is important that the community is shown this concept Mr. Cole stated that with the pilots that we're going to be able to select based on the proposals we've received, we'll have some strong programs that will give us the track record we need to go back to the community and get the support for expanding the programs if it warrants that kind of growth. If this doesn't work, we have the recognition that it is something that we tried. If it does work well, then we can expand the program.

Ms. Bartels stated that the government's piece of this program is important. She felt it was important that there be ownership from the top leadership in this community, adding that that is why they were pleased that they had been invited to this joint meeting to share this plan with this joint body, as well as at the grass roots level. You can see on the individual pilot sites the need and the importance of an advisory group at that level -at the grass roots level- as well as at the community leadership level, to oversee the plan in order to see how we, as a

community, can look at the dollars we already have coming in and the possibility of re-positioning staff. It's not that we need all new staff to run these; we feel at this point in the pilot program that if we can get one coordinator who would then help coordinate these services to the families in the neighborhood, that would be the one administrative piece that is in addition to the community right now.

She reported that the Steering Committee that we've asked to come together began with Bill Johnson hosting a meeting of about 15 people....including a member of each of the organizations represented today. During discussion at that meeting was when we were invited to talk to all of you. We feel this is important. This is not the Foundation's program. We want to make that clear. We're just trying to convene and facilitate so the community can have this conversation - all of us together looking at this.

The model of the delivery of the services is a key issue. We feel that this is a model that fits peoples interest in that area. If efficiency is a model that is important to you, Ms. Bartels felt this was a model that really does look at both efficiency and the delivery of services to the clients in the most positive way so the family can be strengthened in the best way.

Ms. Bartels explained that they were very pleased as they look at future funding and re-positioning of dollars. She noted that they had been working on the project which has grown at the same time as the Elliott School project. She commented that NIFA has come forward to look at augmenting and enhancing the gift from the Lincoln Community Foundation. NIFA is interested because this addresses housing. What we've learned in this pilot with Tim Kenney and NIFA is that 'housing' is much deeper than just housing. We have to look at employability, health services...you know all of these issues. So, as we work with Tim, he realizes that if he is going to help families with housing issues, it takes all of these other services to help with that.

Tim Kenney came forward and announced that he represented one of the partners in this endeavor. He stated that NIFA has been working with the Clinton/Elliott neighborhood for almost three years now. They've been working with 3% mortgage money with great intentions to turn renters into owners, and to address some issues of houses in decline. He thanked Neighborhoods, Inc. in helping to address this issue.

What they found is that it is virtually impossible to deliver the money that had been set aside in these two neighborhoods, because it was discovered early on that the issues that attracted attention to the problem, the high mobility in the schools and the deteriorating neighborhood, couldn't be addressed by bringing money into the neighborhood and trying to convert renters into owners. There was a whole continuum of issues, only one of which was home ownership. Home ownership was really a culmination issue....a whole train of things that had to be addressed frequently to convert renters into owners, and addressing these issues in the neighborhoods.

Mr. Kenney continued, explaining that after almost three years of toiling in the vineyards, with not a whole lot of grapes on the vine, it was time to step back and reflect upon the way we approach this. NIFA was able to link up with the Schools Foundation and other great partnerships in the neighborhood. He stated that they were very excited about this next step in

addressing the symptoms in the neighborhood, because this resource delivery structure (for which he was happy to provide an initial funding source for the pilot project, in addition to the community foundations' funding) is a unique way to approach this whole "train" of issues that keeps families from being homeowners. He noted that they were delighted to be here to share this presentation. NIFA is happy to be a part of it and he applauded the Schools Foundation for taking the leadership role in this project.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH OF THE COMMUNITY - Mr. Lynn Johnson of the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department made a presentation. He noted that this idea and the previous discussion are integrally related. He reported that right now Lincoln is growing by about 3,000 people per year, which means that between 1,000 and 1,500 new households a year are being added to the community. He noted that he appreciated Dr. Schoo's comments this morning, stating that Lincoln has never had an average school system. He also noted that Lincoln doesn't have an average Parks system. Somehow, we've got to continue, as we grow, to maintain and promote that level of thinking.

Mr. Johnson stated that right now the Parks Department shares facilities with the Public School system, giving as examples the Belmont, Calvert and Irving Recreation Centers. He stated that there is also adjoining park land and school grounds in a number of locations as well, giving the examples of Elliott Elementary School, East High School and Leffler Middle School. He reported that they've also had the opportunity to jointly develop playgrounds on a number of these sites. His sense is that these have happened more on a case-by-case basis rather than on some program-based or institutional decision being made that we should be doing these kinds of things.

One of the things that Parks and Recreation is doing right now is updating the Parks and Open Space and Recreation Plan. It's a very conscious effort to look ahead at the next twenty years and how to integrate that with the Comprehensive Planning which is going on right now. One of the constants that we want to talk about is this school parks concept...or what we call "SPARKS". It is the parallel acquisition of parkland and school land. So, we really do have this opportunity to have schools and parks side-by-side.

If you think about Cavett Elementary School and Porter Park, they're probably a little over a quarter of a mile apart. There really was the opportunity in that location, potentially, to put those sites together and make so much more of what *could* have been there. We've also talked about the idea of developing activity centers at elementary schools. Right now, Belmont and Calvert are 24,000 square foot facilities. We probably don't need to be that large at each one of those facilities. We've talked about doing a 10,000 square foot site that could be jointly used by Parks & Recreation for the community, and used as community learning centers at these sites. He felt the community may have missed an opportunity with the last four elementary schools. He stated that he did not think that we want to miss that opportunity in the future if it can be avoided.

Mr. Johnson commented that the real intent of this is that we look at enhanced programming at the neighborhood level. The planned segue into this, as City Council knows, is the Arnold Heights Neighborhood plan which is coming forward for approval and adoption. The concept as embodied in that plan is the relocation of the Air Park Recreation Center from its existing location on the east side of Northwest 48th Street to a location at, perhaps, Arnold Heights Elementary School. Right now that site is not very well attended because the kids have to cross Northwest 48th. They're essentially drawn out of their neighborhood to attend the recreation center programs and facilities. We're putting together a group of City Staff who will work on how the plan is implemented. He stated that he would like to invite the school district to participate in that discussion as well.

Mr. Shoecraft asked if any persons present had questions. Mr. Mike Nolan of the Lincoln School Board commented that when the Board looks at a model site for an elementary school, it looks at approximately a 20 acre plot of land, though we haven't always gotten that much. He inquired, if we were to look at something that was a joint project with Parks and Rec, would we need to look at additional land and what additional land would we need?

Mr. Johnson stated that he felt that what would be needed is a prototypical site plan of what an elementary school/neighborhood park site would look like. Right now, in neighborhood areas, we look at acquiring about 8-10 acres for a neighborhood park. But he did not know if that would have to be the criteria if the school and park were jointly located. It might be that we would only need an additional five acres. That would be one of the things we would need to take a serious look at. The thing, from the City's standpoint, is to begin something that we currently are not doing, and that is pro-actively acquiring neighborhood park land. Normally, we negotiate with developers in the sub-division process and identify park sites then. If we were to enter into this concept, we would probably need to be pro-actively out there identifying land and acquiring land at the same time that the school district is doing the same thing.

UPDATE ON NEW SCHOOLS (Denny Van Horn) Mr. Van Horn showed the mapped elevations of the new high schools. He noted that one of the differences between these new buildings and our typical high schools is that you see a lot of these areas that are pre-cast concrete. What that does is that it reminds us all of the size of this project and the fact that we can't build it like we build traditional schools. It would take too long and the longer the time-frame, the more money it costs. So we do have a little bit different type of school that we're building. He believes that structurally the pre-cast will be [inaudible] also.

Just so you know where we're at, the first part of October we plan to bring to the Board a guaranteed maximum price; and along with that guaranteed maximum price, all the other costs that we haven't projected for this project. He noted that there had been a lot of confusion. When the \$100,000,000 bond issue is discussed, people think \$100,000,000 on construction. That is not the case. The construction part of it will be a guaranteed maximum price that Sampson-Dunn brings to the Board and that is the most that the schools can cost. Anything that is saved,

the low-back is a savings to the tax-payers. Anything beyond the guaranteed maximum price is the contractor's risk. He felt this was an important concept.

Mr. Van Horn continued by noting that the other part of the guaranteed maximum price is that the Board made a decision to contract with a construction manager as the constructor. That means that Sampson-Dunn has been a part of this project from almost day one. As a result of that, there will be a major cost savings, because they look at materials, time-frames, and all of those kinds of things. We're currently taking bid packages to the Board. It would be our hope that by late October or early November, that on the south site, we'll have foundations going in. And the contractor plans to have the major portion of the academic wing enclosed before winter sets in.

Having this project on the fast track will save the taxpayer a lot of money, because every year construction costs go up. Right now is estimated to be about 8% inflation in reference to construction in the city. So, the project is on a very fast track. The Board will be presented with the guaranteed maximum price, the architect /engineering fees, plus the equipment and all the other fees such as building permits, 404 Permit for the wetlands - all the costs and information by early October. The Board, then, we hope, takes action on that so we can continue to move this project forward.

Mr. Van Horn noted that one of the things that will impact the cost of this project is fuel costs. People don't think about that, and in fact, when Sampson-Dunn made their proposal to the Board, fuel cost was *not* an issue; but fuel cost has risen dramatically and that has a major impact in what these buildings will cost. This is because all of the steel and pre-cast concrete have to be transported in from outside of the City, which will create a major impact. That makes the contractors a little bit nervous, because there is a great deal of fluctuation there; but all of those things enter into the guaranteed maximum price.

Another important thing, unlike a project that is done by a general contractor, every part of this project has to be publicly bid. Sampson-Dunn Construction can't do any of the work on their own unless they publicly bid it and they are the lowest responsible bidder. We think that will give the community the best value in this project, because everything is done publicly and everybody will get their best shot at getting in on this building project.

We're hoping that all of this comes together and that we bring in a building that is done economically, but that is an 80-year building from a durability and flexibility standpoint. There has been some confusion about the capacity of these buildings. These buildings are, right now, at a program capacity of 1514 students. The buildings are expandable, if we want to do some things that really compromise the building, such as increasing the number of periods taught each day; or taking the larger areas where group instruction is planned and turning them into class room areas. Those are kinds of things that we would not want to do, but in the event that it is needed, we could expand.

He thanked the Mayor's Office, the City Council and the Public Works Department for their help in moving the South 14th and Pine Lake Road intersection project to the forefront; and also for the work on getting 33rd Street to the point where it will be paved, because from the

contractors perspective, having those projects moved ahead, really helps our time-frame. And it guarantees that when we open the schools, we have intersections that are complete and that are safe. We appreciate everybody's help.

Mr. Fortenberry noted a small issue, which is the north side of the South 14th School as it abuts the neighborhood there. There are grade and tree removal concerns and in view of that issue as an emergency basis, the contractor was pulling out trees and breaking land too close. Mr. Van Horn stated that that was a problem with a neighbor/citizen. That happened at night when a neighbor went in with a spade and removed trees. Those trees will be replaced. At this point, the grading is being done exactly as the plan was approved. The Contractor knows that there are a lot of neighborhood issues including wet land issues, so they're doing their very best to make sure that they do everything the way it's supposed to be done - and try to help control the neighbors, too.

Ms. Lillie Larsen commented that it is important to have Denny elaborate on the point that the bond money does not equip these high schools. This just builds the high schools and then that is an additional expense that we have to maintain and operate, which is in the neighborhood of

Mr. Van Horn noted that the bond actually buys the hard, durable equipment. It doesn't buy the text books and supplies and things like that. The actual start up cost of the buildings is about \$1.9 million per building. That includes supplies and also includes that fact that these are major buildings and to go in and set one of these up, we'll have to have some staff time this summer ahead of setting the buildings up. That is one of the difficulties. The first building, the south building, is projected to be turned over to the Lincoln Public Schools the 1st of June. Then we have to have it up and running by early August. So, there will be a lot of effort put into getting it ready. The soft materials, the non-durable materials, are not included in the bond issue.

Mayor Wesely stated that, regarding the capacity issue, he was glad to hear that there is a little bit of room to go from 1500 to 3200. He wanted to thank the school board because there had been a lot of controversy on the size of the buildings. But as the City grows, and we do grow 2500 - 3000 people per year, by the time these buildings are built, there will be 10,000 more people. So, the Mayor stated, he is trying to be sure that there is some flexibility on capacity. That isn't a bad thing, it's a good thing. He wanted to applaud the effort to have at least a little bit of room for growth.

Mr. Ed Zimmer added a footnote to that comment. He noted that when size was being discussed, before the election, the community committee focused on the 1500 number. That is the number that the Board gave direction to staff to plan for. They had also received advise, that should the situation become unbearable, the Board wanted some ability in that period when they might be over-crowded, to still be able to run the schools well. These are designed for 1500, but at 2,000 they would run better than if we hadn't built them this way. They could still be operated at 2,000. We wouldn't want to operate them at 2,000 for very long, but we could do it until the day we could relieve the pressure. That's the decision the Board made. They might be crowded, but they wouldn't be unbearable for a short term.

Mr. Van Horn noted that there was a very good recent example where this was done and it worked in the short term and that is Lux Middle School. That school was built for 750 students and would operate more like the design standard, but the day it opened, the population was over 900 students. But because of the flexibility built in, we've been able to put students in there and the staff does do a very good job of operating the school, though it does compromise the operation in the short term.

Mr. Camp commented that he was glad to hear that competitive bidding is being done. He noted that he did not quite follow how that works with the job going to a general contractor, yet it all has to be bid. He asked Mr. Van Horn if he could elaborate on that a little bit. Mr. Van Horn stated that Sampson-Dunn (and Dunn is the construction company out of Kansas City who has formed a limited partnership for this job). They are the construction manager as constructor. They are not...it is similar to, but not exactly like a general contractor. If, for instance, we got the mechanical drawing from them last week and Sampson started to do the guaranteed maximum pricing, and in several places there are some outside concrete pads for mechanical equipment and it says "by general contractor", Sampson can't do those concrete pads. That job has to be bid publicly. Sampson can bid that and if their bid comes in lower than a concrete sub-contractor, then Sampson technically gets that sub-contract. But, they cannot do anything other than some of the things that are required for winterization and things like that. They have to bid...they are a separate entity from their contract as construction manager. All of those bids are jointly let by Sampson-Dunn, handling both schools. All of those bids go through an approval process that the Board administers. It makes it very public.

Ms. Shirely Doan added that one thing about the construction manager as the choice of our Board is that this particular method allows us continued review of construction costs as we go along. They can bring to the Board suggestions for replacements that are better or less expensive or that can cut other expenses as we go along. So, there is continued opportunity for savings as we go through this as compared to having a construction contract at a certain price. So, we have an additional benefit that people were not aware of in this method.

Ms. Seng commented that the Public Building Commission used that method on both the County-City Building and the renovation of the Hall of Justice. She explained that the Building Commission reported that this method saved many, many dollars. What Ms. Seng wanted to comment on is that everyone in attendance today is involved in decision making dealing with growth. But, sometimes, it still catches us [unawares] when we realize quite how much we're growing. She noted that she was very pleased with what the Board has done on the issue of these school buildings. She added that she was part of the group when the 1500 capacity was mentioned. She warned, however, if we don't look to the future, we'll end up in the same trouble that we're in with our old high schools around the city. She noted that she was really pleased that some flexibility had been built into the plans.

Ms. Seng stated that she had been with a former Mayor on two different occasions this week-end who had kept asking her questions about things. Ms. Seng reported that she had answered that she would take her for a ride around the community. Our community is changing

so much and even those of us who are in this business all the time forget how fast we're growing. And we need to look to the future. So, she applauded and thanked the Board for what they're trying to do.

Mr. Jim Garver asked Mr. Van Horn to discuss briefly, the natural resources that are located on both sides and what we're doing in terms of community development in that regard. Mr. Van Horn answered that there are two sides that are really rich in natural resources...both sides having wetlands and both sides having a number of native trees and grasses. The Board, early on, took the stance that they wanted to preserve and enhance those resources as much as possible, so we have a committee that includes folks from the City/County Planning Department, from the NRD, from the State of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, some biologists from the State Department of Roads, and also staff and general community people, including some people from Friends of Wilderness Park, who are on this standing committee. Everyone is helping us look at the sites and plan the sites so that they actually become outdoor learning labs. Our goal is, once we move in, to enhance the wetlands so they become outdoor biology labs. So, we're working on that and the Committee has been very helpful in advising the architects and contractor in how to preserve the wetlands and preserve as much as possible during construction.

And also - how do we enhance it. We're developing plans, looking for some grant funding and we'll be working with the NRD to get some funding as well. Our Planning Board has asked that we look at zero-scape landscaping, which means in the areas that are external...not right up around the building...where we'll have a lot of foot traffic, that we allow those areas to develop as natural prairie. So, we're working on those plans. It's kind of mix of how to incorporate that with the manicured landscape. Not only does it help us have an outdoor lab, it cuts down on our maintenance cost. We are adding about 145 acres of maintenance to the district as we bring this on...so we're also looking at ways to reduce the maintenance costs.

Mr. Fortenberry commented that he was very pleased to hear this, because the City was able to get up front on this issue in terms of planning, re-zoning and the rest of it. Obviously, that was a difficult part of planning when you don't know what type of building is actually going to be done. He appreciated the building in of institutional sensitivity to those issues. He noted that the project is on the right track.

Mr. Shoecraft thanked Mr. Van Horn for his presentation.

LEVY OVERRIDE BALLOT ISSUE (Ed Zimmer/Cliff Dale) - Mr. Zimmer noted that everyone might have heard that there is a question on the ballot regarding a levy override. [Laughter]

The legislature allows school districts in this day of levy limits \$1.10 per \$100.00 evaluation and next year it will be \$1.00. Built in to that same legislation is an option for the school district to go to the voters to set a levy of a different figure. The Board has placed on the ballot for November 7th a three year question, going up to five, instead of one. We think a three year program would be best. This is about planning and stability and we're asking for the

authority to levy \$1.14 the first fiscal year of 2001-02; up to a \$1.18 the second fiscal year; up to \$1.22 the third fiscal year. We arrived at those figures based on a projection model that we used to try to see where we're headed; a model that has been used for many years. That model appropriates all the various factors of population growth and assessment growth and predicted state aid, and future settlements with employees...and all those myriad factors....all of which we know will change.

This model works well as a planning and management tool that shows us, based on the best information we have today and a modest settlement with teachers and other staff for next year, that we would be about \$14,000,000 short next year. The second year projected out would be almost \$20,000,000 short and the third year, over \$25,000,000 short. This is a shortfall of about \$53,000,000 [sic] over the three year period projecting this levy issue. We know those figures are projections, but we have to deal in the best information we have today. This does include the predicted State Figures for aid next year...thus, the lower figure amount. It doesn't include what the legislature will do this next year...we don't know what they'll do next year, but no one knows that. It doesn't include the final figures on evaluation from Norm Agena, nobody knows that yet. It doesn't include settlements with employees that haven't been negotiated yet. But, it has reasonable figures on all these issues.

It also doesn't include facts like this years early predictions, or estimates, of how many students would be in the system. We've heard a lot about our staff increases to deal with a flat student enrollment. We're about 315 student over the estimates that our good projection model would show. Those kinds of events will occur over those three years as well. So, we've written the request based on what most schools [inaudible].

If we had to face those kinds of short falls, we'd be out talking to the community about what those mean in terms of a system of our size. As a very rough rule of thumb, a million dollars is about twenty teachers. We could turn it into some larger number of janitors or a smaller number of building principals. But, it's about twenty teachers. So, \$15,000,000 the first year is in the range of 300 teachers.

Of course, there are other places for replacing that kind of deficit to which one could turn. We'll get that information out to people. The Music Program, beyond curriculum, is a couple of million dollars. Another area would be in the spending of a couple million dollars more than we absolutely have to by State Law on Transportation. Most of that is to transport Middle School kids (6th - 9th Graders) and the families share substantially in that cost. It's been the position, traditionally, of LPS to not provide anything for one student that a poor student can't be provided. Middle School students riding our buses pay about what it costs to transport them. The children without means, the district subsidizes so they can ride on the same bus. That's where we spend money on bussing that we don't have to. We could eliminate all of that bussing and save a little bit; but we would also deprive all of those children in the 6th-8th grades the busses that we do provide.

There aren't any big, easy areas that aren't providing excellent returns where we can find this money. It would have to come from some combination of programs that people dearly love, that are doing good things for children and [inaudible]. The Board's position was that they should go out to the community and ask if they want the system based on the levy the legislature has set, or do they want a system that looks more like the system that they're accustomed to? Do they want to continue the programs and services currently trying to meet the needs of the community. To do so would take this kind of funding.

There is in this levy, not only direction from the legislature about how much can be levied, but also how much can be spent. We have to ask a second question on the same ballot for the authority to spend the money the voters, if they chose, would let us levy. That also works as a control if other funds come in through increased assessment or increased State Aid....anywhere else....there is a spending cap that is built in...to exactly the levy we're asking for. So, it's not as if you win the lottery that we're still going to levy this top figure only and spend it wildly; because both of those figures are written into this request. That is the question that will be out there with the district providing information to [inaudible] There is a citizen's committee who support this question.

Mr. Fortenberry asked if this levy passes, what is it representing as a percentage increase in spending per year by the district? Mr. Zimmer asked Mr. Dale to field that question. Mr. Dale noted that if spending was at the projected allocation, the projected percentage is 88% of the budget for salary and fringe for employees. The District projected about 5% necessary increase in that regard...so, essentially, if you look at the total budget, that is going to be very close to what our percentage would be. Mr. Zimmer noted that same figure in a dollar amount went to \$1.14; that portion of it would be less than 4%. All sources together are expected to be more than that. That four cents in each of those three years is between 3- and 4%.

Mr. Fortenberry asked what the district traditionally got from increased revenues due to increased evaluations as well as growth? Mr. Zimmer noted that the State Funding Formula giveth and taketh away. What you have the ability to [inaudible] yourself, the next year is partially reflected in reduced State Aid. Mr. Dale stated that next year the projection showed 4%; this year we're right at 5%...that's an over-time kind of thing. There may be a slightly larger increase next year from what we understand, but the following year, State Aid will make us give it back.

Mr. Dale thought that he would add one thing, noting that part of this is chasing perceptions. Just this last week, he had looked over some figures with the perception that Lincoln spends a lot more than other school districts. He looked at two figures: Over the last 15 years, measuring things on that raw base line number of 'per-pupil-cost' is the major focus. The increase in cost-per-student each year in Lincoln has been less than the average increase of cost-per-student in the state...each year for 15 years. We currently spend about 4%...we're at 104% of the average per-pupil cost in this state. The perception sometimes is that Lincoln spends a whole lot more, but he felt that there were two factors in Lincoln that only a few districts have and that's growth and a changing demographic mix. That is very unique when you review the

districts in the state. The fact that we spend a 104% of the average per-pupil-cost, based upon figures submitted in our Annual Financial Report, along with every other districts' in the state....he felt that was the perception thing Lincoln School District was facing.

Mr. Fortenberry asked if this levy issue is passed, would it not affect the formula for the State Aid that LPS would potentially receive? Mr. Zimmer noted that everything affects the State Aid Formula. It's an interlocking system. The key factor in State Aid is what the evaluation...what the district has the ability to raise. There is also an interlock between the levy and the spending per year. If you're not spending what you're able, then you're not doing your share, making the states share larger. That is a factor in determining State aid. The State Funding Formula is so complex, one always looks to Staff after answering a question

UPDATE ON LPS BUILDING PROJECTS BY QUADRANT (Cliff Dale) Mr. Dale reported that a break-down by quadrant had been prepared. This information was passed out to Council (information attached - Attachment B) and reviewed briefly with the group.

Several items were pointed out and discussed. The first was regarding resources, an issue that really ties into the over-ride; in June of 1995, when LB1114 was passed, they also said that it would freeze any building projects you might consider unless they were on the board for planning in April of 1996 - predated. So, we're stuck with, in terms of a separate building fund, the ability to only do certain projects that were presented to the Board prior to April of 1996. So, in these various quadrant reports, you'll see the word IAQ...one of the places we put a lot of our resources is to upgrade the mechanical systems and bring into Code compliance, the buildings. It's a long project. It will take about twelve years. Goodrich and Elliott have been finished; and we're proceeding this year at Clinton with work also being initiated at Culler and Hartley; next year it will be Saratoga. In a way, it's good because it has let us divert resources, or use resources, in the older buildings...the buildings that most need improvement. For the good of the community, it is truly a great enterprise. We can't do them any faster, because, as you know, in elementary school, the students must be removed in order to do major constructional changes.

The middle schools are done over a multi-year plan and disrupt somewhat as we do it. These are the projects. The district has over a ½ billion dollars of capital construction equipment. That's a lot of machinery to be fixed and a lot of air conditioning units that break down in August.

Mayor Wesely asked what the time-line was on air conditioning these schools. The response was that the time line was about 12 years. The Middle Schools will be done while they're in session and, essentially, elementary school students will be moved during renovations. We've just entered a contract with the Abbot Sports Complex to use about a quarter of that building, as a kind of permanently established replacement school during the renovation period.

Mr. Garver requested Mr. Dale to explain how we've re-arranged the indoor air quality to address the four existing high schools in coordination with these two different high schools. We want equity in all the high schools across the city.

Mr. Dale noted that the building fund is a project fund into which we can accrue, which is something that can't be done with any of the other accounts. So, we are setting money aside so that the day we open the other high schools, we can go into the four existing high schools and bring them up in the same way. All of them are very expensive projects. Southeast was built in the '50s, and has low ceilings. It will be a real challenge to get in there and do the work that needs to be done. The budget for each of those projects is from \$6- to \$8-million dollars per school. So, that will really bring all of the senior high schools up to the same standard of comparability in Code. When you go in to make those kinds of changes, you also have to bring up to all current codes. He thanked the City and County for looking at them with patience as they move ahead with that.

Mr. Zimmer stated that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has on their yearly listing the 11 most endangered properties category and 'Schools' is among them. [Much of Mr. Zimmer's comments were inaudible]. Many communities are abandoning their historic buildings. Mr. Zimmer noted that he has been invited to speak at their National Conference in LA about the Lincoln example, because we are a community that does not destroy their historic sites. Lincoln uses and maintains its historic buildings. This is an example we can take pride in discussing.

Dr. Schoo commented that the earliest example of this historic preservation in Nebraska which we've all experienced is the Park-Everett exchange. He noted that that was an invaluable project for the City and for the School District. You have only to visit those neighborhoods today to see two exceptional school buildings which, if [they had been in] other cities, would be in a state of disarray. It's an important concept to not only build new, but to maintain what we have.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Schoo stated that buildings and tax over-rides had been discussed, but, in his judgement, the most important thing that LPS does had not been discussed, and that is the instruction of children. One of the things alluded to today was the fact that Lincoln is a growing community and also a community that is growing in diversity. At the time we have experienced that kind of growth, he wanted to point out that the academic achievement of our students has not held constant, it has improved. That is not an accident; that's the result of a very firm commitment on the part of our total staff and the Board of Education; excellence in terms of academic achievement...they have made that a priority. That is an important priority for all of us to keep in mind. He commended the School Board and all of those in attendance at this meeting today, because that's not something that happens without a commitment from the elected officials in a community.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Wesely passed out a memo of which, he noted, the Council was aware. There was an accident on 13th Street by the "F" Street Rec Center where it is very difficult to cross. He noted that the situation had been evaluated, and just for your information, the City will be setting up flashing lights that designate the 25 MPH speed-limits and the area will be treated as a school zone. There will also be marked cross walks, and some changes made in the activities schedule there. These measures will be in place and operational by December.

Mayor Wesely commented that one of the great things that LPS and the local governments have done, as he remembers from his legislative days, is to always work closely in the safety issue of getting the children to the schools. He encouraged everyone that whenever these problems arise, to bring them to the Administration's attention and we'll try to respond as best we can.

FUTURE MEETING DATE (Discussion on LB-271 - Peter Katt)

Mr. Shoecraft noted the request by Mr. Katt to have LB-271 discussed at the next Joint Meeting.

Discussion ensued as to the site and time of the next Joint Meeting. It was determined that the entities would include the County Commissioners from this time forward and that the three entities, LPS, County Commission and City Council, would alternate in hosting the meetings. It was also determined that the date would alternate between Mondays and Tuesday to accommodate the County Commission's schedule.

Discussion was continued on a schedule shift from every two months to quarterly meetings. The shift from bi-monthly to quarterly was agreed upon, though not unanimously. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 12th, 7:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Public School District Office at 59th & "O" Streets.

ADJOURNMENT - Approximately 8:45 a.m.

interoffice

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Don Wesely, City Council Member, County Commissioners, Lincoln Public Schools Board Members

From: Larry Worth, StarTran

Date: September 15, 2000

Subject: StarTran Student Ridership

cc: Allan Abbott, PW/U

With the beginning of the 2000-01 Lincoln Public Schools academic year, StarTran has offered expanded public transit services for middle school and high school students in Lincoln. StarTran regular route services are within a four-block service of nearly all LPS elementary middle, and high schools, affording transportation services to well over 100,000 students each year. Particularly high ridership has been realized on regular service at Culler and Lefler Middle schools, and on "route deviation" service at Lux Middle School. This year, however, StarTran also added "route deviation" service to Scott Middle school – the level of success of this new service has been exceptional.

The following, for your information, is the average total student ridership realized by StarTran and at each of these middle schools since the beginning of this academic year:

<u>School</u>	<u>Average Student Ridership,</u> <u>August 21st - September 15th</u>	
	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Culler Middle School	35	85
Lefler Middle School	20	35
Lux Middle School	95	110
Scott Middle School	50	105
All Other Schools	99	99

StarTran is pleased to be a partner with Lincoln Public Schools in the transportation of Lincoln's students, and look forward to continuing this important public service.

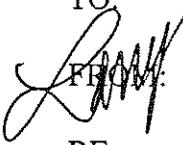
Memo

Lincoln Public Schools

Custodial, Maintenance & Facilities Building, 800 South 24th, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 436-1072

DATE: September 12, 2000

TO: Cliff Dale, Associate Superintendent for Business Affairs

FROM:  Larry Hennings, Facilities Supervisor

RE: BUILDING FUND & ABATEMENT FUND PROJECTS BY QUADRANT

The following is a list of projects by quadrant that have just been completed or are presently under construction or scheduled to start.

N.W. Quadrant—"O" Street North, 27 th Street West—7 School Buildings		
Goodrich	Completed	Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
West Lincoln	Completed	Emergency Lighting
Fallbrook	Completed	Acquired New Site

N.E. Quadrant—"O" Street North, 27 th Street East—14 School Buildings		
Northeast	Completed	New Running Track (last of 4 high schools)
North High School Site	Fall	Grading, Etc.
Mickle	Completed	ADA Ramp
Dawes	Completed 2000-01	Parking Lot Lighting IAQ
Norwood Park	Completed	New Electrical Switch System
Clinton	2000-01	IAQ
Culler	In Progress	IAQ
Hartley	In Progress	IAQ
Behavior Skills Bldg.	Completed	Remodeled building at 56 th & "R"
Pershing	Completed	Multipurpose Room Addition
Riley	Completed	Emergency Lighting New Fire Alarm System

Memo to Cliff Dale
 September 12, 2000
 Page 2

S.E. Quadrant – "O" Street South, 27 th Street East – 19 School Buildings		
Southeast	Completed	New Elevator at Prasch Gym
Seacrest Field	In Progress	New Lighting & Sound System ADA Accessible Restrooms & Concessions
Pyrtle	Completed	Multipurpose Room Addition New Air Conditioning Plant New Fire Alarm System
Holmes	Completed	New Clock System
Pound	Completed	Added Parking Lot Lighting

S.W. Quadrant – "O" Street South, 27 th Street West – 13 School Buildings		
McPhee	Completed	Multipurpose Room Addition
Elliott	Completed	IAQ
Saratoga	Completed	Multipurpose Room Addition Emergency Lighting
South High School Site	In Progress	Construction
Lincoln High	Completed In Progress	Parking Lot Addition Replace Water Piping