

MINUTES –SPECIAL JOINT SCHOOL BOARD AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COMMUNITY BUILDING

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Los Alamos School Board held a Special Joint School Board/County Council Meeting on December 16, 2008, in the Community Building. Mr. Girrens called the meeting to order at 7:44 P.M.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Steve Girrens, President
Joan Ahlers, Vice President
Kenneth Johnson, Secretary
Jody Benson, Board Member
Alison Beckman, Board Member
Kate Thomas, Assistant Superintendent
John Wolfe, Director of Business Services
Cathy McAnally, Recording Secretary

Absent: Mary McLeod, Interim Superintendent

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTY/SCHOOLS COMMITTEE ON SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS CAPITAL FUNDING

County Council Chair Jim Hall reviewed the recommendations from the Joint Los Alamos County (LAC) and Los Alamos Public Schools (LAPS) Committee. The committee was made up of two School Board members and three County Councilors and staff members from both organizations who worked together to find ways for the County and school district to work together to identify actions to support improved funding for LAPS. The recommendation included:

1. LAC will actively support the LAPS bond election to increase the property tax by 5.5 mills for LAPS school building improvements.
2. LAC and LAPS will develop additional options available to LAC to reduce LAPS operational cost and to provide additional support for capital improvements. These will be considered as part of the annual LAC budget process. Some suggested options are as follows:
 - a. Lease Duane Smith auditorium from LAPS and take over the costs of maintenance, future upgrades, and operation. Part of the lease cost would be allocated to LAPS for use of the facility.
 - b. Create a joint task force to work on development of unused school-owned land (e.g. A-15) in a manner that would benefit both LAC through economic development and LAPS through increased property tax or lease revenue.
 - c. Reduce LAC fees or charges for some LAPS resources.
 - d. Identify and fund capital projects for LAPS that either (1) will be funded by bond proceeds or (2) will have an accelerated beneficial effect on LAPS operations by early implementation.

The School Board and the County Council passed resolutions in the recent past committing both organizations to work together for the betterment of schools.

Mr. Girrens made a presentation on the school's bond election including background information from the LAPS Facilities' Planning Committee, which developed the 20-Year Facilities Plan. Mr. Girrens also provided information on how past bond dollars were spent and compared Los Alamos tax rates to the remainder of the state. This briefing

may be found on the district's website along with additional information.

Both County Councilors and School Board members stated the importance of being successful in these joint efforts.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Girrens adjourned the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

Draft Prepared and Respectfully Submitted
on Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Cathy McAnally, Recording Secretary
Approved:

Attested:

President

Secretary