

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD  
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the School Board of Jamestown Public School District No. 1 of Stutsman County, North Dakota, on Monday, November 25, 2019

The following members were present: Jennifer Schmidt, President, Diane Hanson, Heidi Larson, Vice President, Greg Allen, Melissa Gleason, Jason Rohr, Steve Veldkamp, Roger Haut, Robert Toso, Superintendent, Robert Lech and Sally Ost Business Manager.

Guests: Alex Taylor, from the Jamestown Sun  
President Schmidt called the meeting to order.

Jennifer Schmidt asked the board what they had heard from yes voters in the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 referendum. The comments heard was that the maintenance items were necessary. Dr. Lech commented that he heard that the yes voters appreciated the information on how the funds would be used. Greg Allen heard comments that we should have the best possible schools to attract workers to Jamestown,

Jennifer Schmidt asked the board their comments on the no votes. Melissa Gleason stated that there was no exact amount, the bond would continue on and it was perceived the football field would happen. Roger Haut stated that they did not want to raise taxes and the perception that it was connected with salaries. Diane Hanson stated it was too close to the tax impact on the city. Melissa Gleason heard comments on the location. Dr. Lech stated the tax impact, timing, and misunderstanding of different funds that affected the referendum. Another consensus was the outcome of the vote would have been different with a strong relationship with the board, teachers and administration. Jennifer Schmidt stated the farm economy is not good. Dr. Lech stated we are not on an island. Several districts across the state have failed referendums. Jason stated that he felt that the three failed referendums do not reflect the attitude towards education,

Roger Haut's feeling on when the next referendum should be in a year or two. Melissa Gleason felt that it may work to work towards having an election in November of 2020. Melissa Gleason stated she felt it needed to have exact costs and exact time lines. Dr. Lech stated the first referendum came back with don't phase it. The second referendum the public stated it was too much by having the addition to Louis LAmour, Athletic Complex and maintenance. Dr, Lech stated that if you talk about Washington Elementary you need to discuss the football field. Jennifer Schmidt stated when looking at an election time line, the District will have to look at a positive environment. With the boilers and other maintenance items, the board may not be able to wait for this momentum to happen.

Jennifer Schmidt asked for discussion on Ernie Gates. Dr. Lech stated the capital projects plan needs to be the focus and the main driver. The board needs to look at prioritizing Lincoln and Gussner boilers. There is also \$5 million dollars in roof repairs in the Capital Projects plan. The District will have to prioritize the building fund. Dr. Lech stated it may help to have a joint board meeting to prioritize what other taxing entities are doing when. Jason Rohr stated the District needs to way the cost of running all the current sites. Dr, Lech stated that the options would be a referendum to add on to a building or close the one site and spread the students to the other 4 elementaries. Steve Veldkamp stated the safety of where the football field is located is a concern. Jennifer Schmidt stated we would move forward with the Capital Projects plan. In addition, discussion on how the football field can be moved will continue, weather it is working with the University of Jamestown or pursuing the venture on our own.

Mrs. Schmidt adjourned the meeting.