



West Central Area Schools

Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting No. 6 – Pinnacles**

- Meeting Date: February 3, 2025, 6pm
- Attendees: See attached sign-in list for Task Force Members and School Board Members in attendance
- Brief Review of Previous Meeting Minutes: Brent asked the group if there were any additions or corrections needed to the Task Force Meeting No 5 Meeting Minutes. No comments were made about the minutes.
- Past Board Members: Two former Board members were present to talk about their past experiences when the District had to decide on consolidation and construction of the Secondary School. They each talked about their experience during that process, how they felt it was necessary for the long-term survival of the District. Their focus was on being able to offer more to the students. At that time, there were 27 Board members involved. As a group they had one question that guided them; What will be best for our students? They believed they were successful because they stuck to their credo. They also talked about the work that had to be put in to convince their communities that it was the right decision. Some communities had to give up their schools, or give up their high school. They worked hard to make those communities feel like they were getting something in the long run.
- Demographics: Paul gave a brief overview of the report that was prepared by the demographer. Unfortunately, she was not able to be present for this meeting. However, she is planning to present to the Board at their February 19th meeting. Paul invited Task Members to come to the meeting. The report offers four scenarios for the District that show a range from a modest loss of students to slight growth. Over the previous 10 years, the District has seen a slight loss in enrollment, but the trend has been relatively flat.
- District Financials: Jodie Zesbaugh and Jen Chapman from Ehlers were present to give an over of the Districts financials as it relates to future projects. Their presentation will be made available on the Districts website. They presented the current tax base by property type, which illustrated the tax breakdown for operating levy's versus all other school building bonds and capital project levies. They shows how WCA district taxes compare to other local Districts. They discussed the agricultural credit which reduces the impact on agricultural property owners by 70%. They presented two hypothetical tax impact scenarios. In these scenarios, the agricultural credit would equate to approximately half of the potential project value. There are also other tax refunds and deferrals available including; the Homestead Credit Refund, the Special Property Tax Refund, and the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral. However, unlike the agricultural credit which is automatically applied, these refunds and deferrals require forms to be completed.

- Identification of Pinnacles: The meeting now shifted to continuing the discussions that started at Task Force Meeting No. 5 regarding identifying the pinnacles that would guide future discussions on any improvements to facilities. Brent presented the list of all the suggestions that were identified at the last meeting. In preparation for this meeting, Brent consolidated the longer list into five potential pinnacles. The group discussed these pinnacles for quite a while and felt that these five could be further consolidated down to three. After additional discussions regarding how to define these pinnacles, the group settled on the following:
 - Guiding Pinnacles
 - Future Focused Education
 - Operational Sustainability
 - United WCA Community
- What to do with Facilities: The meeting now transitioned to discussions on what should be done with the facilities. Ideas were suggested and debated. There was really great discussions on community and student needs. Discussions about what would be best for students. Discussions about operational costs. At the end of these discussions, the group settled on four options that would be further developed so the group could determine their viability at the next meeting. The options identified the following:
 - Maintain all three facilities.
 - Focus on high priority items.
 - 10-year fix.
 - Modernize and update all three facilities.
 - In addition to maintaining all three facilities, this would also include educational adequacy components, such as expanded learning and indoor playground spaces.
 - 20-year solution
 - One site concept located in Barrett.
 - Include childcare services.
 - Included expanded learning and indoor playground spaces.
 - Include demolition of North and South Elementary buildings.
 - Two site concept located in Barrett and Elbow Lake.
 - Include childcare services at both buildings.
 - Included expanded learning and indoor playground spaces.
 - Include demolition of South Elementary building.
 - Barrett to include:
 - Childcare
 - Pre-K through 2nd Grade
 - New multipurpose gym
 - 7th through 12th Grade
 - Elbow Lake to include:
 - Childcare
 - 3rd through 6th grade
 - Ensure elementary suited classrooms (not converted high school rooms)
- Future Meetings and Intent
 - Task Force Meeting No. 7 – February 26th
Review of facility options, discussions, and recommendations



West Central Area Schools Task Force Committee Meeting No. 6 Sign-In Sheet

Please check the box next to your name

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Andy Clauson | ☒ Keith Swanson |
| ☐ Anthony Green | ☒ Kesha Trink |
| ☐ Barbara Nygren | ☒ Lance Wittnebel |
| ☐ Bonnie Waskosky | ☒ Lindsey Kriens |
| ☒ Boone Carlson | ☐ Megan Dotts |
| ☒ Brent Dammann | ☒ Miah Ulrich |
| ☐ Caitlin Hendricks | ☐ Mike Hagen |
| ☒ Chad Norenberg | ☐ Mindy Anderson |
| ☐ Claire Vincent | ☒ Nate Wood |
| ☒ Courtney Smith | ☐ Nathan Porter |
| ☒ Dale Rau | ☒ Paul Brownlow |
| ☐ Darin Grosz | ☒ Paul Hedstrom |
| ☒ Derek Birdsall | ☒ Rachel Swenson |
| ☒ Eric Sawatzke | ☒ Ryan Saurer |
| ☐ Jake Foslien | ☐ Sarah Meyer |
| ☒ Janee Strunk | ☐ Shelby Zach |
| ☐ Jerald Stavick | ☒ Stacie Saurer |
| ☒ John Kreft | ☒ Tina Anderson |
| ☐ Josh Ulrich | |
| ☒ Kathy Sommers | |
| ☐ Kayla Sanstead | |