

**Referendum Committee
Monday, March 26, 2007
11:00 a.m.
Board Room**

Present:

Board members: Don Nielsen (Chair), Sue Kutz, Russ Carlsen
Administrators: Dr. Tom Hicks, Roger Dickson, Stephanie Kratochvil
Community Members: Robert Mozol

Mr. Nielsen called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. No minutes to approve.

Mr. Dickson reviewed the management proposals that were presented at the 2/19 and 3/19 Board of Education meetings. He emphasized that he believes that administration has met the expectations of the public to get the RUSD's financial 'house' in order and that this referendum identified specifics of how the funding will be used.

The two multi-year proposals for consideration are a four-year \$7.5 million dollar referendum or a four-year \$9 million dollar referendum. The larger referendum will also fund some of the recommendations from the long-range facility study (no new construction). Discussion about multi-year versus one-year referendum.

Discussion about how to present this to the public included quantifying where the funds will be spent, the needs of the district (\$350 million in facility repair; 6,000 outdated computers), and demonstrating that we have made strides to reduce operating budget (staffing, health care costs minimized, etc...)

Mr. Mozol suggested that information provided should be simplistic (possibly a pie chart) and said he felt mailings would be the best place to start. It was suggested to do one large mailing to the entire district and then more targeted mailings to teachers, parents, and those who have historically voted in the special referendum elections.

Channel 20 production on referendum would also be helpful and suggestions were made about how to make it more effective. Mr. Dickson also pointed out that it is not about the staffing cuts, but more about being proactive to address facility and technology needs as well as the fact that RUSD is making tremendous financial strides and now can budget for multiple years.

Before developing the committee's recommendation to the board, Mr. Nielsen, Dr. Hicks, and Mr. Dickson will meet with some of the business community to get their feedbacks on the options being considered. If needed, the Referendum Committee may meet again before the April 2 Board of Education meeting.