

## **Citizen Community Meeting #4**

March 5, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm

Location:

### **Higley Traditional Academy**

3391 E Vest Ave

Gilbert, AZ 85295

*The goal of the citizen's committee is to have thoughtful, public dialogue and provide our Governing Board with a recommendation that helps them make an educated decision on what critical needs should be addressed.*

## **AGENDA**

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by HUSD CFO Tyler Moore at 5:03 pm.

The following committee members were present:

Tyler Moore  
Gustavo Landeros  
Marty Bender  
Michelle Bugg  
Eric Braun

Taylor Francis  
Robert Furneaux  
Scott Hamilton  
Melissa Johnson  
Kathleen Richards

Domingo Santos  
Christopher Sexton  
Vanessa Shepherd

Not in attendance: Ozzie Lewis, Victoria Payne

### **II. Approval of the Agenda**

### **III. Public Comment – no public comments were made.**

### **IV. Approval of the Minutes – Meeting #2 – Approved**

### **V. Approval of the Minutes – Meeting #3 - Approved**

### **VI. Facilities Tour – HTA**

The committee toured the campus with Principal Caryn Bacon and Assistant Principal Amanda Day. Various buildings were toured and various issues and concerns with the site were detailed.

### **VII. Present Survey Data – Highground**

Paul Bentz from Highground, Inc. presented the polling data results:

- Polled 400 registered voters in our area between Feb. 5 -12, 2024
- 4.9 margin of error in results with 95% confidence interval
- Districtwide survey of likely voters completed; expecting 75% voter turnout

- Reviewed demographics of voters by age/gender/party/area code; a little less than 50% had younger children at home
- Mr. Bentz reviewed in detail the questions that were asked in the poll and the poll results

Q – How much effect are we having due to “Gilbert Goons”?

A - Do not believe it's a big enough driver to make a big effect.

Q – Do you typically see support go down or up?

A - Typically see it go down.

Q – In surveys for other districts do you ever find safety as not a top priority?

A – Security is always rated high.

Q – Did we ask about technology?

A – No.

Q – Do we know how many responses per zip code?

A - Can look up numbers and send them to Mr. Moore to share with the group.

Bond is additional tax; override is continuation, when this is pointed out you get more support for the override.

If both are on the ballot, the bond may suffer. Continuation (of override) at 63% support, bond at 51.3% support

Looking at a 2-page ballot creates a mitigating factor; cannot determine where questions will be placed on the ballot.

## **VIII. Capital Funding Deficit**

- Reviewed capital needs for 5 years; already in a deficit and deficit projected to continue to exceed \$20M
- HUSD has an estimated \$22M M&O carry-forward

Q - Is the percentage rate on the bonds the same if you ask for 5, 10, 15, 20 years?

A - The rates would be different for each option.

Q- What is the likelihood of getting SFB funding?

A - Unknown.

Q - How many buses need replacing?

A - About 20 busses need replacing (over 15 years old)

**IX. Review Override/Bond Proposals** – discussion was held on the 3 different options that can be presented to the governing board.

Reviewed 3 proposals,

1. Proposal 1: Continuation of M&O Override (15%) and Bond at \$83.1M
2. Proposal 2: Continuation of M&O Override (15%) and Bond at \$55.3M
3. Proposal 3: Continuation of M&O Override (15%) and no Bond

Q – What is the cost of having the override/bond on ballot?

A - Cost for adding question(s) to ballot is total \$120K

Recommendation to list district needs by importance: increase teacher pay, Special Ed, maintaining class sizes as first 3.

Mr. Moore will check with the attorney on whether the order in which override items are listed can be rearranged due to this wording being approved in 2019.

Group will go over proposals again during next meeting on March 19; send any suggestions to Mr. Moore.

Requests:

Q - Can you break down items in major projects category for next meeting?

A – Yes.

Q - Could there be a middle ground between 1 & 2?

A - District can define projects a little more.

Voters want to know what you are going to do with those funds. How detailed can we / should we get in requests, can we have attorney weigh in?

**X. Future Agenda Items**

- A. Finalize recommendation for Governing Board (by roll call vote)
- B. Tax implications – Stifel

**XI. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm**

*Next meeting date March 19, 2024  
Final Meeting April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Governing Board Meeting 5 pm*