

Brichta Elementary School PTO Minutes

Location: Brichta School Library

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Time: 6:30 pm

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Members Present: Sabrina Cruz, Jennifer Schroeder, Diana Kingfisher, Liz Dalglish, Kerry Hodgkinson, Derek Hamilton, Jim Carrasco, Cindy Lucero, Veronica & Robert Sandaval, Jane Simpson, Jodi Thompson, Danielle Filivaa,

Steve Olson – Clear Wise and Shaun Planning technician TUSD

Introductions:

Approve minutes

Shaun: Cell phone tower presentation

I am from ClearWire. We would like to place not a cell tower but a high speed wireless internet dish. No voice or cell phone. The background was presented at last PTO mtg. It's simple. We are looking for a lease agreement with TUSD for space next to the utility pole in front of the new driveway 7" X 7" with an equipment cabinet which would be 4 ½ feet tall by 3 feet wide and 2 feet deep. We would run underground cables and the wood pole would be replaced with a metal pole. The height of the pole would be an additional 10 feet. TEP requires 40 inches of separation. Clearwire has 3 ½ feet antennas tall. We put a gap between the line for a good signal. The 10" is a magic number. I don't know how tall the pole is, approximately 40 feet. It would be as tall as the existing pole plus 10 feet.

When we looked around the campus we saw a similar example across the street. You can look at that pole for an example of color. It will be larger in diameter than the wooden pole. I don't have an exact number as TEP designs those. It needs to be structurally sound. Clearwire leases with TEP and with TUSD. Shaun might be better able to answer the question of the funds. I have worked with Shaun before. Cholla High school has a carrier. The second site is over at Rincon High School. There are two carriers on their existing smokestack.

Those are the basics. Questions? They might be new to people or you might have seen similar installations. Shaun.

Parent – The wireless services? Is this something that's available?

It is a nationwide wireless service provider. I don't know the in/outs of the service. Clear.com will answer questions for you. Early 2011 they will launch in the Tucson area. I am a consultant and do work with many different companies. We are working on sites around town that are around residential areas.

Parent – Stronger wireless signal?

Correct. You won't need to have a dish. Works off a wireless card. It's something portable., You won't have to visit a hotspot.

Parent – How far is the range?

It will cover about a mile and a half or so. I can handoff to other sites as you move through town. It is a similar design to cell phones.

Parent – Will there be an antenna?

The panel antenna about 13 inches across. Standard looking antenna. There will be a microwave dish or two. Since it's wireless the signal is transported to a host site by park Place Mall. It talks by point to point and that point connects.

Parent – HOA views on this subject?

They were invited to the meeting and they felt it was on school property and they didn't have a great objection.

Parent – Won't look different from a standard utility pole?

It will be larger on top with 1-3 dishes on top pointing at different directions. The city does limit the extension from the base of the pole to the antenna. Most of what we've done has been about 24". It will look different, but...

Parent – If someone from the neighborhood would complain do you have the ability to make them look more aesthetically pleasing?

It's hard to go back "once the horse is out of the barn"

They make us paint the antennas and limit the amount of extension away from the pole. The city encourages utilizing existing structures as opposed to a new pole. It's not a new "thing" going up. The city speeds up the process along if you meet their objectives. We hope it's a win/win situation.

Parent – Will any of this benefit what our students are doing? Do we get a break on a wireless contract?

I haven't seen anything like that but it might be possible. They might want to do that. They will pay the school district \$15,000 for a 5 year contract. 75% of the funds go to the school to be used at their discretion.

Parent - We like our technology and want our kids to be up to date.

Parent – 15,000 25% goes to the district with 75% to the school in a civic fund.

Principal Cruz – That’s the most flexible account and could be spent on anything. That’s the only account that we can get food from. Have you ever run into a situation where reconciliation was necessary because the company wouldn’t provide services anymore. If so, how?

In the schools contract if the tower becomes unused than we are required to take everything down and make it look the way it was. The city will place on the project, if unused for more than 12 months the tower needs to be taken down. The antennas and the cabinet and cables would be taken down.

Parent – 5 year contract? Would they still be obligated for that period?

Initial term of 5 years with renewal options. Could be up to 20-25 years. The carrier does have some termination rights. We have to pay the annual fee and if the contract is terminated we don’t get a refund. The carrier would pay one year at a time for the rent.

Parent – Can that space to another carrier?

Yes, you could.

Parent – Merger? What if we aren’t on this site?

Good questions. I would need to ask about that. The money would still come in, but where would the funds go? I will check on that.

I don’t think that would jeopardize Clearwire.

Parent – Sometimes multiple towers use the same tower, is that the same with the wireless?

No, not with this type of design. It's a utility pole with height constraints. A second carrier couldn't attach more antennas. You might have seen that before, might be possible. Not possible with this one. One carrier, yes my guess.

Parent – The range will be a mile and a half to the next pole?

It does depend. The downtown is the next site which would talk to this site. I don't know about the next site South. South of Silverlake is another site I'm working on. The idea is to provide the best quality coverage to residential areas.

Parent – Five year lease? What happens after that?

Steve - I think it's an automatic renewal unless the carrier notifies otherwise that they don't want to renew. That's typical language for a contract. We don't want to move sites all the time.

Health Concerns – Very lower power site. Microwave more wattage. The antennas up high gets rid of any concerns. MPE report we can provide. The FCC has certain levels for workers, the energy transmitter and a public, uncontrolled level for people in proximity to the tower. The study is less than 10% of the maximum permissible exposure and most are less than that. One analogy from UC Irvine said it's like the difference between sunlight and moonlight. Sit in the sun and things happen, but sit in the moonlight and nothing happens. It's not intense enough. Seems to make sense.

2.4, 2.5 gig megahertz is what it puts out. These are FCC licensed frequencies.

Parent – You represent the district. Is this up to the district?

Yes, it goes to my boss. The board has the final say and my boss is the one who says yes or no. Unless there is something the school doesn't want you could contact us and we could see about it. So far I haven't had any problems. We have been working with wireless since 1993.

Parent – I think that as a PTO before we endorse this we should ask for more for the school.

Shaun – I will check into that.

Principal Cruz – I try to stay neutral on these things. I want you to have ownership on the project. It's you as a group going forward. The site council was in favor.

Parent – We need the money.

Motion: I move that we support the placement of the Clearwire tower proposal and TUSD with the 75/25% contract and explore the option of negotiating for more. Seconded and passed. Passed.

Shaun – I have information to pass out. This is the summary of how the protocol goes and what the regulations are for the city and county.

SC – That might be a technical issues between what the district provides but you might want to consider that our students homes might be impacted if there is room for negotiation for Brichta students. I can take that back to the team.

Parent - \$11,500 per year (\$15,000 per year) 25% to district.

Shaun Brown is on the new school planning committee and it will be an innovative technology school.

Parent - Let us know if you need to contact us for negotiations. We want the best for our students and community.

Teacher's Request – From the 1st grade teachers. They are requesting money. They need \$50 to help pay for the bus to get to the children's. Tax credits.

Parent - We have denied requests for the field trips. I found funding for this field trip and one teacher has insisted to put the request in for this. It HAS to go through the PTO. I have the money. I have the money to pay for this.

Parent- I felt with the last request for funds that there were bad feelings we didn't support it the teachers. There was a lot of ill will. We will make more off the reading party. Donate it.

Motion: I move that we support the \$50.00.

Can we table this for 5 minutes and I'll give you the updated treasury report?

Treasurer's Report: After we have met all of our obligations for this year and I know stuff will come in it leaves us with \$1500 to carry us through the summer and for next year. We started the Fall with \$4000.

Parent – What happened with the last field trip?

Treasurer - I was against it. The kids had a month to figure this out \$5.00. They couldn't do this. I know that times are hard but people could have come up with it. There were kids that didn't have the money. If you didn't have the money you didn't go.

Parent – When the next grade comes we have to give them \$200. We don't have the money. I purposely went and found alternative funding for them. They don't have to go out and find it somewhere else. I have the money for them. The PTO is unable to pay for this however we have secured alternative funding.

Principal Cruz – I see a larger issue and that's the PTO doesn't have a concrete pathway for teacher's to access funds. You need to create a policy and a document that include objectives and you determine the criteria. That equalizes the playing field. Now the \$5.00 per kid is how the PTO has equalized the playing field. At the end of the year in the past vocal teacher's have gotten the money. I suggest that's the larger issue. If we continue to say yes/no on a request basis we run the danger of being inequitable in the end.

Parent – They gave us notice. I could not go through the tax credit. How can we pay for one thing and not for another?

Parent – Present it to the PTO but you still have the monies. They wanted you to present it to the PTO and if we denied it was that teacher still ok with the \$50.00 from the parents. It's for the three 1st grade classes.

Parent – We are running the monies through the PTO. I don't mind funneling it through the channel.

Principal – The PTO was gifted \$50.00 to go to the field trip.

Motion - The allocated \$50 goes to the 1st grade. 1st and seconded.

Parent – I suggest we create that form for next year and a protocol to go with it.

Principal's Report –

We have begun the difficult task to trying to prioritize the budget. It's horrific. We are looking at what we can't afford. We found last week that the teacher's were the number 1 priority, the office manger was the #1 priority. That wasn't ok with the site council. We received 6 responses from teachers which isn't ok. It shouldn't be up to anyone group to make this difficult decision. The site council will meet with the teachers at their staff meeting. We can't fund things next year at the current level. At 10% we would eliminate all of the central level services.

Realistically we are looking at 4-8% and will probably come out about 6%, but it's all hearsay at this point. We need to make the decisions, librarian, counselor, ½ day kindergarten, teacher. If we don't cut we don't have a monitor or sub budget. It will be tough. ½ day kindergarten, could we charge for the other half and what would that look like? How would that affect economically families? We need to have this signed off by the teachers. If you don't want a monitor, you need to give up your lunch. We are looking at a ½ time principal. All positions are on the cutting block.

Wed – 2:15 pm is the meeting.

I don't mind sending out the budget worksheets. They are in excel with different tabs. I would like your input. The more input the better.

Parent – 6% of the total budget?

6% of the total enrollment day count. What I understand is that we should get revised figures based on this years 40th – 100th day count. We have steadily inclined. At this point the site council drafted language what mirrored that we want to have a 6th grade with a rollout. 2011-2012 7th and 8th grade if that helps with the district.

I was approached by Candy to ask if we had received more information about the Maxwell merger. I shared with her that you really didn't want to relocated to Maxwell with the current situation. It would be difficult. I believe that the district is still looking at those options but as a school we are submitting our proposal which includes language.

They are supposed to have a supervisor on site. 6% equals out to?? I will bring it out \$800,000 I think.

Parent – I would like to know what requirements for a volunteer monitor. I was going to see if we could put it up on the marquee. Parents can volunteer without those things. If you aren't a parent than you do need a fingerprint clearance card.

Principal Cruz – as a district we would need to look at our Parents on Patrol program. CPR and 1st aide class.

Parent – I was looking that up.

How about offering that class? That would be great.

Principal – It's strange because they give it to us by points and dollar amounts. A teacher is 1 point, office manager is .76. Similar to FTE. (reading figures)

6-8% is all of our monitors and all of our substitutes, teaching supplies and ½ time counselor.

Wireless tower – That money could be utilized.

Principal Cruz– They have redone how teacher's can be laid off. It means that before teachers have been laid off due to seniority and now it can come down to the principal. It would be a committee to lay off people. We will discuss that more later. I would like to hear PTO's input for that. We want to come up with a statement of what it means to be a teacher at Brichta.

Site council report – done.

Treasurers Report – We have \$10,040. The library has \$3,472, \$1,523 5th grade. I took out what we have coming up, PJ night, Brichta blast, snacks for field days, box tops for winning class (\$473.00 from boxtops). The yearbook, maybe? \$1200. \$1,517.20 for the remainder of the year.

See's candy – Letters are ready for packets to go out. Out by Friday and the orders will arrive before Spring recess. I will need help. Check on ordering in bulk as it might affect the order. I will double check it that we don't have any of those.

Jodi – I could use some bodies on the night of the party. I want you on the snacks. 5:30 to 8pm next Tuesdays. No support from the library. Jan is not available to help with this. I would have just done the PJ night to support our efforts. If you can help, please show up and help. It's not the blast, but it's fun.

Books and PJ night should be taken seriously and should be more of a group effort. Whatever you need. Information to get out to parents. I will ask that she's there.

Motion: Fire sale for T-shirts \$5.00 second, approved.

Adjourned.