**OLESS Meeting Minutes**

(**O**ld **L**yle **E**lementary **S**chool **S**upporters)

**November 3, 2015**

**Attendees:** Barbara Sexton, Cindy Bluemel, Ralf Bluemel, Norm White, Vern Harpole, Marcia Buser, Laurece Bonham, Julie Larson, Andrew Kelly, Randall Robison, Katrina Fitzsimmons, Micah Fitzsimons, Rene Weiler, Jim Scarborough, Adrian Bradford, Marc Harvey

**Mission:        Working together to preserve and maintain the Old Lyle Elementary School building and park as an activity center and green space to improve the quality of life for the Lyle community.**

1. **Introductions / Guests**

Everyone introduced themselves. Andrew Kelly, Superintendent of Lyle Schools made 2 announcements:

* **Tuesday Nov 10 Leadership Kids** partnering with Lions Club making a presentation at Senior Lunch for Veterans at 11:30.
* **Thursday November 12 Students are sponsoring Blood Drive** 12:00-6:30 at the school – blood mobile in lower lot. Contact Andrew or school to sign up to donate.

**School – District Partnership:**

Andrew started discussion on districts increased partnership with greenspace. Acknowledged good work of OLESS to school board. Wants to discuss how to have a larger involvement, as district has resources and manpower to do a better job of partnering with OLESS.

Current school board values the property and contributions of group and entrusting Andrew to build the capacity of the community. Andrew sees a lot of people working hard for the community however different groups are working separately – example Lions Club, Dallesport, area farmers, museum. Has a vision that district can be part of an overarching connection. Can come together to do a better job for our kids.

Andrew asked what can they do to ensure a sense of equity for our kids? Following questions and answers with the group:

**Q: How can the use of this building help kids?**

**A:** There has been a lack of thoughtful planning and care for taxpayer funding of facilities in district in the past. No long term plan has existed. Educational properties are in real trouble if we don’t put together plan to care for and improve facilities with have. ESD has a couple people who work all around the state to help districts with their facilities – they will be here on November 23. Andrew will have them look at this building and greenspace as well as the 3 other district properties (bus garage, high school and Dallesport elementary). Once they get estimates on what could be done, Andrew will present options to community. Benefit for this property is mostly for the greenspace. District has enough building space, probably will never need the LAC as classroom space but would continue to be a community center. Andrew would love to see greenspace be a lush and green, vibrant park.

All of us have different talents and gifts – district can bring a consistency to care of greenspace. Want access to building. Community has already paid for property once but want to continue to maintain the investment.

**Q: Do you want to renegotiate the lease?**

**A:** Current lease not being followed a couple key components – insurance however Barbara gave him copy of our insurance which he was not aware of. Other noncompliance is that we do not do background checks on building users. Requirements applies to unsupervised activities with children. Note: Andrew stated that for private rentals the school doesn’t do background checks, only events where minors will be unsupervised with adults.

What’s the advantage to keeping the lease in place? Key issue is keeping the greenspace. Seems to be to everyone advantage for district to take over greenspace upkeep. Don’t have to lose one to have the other. Fundraiser should continue for building. It is a district facility but could do fundraisers for targeted improvements for the building.

Lots of ways about work and mission to make his dream would be that district does well, example, scheduling. What they can’t do well are the activities which he sees OLESS being able to do.

Andrew urged that we do not get lost in all the finite details– we can hash out.

Norm suggested that district takes over the park and let OLESS take care of the building. Andrew stated his dream that all 4 facilities would be brought up to scale – all windows, painting, etc. will be done. Hoping district can come up with a dollar amount – ESD folks give the amount and then have a community discussion how to generate the money and do it.

LAC would be one of 4 properties, looked at equally in the community. Could be a levy for the future – the extended part of planning. If can’t do everything then need to prioritize. Andrew noted that there is very little vandalism at schools because of the security systems.

**Q: What about comment from the school board that they can’t put money into a decommissioned property?**

**A:** Can be addressed by ESD on the 23rd. Assumption that we all want the best and don’t assume that the current board will see it the same way as the old board.

Kids in Lyle in past 10 years have not been served well – need to move forward with common vision to help our kids.

**Q: What if we keep the building rentals with OLESS and let us book it – and school takes care of park?**

**A:** Could be a solution – but district is working hard to revitalize community. There is benefit to be part of a system – is it possible Andrew asked us: Is our mission to rent rooms or to create programming?

Cindy thought we might have community meetings separate from board meetings, especially since council does not exist.

Room rental is one piece that helps us feel we have control. Julie suggested could be a blend that addresses maintenance and usage.

Part of the benefit is that if we were able to get building brought up to school code, the maintenance cost would come down. Applauds the idea bring community back around schools

Andrew invites us to think: is there any greater unifying force than making a better community for the school. Part of the job is to give a call for community to get behind, the bigger vision. Believes the kids in Lyle can compete with any kids in the nation.

Original vision was to save the school for community to take pride in itself. Did not have the school behind us at that time.

Try to keep governance of the building with school’s help – be a liaison with the community.

Lease is hanging out there. Meeting on the 23 – will take a while to get their report back from the ESD facilities people –visit all 4 sites in one day but probably come back to more in depth analysis later.

Andrew will continue to give his board updates on progress and ethos of community. Starting place…

District has gotten chips donated for playground – OLESS can use the donated $500 for replacing swings. School is hiring a new person and hiring another full time grounds maintenance person. Mike is part time – moving to 2 full time from 1 part time.

**⌦ Action Item:** Andrew will check on Friday if swing seats were ordered.

Adrian asked about comment that one of overall goals is a better social system – what does that mean? Andrew answered that it was a reference social media – increase on-line presence – better communication. Adrian commented that there was an inadequate social system for kids – in private schools say they’re too small – Andrew shared thoughts at HS level don’t have enough critical mass to give opportunities for kids. Reason parents have taken their kids elsewhere in last 5 years. Full career technical education. Bringing back programs. No preschool program in district. Brand new preschool program this year – of 19 kids in kindergarten this year this year, only 2 had access to preschool. Andrew believes we are changing culture in school. Have had 15 kids come back to district and they are working on unifying native and non-native communities.

Andrew had ideas of how this facility could be used for school activities. One of organizations has seen work well, Boys and Girls Club – places that kids could hang out, eat healthy food, study places, play video games. Other possibility – kids in particular situations who can’t attend school – maybe house an alternative school. This would be in addition.

Rene commented on the over-arching vision of community engagement effort. Don’t what to lose what we have here. LAC is great place for tutoring, wifi – engaging community members. Keeping that wonderful engagement is important.

Andrew stated that it is problematic that there is not an over-arching group in this community. No place to go with a lifeline to help save a kid. How to reach out to those generational poverty kids? Community needs to reach out.

1. **Treasurer’s report**

Took in $605.65 + donations $150. Paid out: Laurel $14.38, PUD 189.31, Put $200 on water bill, $183.99 on porta potty, $15.71 for garbage. $638.21 total paid out. $6343.03 in OLESS balance. See attachment for full report.

1. **Board Elections:**

Two new nominations to the board were approved: Julie Larson and Marc Harvey.

Three current members’ terms are expiring and are willing to continue with another term: Laurece Bonham, Barbara Sexton, Norm White.

All present approved the slate of nominees. New board will consist of 9 board members for 2016: Barbara Sexton, Cindy Bluemel, Sherri Starkin, Norm White, Vern Harpole, Marcia Buser, Laurece Bonham, Julie Larson, Marc Harvey

Board Positions:  For now, Cindy and Marcia will switch positions as president and secretary. Board will have further discussions on meetings and responsibilities.

1. **Service Agreement:**

Do we want a service agreement? Katrina is willing to do the custodial job.

**⌦ Action Item:** Cindy and Barb will work out service contract and get agreement from Katrina via email.

Andrew said that school can support with cleaning supplies.

1. **Old Business:**
* Door – probably not ever coming back. If a wood frame could probably get a whole new set of doors.
* Window is here – Ralf & Vern to install Sunday or next week.
* Hall Painting – completed, not perfect but done. **⌦ Action Item:** Cindy to email Marcia info to write Thank You Letter.
* Garbage – we are ready for Kevin to start collecting garbage. **⌦ Action Item:** Cindy to email Andrew for what needs to be done. Barbara suggested school put small dumpster out. Andrew will follow up.
1. **Upcoming Events:**
* **Holiday Bazaar**    November 6 and 7, 9:00 to 4:00 Friday and Saturday. Proceeds to go for light fixtures. Need $800.
* **Resource Fair**   November 10   11-4:00 – Lots of offerings! Kombucha Lady, fire dept, health, resources, etc – see separate flyer. **⌦ Action Item:** Marcia to send Julie the code to get in.
* **WILD Dinner**  November 14 5:30 – 8:30 – Wineries in Lyle dinner, a 4 course dinner paired with a Lyle wine. 50 tickets available – all sold with a waiting list of 10 – hotel is trying to make room for them.

Wineries are supporting us – hope to be a tradition! 78% not from Lyle. Need 5 servers to head – to wear: Black pants and white

Roll call for serving: Vern, Karen, Adrian, Marcia, Barbara (to collect money), Marcia, Cindy, Julie, maybe Laurece. Need to be there at 4:00.PM. Each winery will have someone there to talk about their wine.

Vern to show pictures Nurses office, Principals office – have gotten bids on fixing up, heaters. Will take about $4000 to get them rentable. Take Oren’s charts to display.

Andrew asked what if things go better than $4000? If target is X – but are there more things? Vern stated there are definitely more needs: Relight hallway - $1000. Security cameras, new doors, prioritizing…

**⌦ Action Item:** Marcia to get tax deduction receipt forms for Barbara to give out.

* **Lyle Game Night** November 21 – 7:00 – 9:00 for young and old! Bhai service project put on by 11-14 year olds. Free, snacks, games. **⌦ Action Item:** Cindy will post on FB page. **⌦ Action Item:** Rene will send Andrew info for school.
1. **New Business:**
* Katrina got approval to do a community Christmas tree, outside. She is putting together Christmas light contest for December 5 – focusing on Hwy 14. Goal is to make Lyle exist! They are talking to homes and businesses along talking –to businesses, wants decorated posts in future.

Cindy asked if coordinated with Santa night – used to be coordinated with community council – Sheriff’s office contact. **⌦ Action Item:**  Katrina will contact them and contact Mildred.

* Does hotel still have power washer? Vern thinks Risi Howard has it.
* Change OLESS meeting to 2nd Monday of the month… Discussion and agreement to change to not conflict with Lion’s club meeting. Maintain at 6 PM

**Next General Meeting Scheduled**:

December 14, 2015 at 6:00 PM at Lyle Activity Center