

Preface

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, our district hosted a Community Conversation using the World Café protocol. This protocol allowed structured conversations designed to support decision making. We selected the World Café protocol because it is particularly well-suited to eliciting many perspectives of a community. It is built on the assumption that *People already have within them the wisdom and creativity to confront even the most difficult challenges; that the answers we need are available to us; and that we are wiser together than we are alone.*



District leadership role as table hosts was to listen and encourage participation from all table members.

There were 16 tables, each with a host. Table hosts rotated four times. This format enabled everyone ample opportunity to voice thoughts on each of the four topics/questions.

Superintendent Richard gave a PPT presentation to help inform and guide table conversations. Table hosts asked participants to synthesize key thoughts and concerns to put on post-it notes which were placed on the corresponding wall chart. During the debrief, table hosts grouped the thoughts on their perspective charts.

The Four Key Areas of Conversation:

- School renovation and staying at the current site SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).
- Purchase of property and moving the school campus to a new site SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).
- If new property is purchased so that the campus could be moved to a new site, what are some ideas that should be explored for buildings that remain in town?
- What issues have been neglected that may impact our school and Dolores community as a whole?

The following pages will provide the input gathered from the community group present at the event:

Disclaimer: *The following are valuable opinions of those who attended the meeting. They are not all based on the facts or research that has already been done; however, we wanted to include all of the comments.*

#1 - School renovation and staying at the current site SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current facility is not wasted ▪ Room for growth in current site ▪ Many in community want to stay ▪ Students can walk or ride bike to school ▪ Access to library ▪ Less money – septic, electricity, construction, etc. ▪ May keep Dolores a viable independent district for longer ▪ Community support of school ▪ Support of local businesses ▪ Jobs kept in town ▪ Construction employing locals ▪ Already own property ▪ Master plan addresses flooding issues ▪ Keeps school as vital part of community ▪ Generates sales tax, supports economic growth ▪ No unknowns ▪ Takes care of current problems ▪ Historical location ▪ Fixes current poor design in buildings ▪ Safer Climate ▪ Tradition ▪ Atmosphere in classes ▪ Retaining historical integrity of Dolores community concern ▪ Proximity to river, town parks and walking filed trips ▪ Parades ▪ Proximity to first responders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Another Band-Aid ▪ Lipstick on a pig ▪ Stuck with elementary and its’ issues, no plan ▪ Kids stuck in construction zone interrupting learning ▪ Still need a football field and track ▪ Cost of demolition ▪ Don’t own land for sports complex ▪ Decreases housing valuation ▪ No room to grow or expand ▪ Cost to renovate is too high ▪ Classrooms will move to modular ▪ Another bond issue ▪ It is about the businesses not kids ▪ Piece meal construction ▪ Hidden costs with renovation ▪ Longer building process ▪ Town support in question ▪ Acreage is too small to fit a Pre-K – 12 campus ▪ Flood plain adds to construction costs ▪ Safety concerns ▪ Status of current buildings ▪ Traffic congestion is unsafe ▪ Don’t have money for it ▪ Local businesses will not support a move ▪ Size of playground ▪ Snow removal ▪ Access to the clinic ▪ Loss of tax revenue ▪ No theater or auditorium in plan ▪ Drainage ▪ Cost of maintenance ▪ Water/asbestos ▪ High schoolers spend remaining years in a construction zone ▪ Tax burden for low student enrollment

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Study costs more effectively ▪ Students are having to use sports facilities in other towns. If we build a sports complex it may keep kids here and bring in money ▪ Add onto campus ▪ Developing Joe Rowell Park ▪ Keep students ▪ Attract new students ▪ Engage community in renovation ▪ Relocation of sports, drama and music to satellite campus ▪ Fix what we have ▪ Take responsibility for facilities ▪ Pride of ownership ▪ Split up the school ▪ Nine acres behind Skyline for athletic complex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flooding ▪ Disruption to education during construction ▪ Proximity to alcohol and tobacco sales ▪ Won't get BEST grant ▪ Bond not passing ▪ Hillside ▪ Won't draw students ▪ Congestion in traffic ▪ Giving up a better option ▪ Students leaving because of construction ▪ Exposing students and staff to hazardous materials during construction process ▪ Facility would still not be completely safe ▪ Classrooms do not meet current standards ▪ Weather/snow removal ▪ Safety ▪ Not sure the district can build for the stated amounts. Not enough details given. ▪ Students walking streets ▪ Students remain exposed with access to alcohol, tobacco products, and if passed, marijuana because of the proximity to it in town.

**#2 - Purchase of property and moving the school campus
to a new site SWOT Analysis**

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New school with everything new ▪ More acreage and plenty of room for track ▪ Can build without worry of noise and exposure to toxins ▪ Better commons and cafeteria ▪ Kids will still go to Dolores for food ▪ No flooding ▪ Priority is for the students ▪ Room for snow removal ▪ More parking ▪ Less to maintain ▪ Construction zone is smaller ▪ Kids will not be in construction zone ▪ More likely to be awarded the BEST grant ▪ Cost per square foot is less ▪ Expands available space for students ▪ Consolidation of campus ▪ Design of new school – fresh perspective ▪ Efficiency of the systems in new school ▪ Views of our area ▪ Safety issues are all addressed/less threat assessment ▪ Out of flood plain ▪ New music and theater ▪ New activities site for the town ▪ Unified campus ▪ Student and staff morale ▪ Controlled access on campus ▪ Highway access ▪ Close to town ▪ State of the Art ▪ Kids deserve it ▪ Room for growth ▪ Drawing more student from county ▪ Economic driver with open campus ▪ Recommendation of experts (engineers and CDE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effect on the town ▪ Negative impact of businesses in town ▪ Loss of identity ▪ No utilities ▪ Possible archeological sites – survey needed ▪ Kids not surveyed yet ▪ Loss of community ▪ Too rushed ▪ Students not able to walk to school ▪ CDOT changes to highway/possible stoplight needed ▪ Busing city kids to new school ▪ Priority should be getting academics and administration going the right direction before thinking about building something new ▪ Traffic safety ▪ Travel to sports ▪ Loss of our football field ▪ The money ▪ Kids riding bikes on highway ▪ Need access to new property ▪ Waste of resources

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with local businesses on lunch ▪ Host track meets and other athletic competitions – brings more business to community that can't come now ▪ Fundraising opportunities on new facility ▪ Growth of student enrollment ▪ Open a vocational high school on current site ▪ Community unity ▪ Archeological studies ▪ Additional learning opportunities on town campus ▪ Draw more families to the area by having new school ▪ Expands town options ▪ Shining star on the top of the hill ▪ Old school buildings use as apartments ▪ Affordable housing for teachers ▪ Potential to sell land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of property value ▪ Reconciliation with possible loss of existing grant moneys ▪ Loss of revenue for the town ▪ Increases business taxes ▪ Loss of future business ▪ Care of excess land ▪ Kids trying to get to town for lunch ▪ Hurt Dolores economy – may become bedroom/second home or summer community ▪ Access from highway ▪ Possible loss of access to health clinic ▪ If community votes it down, initial investment is lost ▪ No pedestrian access

#3 - If new property is purchased so that the campus could be moved to a new site, what are some ideas that should be explored for buildings that remain in town?

Park Ideas

- Community park
- Skate park
- Town swimming pool
- Ice skating park
- Adult park
- Open space and playground
- BMX track

Education Ideas

- Charter school
- Vocational High School as part of the district
- Keep science building
- Culinary School part of the Vo-tech option
- Vocational, CTE, Technology training, and Agriculture could attract so many kids. This is what our area is all about!
- Online/Homeschool share school

- Robotics
- Media Labs
- PCC coordinate classes
- Tutoring
- First responder classes
- Adult education
- Satellite campus for PCC, CSU, etc.
- Elementary space of campus used for community/county detox center and inpatient mental health facility and the other half vocational high school

Community/Economic Resource Ideas

- Community/Rec Center
- Club sports
- Affordable Day Care facility
- Senior Center/Facility
- Non-Profit
- Shared workspaces
- Incubator for new businesses
- Office buildings
- Residential lots
- Shopping
- Resort property
- Osprey
- Doctor's Health office
- Storage

Questions:

- Why would anyone buy with problems?
- Would there be vacant buildings in town?
- Are there concerns about the old Forest Service building?
- Are there statute of limitations?
- Will property value go down?

Comments:

- A lot of resources would go to waste
- Flooding mitigation for the town
- Split the campus and keep new buildings
- Maintain buildings at two sites
- Use all money from sale of properties to decrease tax payer cost of new facility
- Sell the properties to offset the bond
- Tear all down and sell to a developer
- Rent or lease the buildings
- Sell the land
- Keep district office
- Attract homeless
- Demolition is very expensive (asbestos)
- Commercial property owners will not want it
- Keep it kid and family focused

#4 – What issues have been neglected that may impact our district and Dolores community as a whole?

Third Option Ideas:

- Can we just continue on as is leaving the trends alone?
- Assuming BEST grand doesn't pass, what happens?
- Turn complex into regional vocational school.
- Leave the elementary and middle school on current campus and move the high school to Mancos or Cortez.
- Just build a high school.
- Cortez take on academic students and vocational school stays in Dolores.
- Consolidate services with other districts.
- Put the elementary school in the master plan on current site.

Transportation

- Consider the bussing issue.
- Concerns about traffic issues on the highway during drop off, pick up, and lunch times.

Tax Burden

- People who live out of district and want to have a new build should consider moving here to help with the tax burden.
- Apply for nonpublic entity for funding
- This is on the backs of home owners
- We may lose the ability to pass an MLO or bond to increase salaries because of tax burden.

Financial Concerns:

- Engineering costs of new site are unknown
- Utility costs of new site are unknown
- Who pays the cost of construction if it goes over the \$57M and the mill levy or bond is maxed?
- Will the bond pass either way?
- What is the plan to pass a bond?

Timeline thoughts:

- How soon can we reapply?
- Whoa! The timeline is too fast.
- Our reputation as a school (especially the high school) is at an all-time low.

Joe Rowell Park

- This is not an option for a football stadium.
- Is the town willing to work on options for a sports complex and would they sell the land?
- Park is under-utilized.
- What is the cost of building and maintaining a sports complex?
- Joe Rowell Park is also a safety concern.
- Too many variables with a sports complex at Joe Rowell.

Community Buy-in

- If it is in town, the businesses will support it but if district moves out of town, the businesses won't support it.
- Quantify the impact on businesses in town
- Determine the population we are looking to build with new facilities
- If community will not support this, what will we do?

- Community need better parks, schools, and facilities to draw new families. (Realtors make reference to “good schools.”)
- Businesses rely on the school for winter revenue
- Educate the part of the community that is not part of the school.
- More involvement is needed from library, seniors, people without kids, chamber, and more. They need to be shown the problems and the grant requirements so they can be supportive.
- Tradition! I went to school here and my kids did too!

Disruption to Education

- Safety drills would be easier in new location.
- Make sure that education continues during construction.
- New facilities might attract new teachers but if we are not able to pay them competitive salaries, we may not be able to retain them.
- Students want to hear more and offer their opinions.
- This is important (BEST). Can we improve achievement at the same time as we rebuild or more? Will it be too disruptive?

Miscellaneous:

- Where does the money come from for demo of buildings? Is it another tax issue?
- Does moving campus impact the health clinic?
- Is there a plan to reuse materials (lockers, etc.)?
- If the site is not okay for a school now, why would it be okay for a vocational school?
- The importance of arts and drama should be considered.
- Water cost will raise. Is water treatment different?
- Do we have vacant classes in the middle and high school?
- Is the enrollment declining in elementary?
- There are concerns about emergency vehicles having adequate access in current location.
- Can tuition be charged for out-of-district students?
- Do realtors think any of the district property would sell?
- Make sure the builder/contractor is quality
- Think more about how we attract students.
- What are other districts in similar communities doing?
- Consolidate schools in county
- If we build something bright and shiny, it doesn't take care of the internal issues.
- Concerned about trust and keeping promises.
- The school would be able to offer more to students long-term if moved and a new facility is built. There would be growth, sports, arts, etc. Although painful to community it would offer more to students in the long term.
- School is an economic driver for the town.
- Why do the engineers recommend moving if the flood plain issue can be alleviated with elevating the buildings?
- Could a trail be built to connect the school to town?
- It is not appropriate to base any decision on tonight's meeting. It is not inclusive enough.