

Promises Made Promises Kept Committee

<http://www.champaignschools.org/pmpk.html>

PMPK – The Promises Made Promises Kept Committee was formed to ensure that the promises made by the Board of Education prior to the vote on the 1% sales tax increase were kept by the School District. The Committee completes this task quarterly by evaluating the expenditures made with sales tax proceeds. The original promises made by the Board of Education were as follows:

- **Pay off existing construction debt**
- **Add a strand to and extensively remodel Garden Hills Elementary School**
- **Build a new Booker T. Washington Elementary School**
- **Build a new school in Savoy**
- **Acquire land for the new Central High School**
- **Pay off Garden Hills and Centennial performance contracts**
- **Pay off QZAB loans for the Champaign Early Childhood Center**
- **Remodeling and Expansion projects at Westview Elementary School, Bottenfield Elementary School, Kenwood Elementary School, and Robeson Elementary School**

The District began utilizing sales tax dollars to abate property taxes during the 2009-2010 school year. This allowed taxes on a \$150,000 home to fall by about \$30. In addition, smaller deferred maintenance items listed in the District's Capital Improvement Plan will also be completed with the sales tax dollars.

At its September 9, 2010 meeting, the Promises Made Promises Kept Committee unanimously passed the following motion: "The Promises Made Promises Kept Committee hereby passes a motion that all construction projects and associated expenditures undertaken by the School District through June 30, 1010 are in accordance with the promises made by the Board of Education". Superintendent Culver responded by stating "I am delighted that the Committee agrees that we are fulfilling our promises to the community and being good stewards of their tax dollars"

Promises Made Promises Kept Committee Members

- **Arlene Blank – Chairperson**
- **Dave Tomlinson – BOE President**
- **Arthur Culver – Superintendent**
- **Gene Logas – CFO**
- **Roxanne Bossenbroek - CUSF**
- **Anita Broeren**
- **Steve Carter – Champaign City Manger**
- **Kirsten Dennison – PTA, Parent**
- **Peter Fox**
- **Dick Helton – Savoy City Manager**

- **Mike Herbert – IBEW**
- **Mary Logsdon – CESP Representative**
- **Peg O’Donoghue**
- **Greg Stock – CFT Representative**
- **Craig Walker**

September 19, 2009 Meeting (as relates to BTW Elementary)

Overview of Booker T. Washington and Garden Hills Projects

Ken Nelson from OWPP-Bailey Edward Design discussed and reviewed plans and schematics for the new Booker T. Washington Elementary School (BTW). Specifically:

- Mr. Nelson stated that the architects, District Administration, and the Board of Education sat down with community members, teachers, and the Park District to get their thoughts, opinions, hopes and dreams regarding the new BTW.
 - The architects combined their notes from these meetings to come up with their plans and schematics presented to the committee via a pictorial packet (please see packet for further information).
 - The new BTW is to be a magnet school that focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The architects have designed spaces to encourage students in these areas.
- Mr. Tomlinson and Mr. Culver noted how difficult it was to fit everything they wanted for BTW in the space Unit 4 currently owns. Mr. Tomlinson mentioned the Board’s recent efforts to purchase more land in the area for future development. Parking lots, loading zones, and playgrounds are the intended uses for the newly purchased land if and when said land becomes available. Until more land is purchased, Mr. Tomlinson said the Park District will share some of their space (Douglass Center) and some of the newly built BTW areas will have multiple uses (i.e. the hard surface playground will double as a loading zone for buses).

December 10, 2009 Meeting(as relates to BTW Elementary)

Stuart Brodsky of OWP/P provided the Committee with a project update on BTW. Salient points are listed below:

- The District recently discovered that it would reap large E-Rate benefits by relocating its servers to the BTW site. E-Rate benefits are based on the cumulative socioeconomic status of the schools population.
- The design has largely remained unchanged. However, parent pick-up and bus pick-up spots are still to be determined.

March 11, 2010 Meeting (as relates to BTW Elementary)

Stuart Brodsky of OWP/P provided the Committee with a project update on BTW. Salient points are listed below:

- The design was officially approved by the Board of Education at the February 8, 2010 meeting.
- Demolition of the existing building and finalization of architectural plans will occur in April.
- Bids are going to be due in May.
- Construction is expected to begin in June.

- The Board of Education was applauded for their enthusiastic and far-sighted acquisition of surrounding neighborhood property. It has allowed for 58 more parking spaces for staff and parents. It has also allowed for a specific bus loading theater which will reduce traffic congestion on Grove Street.

- Mr. Brodsky noted the impact of development on existing storm drainage systems. The new BTW ground will have bioswales filled with plants to trap and absorb some of the rainwater which will decrease some of the demand on the surrounding sewer system.

- The BTW design will utilize a variety of “green”/sustainable energy technologies like solar panels, geothermal heating and air conditioning, and “smart” lighting controls.

The Committee discussed grant opportunities available for both schools. The District is in the application process for several.

Mr. Logas noted that the District plans to use the interest earnings from the bonds for computers, smart boards, video cameras, TVs, phones, teacher workstations, etc. at Garden Hills and BTW in 2010-2011.

Mr. Logas noted that the sale and issuance of the bonds have allowed the District to keep their promise to abate the community’s property taxes by six cents in 2010 and approximately 11-14 cents for the next six years.

June 6, 2010 Meeting (as it relates to BTW Elementary)

The groundbreaking ceremony for Booker T. Washington will occur at 3:30pm on June 22, 2010.

Updates on Projects

Mr. Brodsky of OWP/P gave a brief update on Booker T. Washington. Demolition is in progress (the building is torn down and they are busy destroying and filling the foundation). Except for 2 packages that need rebidding, the bids are done and finalized. The 2 packages are not expected to hold up construction.

September 10, 2010 Meeting (as it relates to BTW Elementary)

Jason Meyering from OWP/P provided the Committee with a project update on Booker T. Washington. Salient points are listed below:

- Steel is going up.
- Geothermal wells are being dug.
- Much of the building material has been delivered.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2010