

School from 1A

Grzeskowiak responded to the question with an explanation of the challenges the custodial staff faces in properly maintaining the aged equipment in the high school. He then turned to Facilities Manager Reed Lewis for what turned out to be the most popular comment of the evening when he said, "You will have heat tomorrow."

There was an immediate and noticeable positive response from the students and staff to this pronouncement, with cheers spontaneously breaking out in the audience.

After this, there were a few more comments and suggestions from the group.

One question inquired as to the possibility of a dedicated soccer field being included in the upgrades.

A member of the steering committee said that soccer had not been identified as an area of high importance in this stage of the process, but might make its way into the final plans as more community input comes in.

Following the first part of Monday's meeting, Lewis took those interested on a tour of the high school, pointing out the aging nature of much of the infrastructure.

The fact that the structure was built in 1968 was the primary reason for needing improvements, Lewis said, as he believes the facilities have been well maintained since that time.

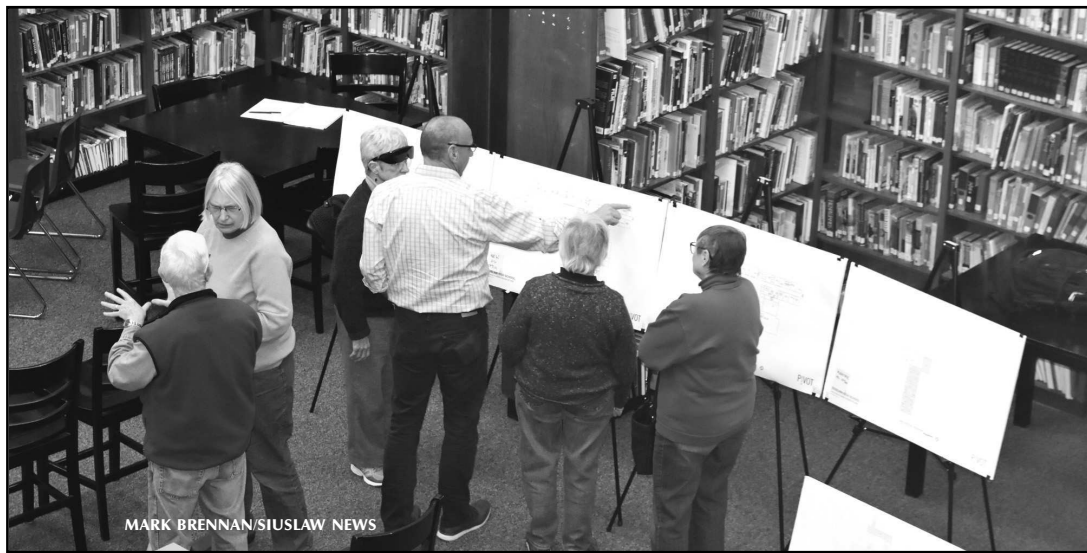
Wednesday's district board meeting touched on some of the points made in the earlier meeting, but were more focused on the timing of any potential bond measure the community could be asked to support.

Another topic brought to the attention of the board was the realization of school administrators across the country that security for students was an ever-increasing problem, and unhindered access to students should be a primary focus in protecting students.

It was further pointed out that there are currently 17 access points to the high school.

Architect Wilson responded to this observation by stating that upgrades under consideration would decrease these to a single entrance, which would significantly increase safety for staff and students.

Aric Sneddon, a community member on the steering com-



Architect Curt Wilson shows community members plans before they embark on a tour of the Siuslaw High School facility.

mittee, than presented the recommendations of the committee to the board, making a strong case for more input and communication with residents.

He suggested an autumn date for any bond measure request that might be forthcoming.

"We came to the conclusion that we think it's best for the district to target any bond resolution for the November election," Sneddon said. "This basically allows us to have more time for community engagement and will also allow us to refine the process and plans, leading up to August, so that we can present a clearer plan to the public."

Board members responded positively to the committee's recommendations.

Grzeskowiak also commented positively, agreeing with the idea of needing more time to share information on the

final plan.

"While both the phone and web survey show good general support for both the district and the bond projects, people in the community want more detailed information on the projects," he said. "The stakeholder meetings have also been positive, and again, the resonating comment has been about getting information out to the people. In essence, the community wants to know what they are buying and that there is an oversight management plan for the funds."

Grzeskowiak added that his goal over the next four to five months is to host more informational sessions as well as travel to local organizations to bring the presentation to their members.

He said that getting to another meeting is not always feasible for people who are involved in multiple commu-

nity and charity organizations in town. It will be easier for he and others from the Steering Committee to take the presentation to them and answer their questions directly.

Board member Tammy Butler noted that information she had received at a recent workshop she attended regarding the bond process suggested committees made up of fewer staff and more community members was more effective in convincing voters of the need for support.

Siuslaw School Board responded favorably to this information. Members said they will support reconfigur-

ing the steering committee to include more interested community members.

The board then approved a resolution to postpone any action on a bond measure until November, passing the motion 5 to 2.

After a short recess, the

board reconvened to hear reports from administration and staff, accepting those reports and adjourning the meeting.

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