MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY
January 13, 2014

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, January 13th, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County Building, in Lincoln, NE.

Twenty-six citizens and four staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40th & A NA
Jeff Schwebke – Arnold Heights NA
Rifka Keilson – Country Club NA
Ann Powers – Eastridge NA
Matt Schaefer – Everett NA
Curt Donaldson – Hartley NA
Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA
Amy Karabel -- Irvingdale NA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office
Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Department
Shirley Schoening Scheuler – Lincoln Public Schools
Sheree Goertzen – Neighbor®Works-Lincoln
Connie Duncan – Lincoln Public Schools
Scott Wiescamp – Lincoln Public Schools
Richard Meginnis – Lincoln Public School Board
Mike Reinmiller – 40th & A NA
Russ Irwin – Clinton NO
Carolyn Brandle – Eastridge NA
Paula Rhian – Everett NA
Ed Kelley – Far South NA
Kurt Elder – Haymarket NA
Scott Richert – Indian Village NA
William Carver – Near South NA
Rick Bagby – Witherbee NA
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Adam Rhoads – Health Department
Russell Miller – Lincoln Neigh. Alliance
Mike Renken – Neighbor®Works-Lincoln
Liz Standish – Lincoln Public Schools
Beth Canuteson – AT&T

Welcome & Introductions, Volunteer to Take Notes

Tracy welcomed attendees and called for introductions. Amy Karabel volunteered to take notes.

Mayor Beutler's Comments

The Mayor was unable to attend the meeting.

2014 School Bond Issue

Three Lincoln Public School (LPS) representatives were in attendance to share details and answer questions about of the 2014 School Bond Issue: Connie Duncan, Co-Chair of the Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee, Dr. Liz Standish, Associate Superintendent of Business Affairs, and Scott Wieskamp, LPS Director of Facilities. A PowerPoint presentation similar to the one they used at this meeting can be found on the LPS website at http://www.lps.org/2014bond/ and through a link on the LPS Facebook page. Also, see **Attachment 1**.

- ***Details supporting the need for the proposed bond***

The presentation began with a map showing the population change in Lincoln and the change in the city limits over the past 30 years, as well as a map of school locations. Scott discussed how the school locations have a direct relationship to population density. LPS wants to concentrate on building schools in densely-populated areas to make sure that schools remain at or close to capacity. LPS doesn't want to build a school in an area where future growth ***may*** happen and risk having a partially full school.

Scott discussed the capacities at many schools, and talked about the positive impact of the successful 2006 School Bond. In 2006, there were more than 100 portables at the schools in the LPS district; now there are only 13. Scott also gave some other examples of positive results of the 2006 School Bond.

Scott discussed the criteria reviewed for creation of the 2014 School Bond proposal; Growth, Program Deficiencies, Safety & Security, Technology, and Good Planning. In September 2013, there was an initial proposal for $300 million that would have covered all foreseeable needs for the near future. After much thought and discussion, that proposal was reduced to $153 million. That is the amount that will be voted on in the 2014 School Bond Special Election. The two main needs that this bond addresses are the increase in student population and the need for technology improvements.

The current student population and its projected increase were illustrated, along with the locations and numbers of single-family residence building permits issued. Scott discussed the decrease in permits requested in the past and its relation to the economic changes over the past decade.

By holding a special election, there would be some increased costs -- approximately $200,000 -- directly related to the election itself. However, by holding the election early and (providing the bond issue passes) getting a head start on projects, there could be considerable savings -- $750,000-$900,000 or more. The savings would come from reductions of construction- related expenses, interest expenses, and costs of overall time management for the projects.

- ***Details of the Proposed Bond***

The 2014 bond funds would be used for: one new elementary school, one new middle school, one new career academy, additions and/or renovations to nine existing schools, and upgrades in facilities and technology throughout all schools in the city. The new bond would provide 2,200 new student seats throughout LPS. Scott encouraged meeting attendees to review flyers addressing how each individual school would be impacted by the 2014 bond issue. The flyers are available on the LPS website. Attendees were encouraged to share this and other bond information with fellow neighbors.

- ***Funding***

The 2014 bond issue will be funded without a tax levy increase because another bond will be maturing. If the 2014 bond does not pass, tax payers would see a decrease in their property taxes of about 4.2 cents, or approximately $65 per year for a $150,000 property.

- ***Voting***

Ballots will be mailed out to all 163,000 registered voters, as long as an accurate address is on file. Attendees were shown a sample ballot and reviewed how to complete it. The ballots will be mailed out between January 22nd and January 31st, 2014. All ballots must be completed and returned by February 11th, 2014. If a voter chooses to mail in their ballot, they should be mailed in time to arrive at the Election Office before the deadline.

- ***Questions***

There was a question about the future of Bryan School. In response, it was stated that the plans are for it to remain open, that there are no other schools on a list to be closed or repurposed such as Randolph school was. There was additional discussion about the new Career Academy that will be located at Southeast Community College's Lincoln Campus. The Career Academy will offer college level courses to high school students.

AT&T External Affairs

Beth Canuteson, Director of State External Affairs for AT&T, introduced herself and noted that she had passed out her card and a hand-out for everyone to read. Beth stated that she wanted everyone to have a contact with AT&T, so if we ever needed a contact or had questions around AT&T's activities in the community, we could reach out and contact her. See **Attachment 2**.

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Next Meeting / Agenda

The next meeting will be on February 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, County-City Building, in Lincoln, NE. The group decided that Jon Carlson and Assistant City Attorney Chris Connolly will discuss the vacant property ordinance.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Amy Karabel.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE BOND ISSUE:

- The 2014 bond issue addresses growth in the community and school district: The Lincoln Public Schools enrollment of more than 37,800 grew by 943 new students this school year. The bond issue will increase the capacity of LPS schools by adding 2,200 new seats through the construction of one new elementary, one new middle school, a high school career academy and a variety of additions and renovations across the community.
- The 2014 bond issue will provide enhanced security, a new high school career academy and infrastructure capable of supporting digital learning environments in schools throughout Lincoln.

FINANCIAL FACTS:

The 2014 bond issue will be funded based on the current levy rate with no planned levy increase.

In general, most school districts use two basic types of school funding:

- Operating funds pay for day-to-day expenses of running schools – things like salaries for teachers and counselors, secretaries and custodians – transportation – utilities – supplies and textbooks – gifted and special educational programs.
- Capital funds pay for new schools, major renovations and additions to older schools. The most common way of financing capital funds is through the sale of bonds. This money is then paid off over a number of years, through taxes. Bonds allow school districts to complete projects now, and pay them off gradually over time – much like a mortgage on your home.

ELECTION INFORMATION:

The special election to vote on a $153 million Lincoln Public Schools bond issue will be a mail-in election. The bond issue ballots will be mailed between Jan. 22 and 31, 2014 to all registered voters residing in the Lincoln Public Schools District. Ballots will be mailed first class with a return address from the Lancaster County Election Commissioner.

Voted ballots that are sealed in the "Return Identification Envelope" **must be in possession of the Election Commissioner of Lancaster County no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014**, by one of the following means:

- **U.S. Mail**: Place one first-class postage stamp on the envelope and mail so it is received no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014.
- **Hand Delivery**: Ballots may be delivered to the Election Commissioner of Lancaster County, 601 N. 46th Street, during regular office hours (8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- **Hand Delivery**: Ballots may be deposited at any time 24 hours a day in the ballot drop box located in front of the building located at 601 N. 46th Street.

All ballots must be in possession of the Election Commissioner of Lancaster County no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day: Feb. 11, 2014.

For more information about the Bond Issue contact Lincoln Public Schools at **402-436-1636.**

For information about the mail-in election contact the Lancaster County Election Commissioner at **402-441-7311 or dshively@lancaster.ne.gov.**

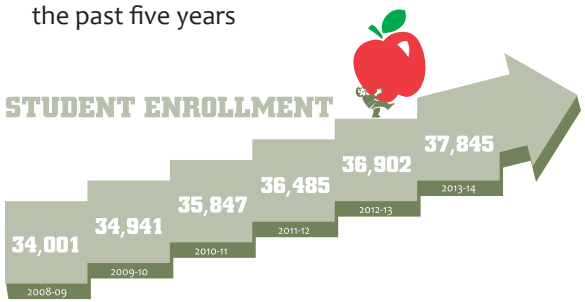
Attachment 1

FACTS ABOUT THE BOND 2014 ISSUE

On December 10, 2013, the Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education voted to place a $153 million bond issue on the ballot for a special election on February 11, 2014. The bond issue includes a new elementary school, a new middle school, a career academy, additions and renovations at existing facilities, and security and technology improvements throughout the community.

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY THE NUMBERS:

- **37,845**: Student enrollment for 2013-14
- **943**: Growth in students for the 2013-14 school year
- **3,149**: Number of LPS kindergartners for 2013-14
- **11%**: Growth of LPS student enrollment over the past five years



BACKGROUND:

Recommendations for projects in the 2014 bond issue came directly from the community. The initiative began as a grassroots effort with a group of 80 Lincoln stakeholders from the community – called together by the Lincoln Public Schools Superintendent – that identified more than $350 million facility and infrastructure needs.

The Lincoln Board of Education evaluated and analyzed the recommendations to create an updated 10-year facility and infrastructure plan to hone down the list. The school district has continually monitored and updated long-range plans to meet Lincoln's school facility needs through a 10-year facilities and infrastructure plan that focuses planning for LPS projects into the future.

WHY A BOND ISSUE?

ISSUE Growing Community/ Increasing Student Population

IMPACT OF BOND ISSUE:

- Add 2,200 new seats: 1,078 new elementary seats, 800 middle school and 375 high school.
- Construct a new elementary school.
- Construct a new middle school.
- Construct a high school career academy in partnership with Southeast Community College.
- Additions at Humann, Meadow Lane, Norwood Park, Pershing, Randolph and West Lincoln elementary schools, Park and Lefler middle schools and Lincoln Northeast High School.

ISSUE Security at Schools Throughout the Community

IMPACT OF BOND ISSUE:

- Secured entrances: Modify existing facilities to create secure entrances in our schools throughout the community.
- Secured access: Add security card access entries throughout the school district.
- Convert schools to Internet phone technology reducing the need for as many outside phone lines and enhancing system features.

ISSUE Technology at Schools Throughout the Community

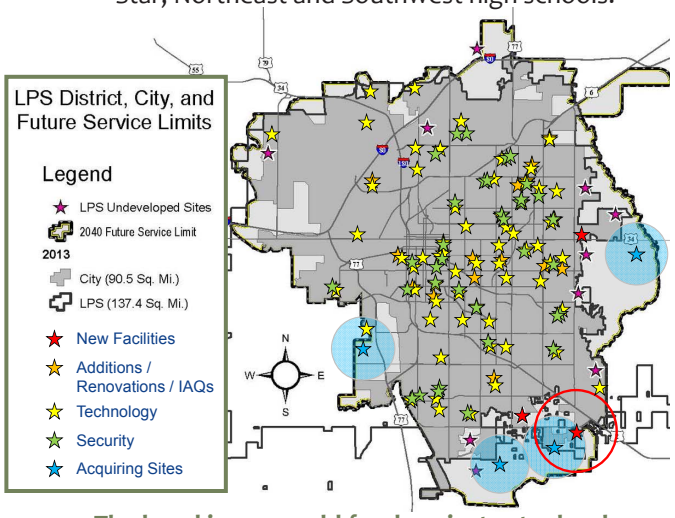
IMPACT OF BOND ISSUE:

- Update network components: Increase the bandwidth capacity of the fiber backbone that connects all school district sites to each other and the Internet.
- Increase wireless access: Upgrade cabling, switches, controllers and access points to provide the capacity required to deliver curriculum digitally.
- Convert classrooms to support technology: Outfit classrooms district wide with the infrastructure capable of supporting a digital learning environment.

ISSUE Maintaining Existing Facilities

IMPACT OF BOND ISSUE:

- Upgrade heating and cooling systems at Humann and Norwood Park elementary schools and Irving Middle School.
- Address program space deficiencies at Norwood Park, Randolph and West Lincoln elementary schools, Park and Lefler middle schools, Lincoln Northeast High School and Seacrest Activities Complex.
- Maintenance and infrastructure projects at Saratoga Elementary, East, Lincoln High, North Star, Northeast and Southwest high schools.



The bond issue would fund projects at schools throughout the community of Lincoln.

Attachment 2

AT&T Lincoln

building for tomorrow.

AT&T is investing billions nationally to build and expand access to the advanced networks that can help create jobs and fuel economic growth. From 2010 through 2012, AT&T invested more than $7.8 million in its wireless and wired networks in Lincoln to expand 4G LTE mobile internet coverage and enhance the overall performance of its networks. This significant investment over the past three years is delivering a stronger network performance and increasing reliability for our customers.

employment.

AT&T employed 122 people in Nebraska as of third quarter 2013, and our payroll represented $10.3 million in 2012. As of September 2013, we operate 75 retail outlets in the state, including 12 in the city of Lincoln.[1] With a workforce comprised nationally of 38 percent women and 39 percent people of color, AT&T has again been recognized as a leader in diversity and has been included in Diversity Inc's Top 50 Companies for Diversity. AT&T also ranked No. 1 for supplier diversity, No. 2 for LGBT employees and No. 3 for Latinos.

spending where we live.

AT&T spent more than $243 million on goods and services purchased from suppliers based in Nebraska in 2012. This spending supports jobs and economic activity in the state.

consumer demand.

In the past six years mobile usage has grown 30,000% on AT&T's network. According to AT&T's 2013 Small Business Poll, nearly all small businesses (98%) use wireless technologies in their operations, with two-thirds (66%) indicating they could not survive—or it would be a major challenge to survive—without them. Pew Research found that 91 percent of American adults own a cell phone and 56 percent now have a smartphone as of May 2013. And, CTIA has pointed out, more than 400,000 wireless E-911 calls are made everyday, nationwide.

federal rules on tower placement.

Congress and the FCC established minimum national standards for processing applications for new cell sites and for the collocation, replacement and removal of wireless equipment on existing cell sites. These standards address both the time period to process applications and the scope of review.

- **The FCC Shot Clock** requires a decision within 150 days for new sites and 90 days for collocations.
- **Section 6409** requires approval of applications involving the collocation, replacement and removal of wireless equipment that does not substantially change the size of the cell site.
- **Section 332** prevents denial of applications due to RF emissions issues if the site complies with FCC rules.

broadband and wireless coverage.

The new generation of Nebraskans has largely grown up with, and is comfortable with, technology. In fact, nearly two in five American homes have chosen to be wireless-only and have given up their landlines.[2] Consumers want access to wireless phone and broadband technology. The absence of broadband can make a community a less attractive location for new investment and development.

environmental impact.

We are committed to operating in a way that increases our efficiency and minimizes our impact on the environment. In 2012, AT&T realized annualized savings of $65 million through 5,600 energy-reducing projects. We also focused on cell phone recycling, launching a trade-in program and collecting approximately 3.1 million cell phones and 1.17 million pounds of batteries and accessories for reuse or recycling.

people power.

Each year, our employees and retirees work to enhance their communities by taking part in the AT&T Pioneers program by volunteering millions of hours. In 2012, AT&T employees and retirees in Nebraska donated more than 2,000 hours of personal time to community outreach activities—worth more than $62,000.

philanthropy.

Through philanthropic initiatives and collaboration, AT&T and the AT&T Foundation support projects that create opportunities, make connections and address community needs where we—and our customers—live and work. From 2010 through 2012, AT&T and its employees contributed more than $220,000 through corporate, employee and AT&T Foundation giving programs in Nebraska.

1 This figure consists of company owned retail stores, authorized dealerships and national retail stores. It excludes those stores managed via a 3rd-party aggregator that only sell prepaid handsets and airtime (e.g., dollar, convenience, and drug store chains).
2 CDC Wireless Substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, July-December 2012, National Center for Health Statistics, p.1, June 2013.

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