

At the very beginning of the meeting, Dr. Gibbons made a statement to the Board which included a recommendation to stop the analysis to close Woodin. At that point, Cathy Swanson asked for a motion to that effect. The motion was made by Janet Quinn and seconded by Sue Buske. Brief discussion was held. Cathy Swanson read a statement that although she felt the analysis and recommendations to date were sound, she felt that the timeframe within which they had to implement anything was too short, and, thus, she was in support of the motion. Janet Quinn also spoke and said that she supported the motion solely because of the issue of timing as well. Vote was taken and the motion passed. Then everyone CLAPPED and then CHEERED.

The rest of the evening was devoted to people asking questions of the Board about the budget. Cathy Swanson indicated this was not a meeting at which they were taking testimony but rather just answering questions. It was a very supportive atmosphere (as you can imagine) after the Board took its vote. Some of the people speaking had VERY impressive statistics and analysis to give to the Board regarding potential revenue streams for the district and different economies the district could make. A speaker suggested the Board set up a committee to manage this type of input from the public and work on strategizing and problem solving (working together). Senator Eric Oemig was in attendance at this meeting as well and spoke with several parents who were there.

One thing that the Board and Dr. Gibbons underscored was that this does not solve the budget crisis. This is true – we still need to advocate for MORE FUNDING from the state. Are you interested in following the work of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance, ***whose job is to change how we fund K-12 education in the State of Washington?*** We'd love to share with you what we have learned from attending their latest meeting and exchanging email with Task Force members.

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