

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Shannon Reynolds called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Brett L. Wittner, Karen Mauer-Smith, Hunter T. George, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present. Councilmember Brett L. Wittner attended the meeting virtually.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were none.

Mayor Reynolds reported that the regular City Council meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. and if public comment during the special meeting requires additional time, it may be continued during the regular meeting.

**WHITTIER SCHOOL REPLACEMENT PROJECT DISCUSSION**

City Manager Masko introduced representatives from the Tacoma Public Schools Planning and Construction Department to include Executive Director Morris Aldridge. Mr. Aldridge introduced Facilities Communication Coordinator Stacy Page and Parametrix Owner's Representative Jim Dugan.

The Tacoma Public Schools Planning and Construction team presented their plan to rebuild Whittier Elementary on its existing site to help keep students on school grounds throughout the construction. There was a brief discussion on the City's land use requirements and design considerations to include parking, building height limits, tree retention, and building footprint.

Tacoma Public Schools Planning and Construction team also reported on mitigation strategies for noise and dust during school hours, background checks and identification protocols for on-site workers.

City Manager Masko reported that the City's planning consultant reviewed the Tacoma Public Schools' questions and found no outstanding or major City code provisions that would prevent the project from moving forward.

Mayor Reynolds invited Council comment.

- Councilmember Viafore expressed appreciation for the efforts to address parent concerns about relocating students during the construction.
- Councilmember Bufford thanked the meeting attendees for their active participation and appreciated the student's safety considerations during the on-site construction process.

There was a brief discussion on the new building size. Tacoma Public Schools noted that the new building will be larger to accommodate projected student enrollment growth.

- Councilmember George commented on several items to include a thoughtful process for building a new school, the project timeline, traffic impacts, use of City owned property, environmental mitigation, parking, tree retention, and student recess. Tacoma Public Schools commented that a portion of Whittier Park may be used during the construction. The plan would be to clean up the debris after the construction is finished and potentially install artificial turf for recreation programming purposes.

- Councilmember Mauer-Smith commented on the thoughtful planning efforts, and understanding that there will be interim solutions to accommodate the construction.
- Councilmember Wittner stated he was optimistic about the project and its planning process.

Mayor Reynolds invited public comment. The following individuals provided comment in support of keeping the students on-site during the rebuild.

- Peter Ford, address not provided
- Emily Talberg, Whittier Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher
- Emily McBride, 1102 Magnolia Drive
- Katlin Coyne, 612 Electron Way
- Erin Meinershagen, 716 Regents Boulevard
- Kelsie Lane, 141 Cornell Street
- Chad McMullen, address not provided

Mayor Reynolds stated that further discussion will continue during the regular City Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.**

**The Motion Carried (7-0).**

  
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Shannon Reynolds, Mayor

  
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Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk