

Draft

**Minutes of the Board of Education  
Unified School District No. 435  
Dickinson County**

**Abilene, Kansas**

**November 25, 2013**

The Board of Education of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for a **special meeting** at the District Office at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 25, 2013.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 7:32 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray with the following members in attendance:

Barb Brittan	Mark Wilson	Randy Gassman
Gregg Noel	Debby Barbur	

Board member Jeff Bathurst arrived at 7:49 p.m. Others attending all or part of the meeting were Superintendent-Dr. Denise Guy, Assistant Superintendent-Chris Cooper, Board Clerk-Angie Schneider, Abilene Reflector Chronicle representative-Tim Horan and Maintenance Director-Dave Canfield.

It was moved by Mark Wilson to approve the **Agenda**. Gregg Noel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

At 7:32 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for the discussion of non-elected personnel matters in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed; matters relating to employer-employee negotiations and preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property and to return to open session in this room at 8:17 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session. Jeff Bathurst entered the Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:17 p.m.

At 8:17 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for the discussion of non-elected personnel matters in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed; matters relating to employer-employee negotiations and preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property and to return to open session in this room at 8:47 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session. Barb Brittan exited the meeting at 8:17 and reentered at 8:20.

The meeting reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

At 8:47 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for the discussion of non-elected personnel matters in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed; matters relating to employer-employee negotiations and preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property and to return to open session in this room at 9:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive

*Draft*

session. Debby Barbur exited the session at 8:47 and reentered at 8:49. Barb Brittan exited the session at 8:59 and reentered at 9:01.

The meeting reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

**Board-Administrator Communication** - At the special board meeting on November 11, 2013, Senator Arpke asked if Abilene had looked into the Innovative Schools Program. Chris updated board members on the subject. It was discovered that the deadline to apply for the program is this week. An application was written by Chris and presented to the building administrators for discussion. General consensus is that we can be innovative without the program and the exemptions that it would bring. During research, Chris and Denise felt that they presented the state with several questions that no one could answer. Such as, who do we answer to? It was decided to keep doing what we are doing and see how the program plays out in the future.

**Other** - Nothing was discussed during this segment.

**Facilities Update** - Denise summarized facility information from previous meetings for board members. Points included: facility study history, age of buildings, updates made throughout the years, changes in education, long range planning, financing and community benefit.

In addition to the summary, the high school band program had a testimonial which began by stating that band has grown from 31 students several years ago to 83 currently. Acoustics in the gym are not conducive to band performances and using the AHS auditorium is impossible. The flutists would have to turn sideways so they don't hit the person beside them, students would be behind walls and not visible and the director would be a half inch from falling off of the stage. Every other school in our league has the facilities to host band contests. There are so many things that we don't do simply because we don't have a place to do them. A whole band winter concert is nonexistent due to space. They have had to switch to smaller groups such as jazz or pep band. The spring concert is only doable because it is held in the bandshell at the park. They feel that this situation is embarrassing that we are the county seat and don't have a place big enough for a performance. A minimum of 800 seats is needed. Denise added that studies show that students who participate in extracurricular activities do better academically.

Other points regarding the facility study were: safety and security of the buildings, bond issue state aid of 39%, pieces of the proposed bond fit into a long range plan, good schools stimulate the economy by drawing young families to the community and that gyms/auditoriums bring people to our town that shop at our businesses.

The current plans and prices by HTK Architects were reviewed. Twenty-nine million dollars would cover all of the facility needs determined by the Facility Advisory Committee. Another suggestion from the committee was to pursue a sales tax percentage partnership with the city of Abilene. As reported at earlier meetings, the board has fallen short pursuing this partnership due to a negative majority vote by the city commission. A joint committee meeting with City Manager-David Dillner, Mayor-John Ray, a City Commissioner, Kari Porter-Murray, Barb Brittan, Jeff Bathurst, Denise Guy, AHS Principal-Ben Smith and Assistant AHS Principal-Will Burton was scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the high school. This meeting was intended to make sure that the city commissioners have

*Draft*

all of the information that they need and understand that all the board is asking them to do is let the voters decide. A tour of the high school, highlighting its needs, was also planned. One commissioner was not able to be in attendance. Those in attendance proceeded with the tour.

Several board members have had patrons express their disappointment at not being allowed to vote on the sales tax issue.

According to Barb Jones, County Clerk, a special election on April 1, 2014 would be ideal. There is already one scheduled for city commission elections for the cities of Herrington, Woodbine and Chapman. Denise reviewed the timeline for a bond issue and stated that a resolution would be needed from the board by December 12, 2013 in order to have a special election on the date mentioned above.

Discussion then turned back to the facility needs list. Board members asked the seating capacity for the current proposed auditorium and the answer was 650. Denise had already talked to Keith Blackburn of HTK regarding the additional 200 seats. It would add approximately \$600,000.00 to the price.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) was discussed next. Removing this from the needs list at the high school, Kennedy and McKinley would take \$6,000,000.00 off of the total cost. Dave Canfield was in attendance to answer questions regarding HVAC. Board members asked if these items could be addressed through the Capital Outlay fund. Dave answered yes, but cost wise, it would have to be over an 7 to 8 year period. HVAC is different than items such as a gym or auditorium. It can be done in phases instead of as a whole. Board members asked Dave to give them a vision for McKinley as an example. Dave said that HTK planned all of the HVAC on the list as high efficiency. To cut costs, Dave would begin by going with a mid efficiency. McKinley has 2 boilers, so it could be split into phases. Kennedy and the high school would be tougher as both buildings have 1 boiler that heats their entire buildings. Heat pumps are an option. They are quieter than window air conditioners. There are a few already in use at the high school. One of them has been troublesome. The entire district got new window air conditioners in 1992. Some have been replaced as needed. They are definitely cheaper than central air, but the teachers don't like the noise. Dave is not sure if HTK's HVAC prices include plumbing. The district has already started on a 5 year plan to replace bathrooms at the buildings.

One board member felt that the HVAC should be left on the plan so we can receive the 39% state aid. Any projects that are handled through Capital Outlay will not receive this aid. Others said that they'd be more comfortable with a figure in the 23 million dollar range vs 29 million. Capital Outlay mill levy for the district is currently set at 3.499. The board can raise it up to 8 if they wish to generate additional funds. The approximate balance in this fund is 1.7 million dollars.

In further discussion, one board member mentioned that some patrons are confused, thinking that this plan replaces our current gym. That is not the case, the new gym would be in addition to our current gym, as well as another one at the proposed new 4th-5th grade building. The additional gym space is needed as we have the least amount of gym space in our league. Removing the new gym from the plan is not feasible as that would create a domino effect on the rest of the plan. High school activities begin at 5:30 a.m. and don't end until 7:30 p.m., later on game nights.

*Draft*

Denise handed out bond finance information provided earlier in the year by Steve Shogren of George K. Baum and Company. The difference between property taxes on 23 million dollars and 27 million dollars was summarized.

Lots of discussion followed. One board member suggested just going for the bond now and pursuing the sales tax in a year. Dave was asked if the HVAC at the new gym and auditorium would be separate from the current high school building and it will. However, more outlets/breakers are needed at the high school now.

Board members would like Denise to get additional information from HTK. They want to know: if there are cheaper ways to address HVAC; details on what the HVAC dollars cover; clarify if a cafeteria addition at the high school is included in the current price and clarification on what is included in the new bus barn price. An idea of what an 8 year HVAC plan through Capital Outlay would look like was also requested. Samples of resolutions will be attained from George K. Baum and Company for board member review. Board members asked Dave if architects would be needed if we were to do the HVAC ourselves. Yes was the answer, we would need mechanical and structural engineers.

General consensus of the group is that the big picture is in tact. They just need to decide if HVAC should be included in the bond or not.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Barb Brittan to **Adjourn** the meeting. Randy Gassman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

---

CLERK

---

PRESIDENT