

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

Abilene, Kansas

January 21, 2013

The Board of Education of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for a **special meeting** at the District Office at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2013. Dinner was provided.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 6:04 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray with the following members in attendance:

Gregg Noel

Dale Koop

Barb Brittan

Board member Debby Barbur arrived at 6:10 p.m. Board member Randy Gassman arrived at 6:20 p.m. Board member Mark Wilson arrived at 6:50 p.m. Others attending all or part of the meeting were Dr. Denise Guy, Keith Blackburn, Angie Schneider, Chris Cooper, Ben Smith, Will Burton, Greg Heinrichs, Dave Canfield, Ron Wilson and Tom Schwartz

It was moved by Barb Brittan to approve the **Agenda**. Gregg Noel seconded and the motion carried.

Keith Blackburn of HTK Architects was in attendance to update board members on our current **Facility Study**. Drawings/pictures for additions/renovations at each building, along with a twenty-three million dollar shopping list, were handed out by Keith. At which point, he stressed that it was just a shopping list and we don't have to buy everything on it. A priority of the plans is increased safety at each building. This was accomplished by renovating the administrative areas so that they are the main entrance. Access to the rest of the building cannot be attained without passing through them. Each elementary building would gain a new gym or cafeteria and classrooms to replace the ones that would be renovated for administrative space.

The bus drop zone at Kennedy is a concern of Greg Heinrichs, Kennedy administrator. The plan for Kennedy proposed moving the drop zone to the east side of the building. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Additions and renovations at McKinley were pretty straight forward and there was little discussion.

Garfield plans included replacing the 2 modular classrooms that are currently used for art, music and computer lab. The additions noted in the plans take up a lot of the playground blacktop and Chris Cooper, Garfield administrator, feels that more will need to be added. Growth at Garfield is not considered in the plans and will need to be.

Science and special ed are the main concerns at the middle school. The additions and renovations appear to address all of their needs except the size of the commons area. It could be larger to accommodate concerts and meetings.

There were lengthy discussions about the plans for the high school. Some of the needs addressed in the plans are: more gym space for practices, more locker rooms, moving the administrative area to the northwest side of the building and enlarging the cafeteria. Board members think that there could be issues with the city by moving the offices and cafeteria closer to 14th Street. Also discussed was a new multipurpose building that would be located where the bus barn currently sits. Much discussion followed. The plans and costs covered this evening did not include moving the transportation department or any improvements at the football/track field.

Another concern is using all of the additions in a way that would allow us to get the most state aid dollars for them.

Keith asked meeting attendees if they thought it is feasible to renovate Garfield. There were mixed views. He then mentioned that there are several companies that purchase school buildings and renovate them into apartments or elderly housing and thinks that selling Garfield would be no problem. If the board chooses to pursue a new Garfield building, Keith can provide them with the names of possible buyers. The fact that Garfield is on the Historic Register would benefit buyers. This is something that we should have lined up before going to the public for a General Obligation Bond.

The next facility study meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

There was no **Executive Session**.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Barb Brittan to **Adjourn** the meeting. Gregg Noel seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

CLERK

PRESIDENT