

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

**Abilene, Kansas**

**February 4, 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, February 4, 2013. Dinner was provided.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 6:05 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray with the following members in attendance:

Dale Koop	Barb Brittan	Debby Barbur
Mark Wilson	Randy Gassman	

Board member Gregg Noel was ill and could not attend. 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, RonWilson and Tom Schwartz.

It was moved by Debby Barbur to approve the **Agenda**. Dale Koop seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Keith Blackburn of HTK Architects was in attendance to update board members on our current **Facility Study**. Updated drawings and prices were handed out. Keith gave a brief summary of the things that had changed since his last visit on January 21, 2013. Kennedy - parking/bus drop; McKinley - no changes; Garfield - moved the additions as far north as possible (increasing the courtyard); AMS - no changes and AHS - numerous changes. Trying to make the high school secure and meeting their needs/ desires has been a challenge. One drawing showed the multi purpose room located at the football field. Another showed three possible locations for a new auditorium. An addition was added to the vocational building. The location of new administrative space was moved to the southeast corner of the building. Different ways to meet the needs and desires, while spending the least amount of money, were discussed.

A drawing that depicted a possible new 4-5 building at our 11th and Vine property was among the handouts. This scenario would allow for expansions in the future if it were to be updated to a K-5 building. The proposed renovations to Garfield would cost approximately 3.8 million dollars. A new building would cost approximately 5.1 million. This building would have a separate cafeteria and gym. It was suggested that this gym could be used before and after school hours as a practice gym for the high school. If this is done, the space for a proposed practice gym at the high school could be used for a new auditorium, saving the 4-5 million dollar price of a separate one. This would also allow the current auditorium to be renovated into multi purpose space. Changing the location of the possible new 4-5 building, if feasible, to the practice football field, would make the gym more accessible.

Keith informed board members that this information is very basic and would need to be whittled down to get more detailed prices.

Dr. Guy asked Keith if he had been in communication with his contacts that may be interested in purchasing the existing Garfield building if we opt to build a new facility. The answer was yes, but nothing concrete had come from the communication. Companies that purchase this type of building usually renovate them into retirement communities, although anything can be done with them. Garfield is a prime choice because an elevator has been installed and it is on the historic register, making more tax credits available. The price normally paid in these situations is usually around \$30,000.00.

Dr. Guy shared information received from Steve Shogren of George K. Baum & Company. Steve assists districts with general obligation bond issues and the resolutions necessary. USD #435 has worked with him on past bond issues.

A 5 minute break was requested at 7:13 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray. There were no objections. Keith, building administrators and Dave Canfield all left at this time.

The meeting reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

School districts currently receive 36% state aid on bond & interest. Steve believes that this should be pursued aggressively as the governor is trying to do away with this state aid. Keith believes that we could be ready for a resolution by this March. After that, Steve needs 90 days to complete his portion, allowing a special election this June. The general consensus of board members was that this timeframe would rush them too much. They want to ask the community for the least amount of money possible to improve the district. Rushing decisions could lead to renovations that may be deemed unnecessary in a few years. If passed, this will be a 20 year bond and board members want their decisions to reflect longevity.

Dr. Guy asked board members to prioritize district needs: get Garfield taken care of via renovation or a new building; alleviate the administrative/special ed space at the middle school and making the entrances of all schools as secure as possible topped the list. Dr. Guy will take these priorities to the administrators for input.

Additional state aid, on new construction, is paid to schools for 3 years. However, in order to be eligible for this aid, the space has to be occupied by students on a daily basis, making that an important consideration.

Some of the items needed by the district could possibly be handled through capital outlay. Dr. Guy is generating a 5 year plan for this.

Questions and ideas that came up after Keith left will be taken to him by Dr. Guy. She will also set up our next facility study meeting.

There was no **Executive Session**.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dale Koop to **Adjourn** the meeting. Barb Brittan seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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CLERK

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PRESIDENT