

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

**Abilene, Kansas**

**May 8, 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 Wednesday, May 8, 2013. Dinner was provided.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 6:03 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray with the following members in attendance:

Dale Koop	Barb Brittan	Mark Wilson
Randy Gassman	Gregg Noel	Debby Barbur

Others attending all or part of the meeting were Dr. Denise Guy, Keith Blackburn, Dave Canfield, Angie Schneider, Ben Smith, Chris Cooper, Tom Schwartz, Greg Heinrichs, Juanita Tischauer, Jeff Bathurst, 3 Boy Scouts, their leader and one patron.

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

Keith Blackburn of HTK Architects was in attendance to present revised plans and prices to board members regarding our current **Facility Study**. At the close of the last Facility Study meeting on February 27, 2013, Dr. Guy shared 3 possible dollar amounts for our proposed bond issue, recommended by Steve Shogren of George K. Baum & Company. They were 15 million, 18.5 million and 23.5 million. Steve thought the 23.5 million could be a little hard to pass, so board members opted to have Keith trim down the list of potential renovations/additions/upgrades to total 18.5 million.

Keith handed out drawings/price lists showing the reductions he made. In order to get the price down to 18.5 million, he had to completely remove everything from both Kennedy and McKinley. The proposed work at the middle school, was cut in half, with additions on the east end of the building only. Renovating or building new offices at these 3 buildings, to improve security, was also removed from the list.

Plans at the high school were tweaked but still included a new auditorium, practice gym, multi-purpose room and office addition for security purposes. These plans also included moving of the bus barn to make room for more parking, as the auditorium and gym would take up much of the current parking. One thing removed from the high school was an addition to the vocational building.

Plans for a new 4th/5th grade building at our 11th & Vine property remained the same.

New locker rooms and storage at the football field were removed from the list of projects.

After reviewing the plan changes, Keith summarized the price reductions which were still 19.7 million which is higher than the target of 18.5. Keith said that this amount includes 6% for escalation and \$500,000 in contingency for unforeseen issues.

Board members were very disappointed in the removal of security measures. One of the big ticket items is the new auditorium. All felt that it would be a wonderful addition not only for the schools but for Abilene as a whole. Keith was asked if there is a Wal Mart version of the auditorium. He said that the costs could probably be lowered a little, but that would also lower the quality. Removing the new practice gym from the high school was also discussed. Board members wondered if the gym at the new 4th/5th grade building could be built to be a practice/competition gym. It could, but Mr. Cooper reminded them that it would also be used daily for the ABC after school program. Board members feel that an auditorium will be easier to sell to the public than a new practice gym. However, Dr. Guy had a visit from a student's grandparent recently. Their comment after attending their grandchild's sporting events was that the district has some work to do.

There was much discussion on various ways to try to meet the needs of the district and keep the amount of the bond issues as low as possible. The need for a new 4th/5th grade building was the driving force behind the facility study. Board members felt that they should go for that only or for everything on the list...no middle ground. General consensus of the board is that they should go big or go home. Attempt to get a bond issue amount to upgrade the whole district and let the chips fall where they may. By going for a middle amount, there would be a need to go back to the public in 5 or 10 years for what they weren't able to do now. They also felt it's very important to address safety in all of the buildings. That will be very important to the public in this day and age.

Another key thing that they considered is what to do with the current Garfield 4th/5th grade building. One possibility is to sell it to a company that turns old schools in to senior citizen apartments. The purchase price is generally in the \$30,000 range. Another option is to keep it and turn it into an early learning center for the district. Dr. Guy did some research on these services in Abilene. We could combine several of these services in the Garfield building. These services include, Head Start, the special education coop, special education pre school play groups, PAT offices and PAT play group. Several of these services pay rent at their current locations. By converting Garfield to an early learning center, we could probably reduce their rent and have income from the rent to help with the upkeep of the building which has been an issue in the past. However, it now has a brand new elevator and boiler. Keith thinks that the decision on what to do with it, will be important to the public.

Next board members asked about the time frame if they are to pursue a bond issue. Keith said that in order to have a special bond issue in November of 2013, they would have to have a formal resolution to the state 90 days prior to the election which would be August of 2013. The resolution would need to include the total amount of the bond and the big categories...no amounts or details within the categories.

Keith said that the board's next step is to come up with a committee of community members to get ideas and help sell the bond issue to the public. Dr. Guy would like a list of names from board members prior to their regular meeting on Monday, May 13, 2013. Committee members should be queried on what they think the public would support.

According to Keith, he has worked frequently with K. Baum & Company who will also offer lots of assistance to the district during this process.

Board members decided to have Keith address all of the district needs, bumping the list of projects/price back up to the 23.5 million price. They will work on getting the community committee set up and schedule another facility study meeting for late May. They thanked Keith for his assistance and patience. Keith said that they are making progress, even if they don't think that they are.

Dr. Guy reminded board members of their upcoming Strategic Plan meetings coming up on June 7-8, 2013.

A 5 minute break was requested at 8:10 p.m. There were no objections. The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

At 8:15 p.m., Mark Wilson 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; matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Gregg Noel and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Guy was invited to join the executive session. Dr. Kari Porter-Murray announced that there could be possible action following the last executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

At 9:00 p.m., Dale Koop 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; matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Randy Gassman and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Guy was invited to join the executive session. Dr. Kari Porter-Murray announced that there could be possible action following the last executive session.

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Dale Koop and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Guy was invited to join the executive session. Dr. Kari Porter-Murray announced that there could be possible action following the last executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 9:40 p.m.

Debby Barbur moved to accept the resignation of John Niehus, AHS business/technology teacher. The motion was seconded by Randy Gassman and the motion carried unanimously.

Debby Barbur moved to accept the resignation of Kristy Stover, 4th grade teacher. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously.

Barb Brittan moved to accept the retirement of Rudi Graefe, Garfield media specialist. The motion was seconded by Gregg Noel and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Wilson to **Adjourn** the meeting. Randy Gassman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

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CLERK

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PRESIDENT