

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

**Abilene, Kansas**

**October 30, 2013**

The Board of Education of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for a **special meeting** at the District Office at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2013.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 7:00 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray with the following members in attendance:

Barb Brittan	Mark Wilson	Jeff Bathurst
Randy Gassman	Gregg Noel	Debby Barbur

Others attending all or part of the meeting were Superintendent-Dr. Denise Guy, Assistant Superintendent-Chris Cooper, Board Clerk-Angie Schneider, HTK Architect representative-Keith Blackburn, Maintenance Director-Dave Canfield, Abilene Reflector Chronicle representative-Tim Horan and Dennis Weishaar.

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

**Facility Study** - Keith began by passing out a Basic Preliminary Estimate that included the wishes of the Facility Advisory Committee/Board of Education and the prices that go along with them. Pictures that depicted each site with the additions/renovations were also handed out. Discussion and questions followed.

Keith then introduced a 20 year master plan for the high school. Denise has had numerous people comment that we need a new high school so she had Keith come up with a plan that addresses that need in the future. This plan would allow us to keep the gym, auditorium and administrative space that are included in the current proposed bond issue.

A districtwide long-range plan was also presented. It showed the new high school mentioned above and how additions to the currently proposed new 4-5 building would work. Keith thinks that in 20 years, McKinley will be deteriorated enough that the students will need to be moved. In his opinion, Kennedy offers the most architectural options for the future. Moving K-1 to the new 4-5 building would be a possibility. If done correctly, Keith said that a K-5 building could still be run as attendance centers.

Board members asked Keith what the life expectancy of HVAC systems are. The large units, heating/cooling, are normally warrantied for 20 years, however they usually last 30 years. Electrical systems are generally good for 50 years. Keith said that our buildings have been maintained nicely and the fact that we did renovation projects throughout the years has helped.

Discussion then moved back to the current proposed bond issue. If all of the information presented this evening is pursued, the total amount needed would be \$27,555,650.00. An additional \$900,000.00 would need to be added for fees, etc.

Board members asked Denise how this decision would impact our early childhood development and support services. She said that we would just keep doing what we are doing. Headstart is currently housed in a modular building at Kennedy that will need replaced at some point. Parents as Teachers, technology support, Dickinson County Learning Exchange and our copy center are currently located at 11th and Mulberry in one of the first buildings that was built by the high school building trades class. It will eventually need replaced also. Keith commented that he believes that school districts will continue to get more responsibility for early childhood development.

One board member asked if we could take care of some of the items on the list by increasing our Capital Outlay mill levy. We are currently at 3.5 and can go up to 8. Another board member commented that if this is done, we would lose the 39% state aid that is available for bonds and that the district's total mill levy would still increase by approximately the same amount. Board members asked Dave if the money generated by increasing Capital Outlay mill levy would be enough to tackle the HVAC and electrical at McKinley. Dave believes that it would cover the electrical, but not the HVAC.

Discussion then turned to the loss earlier this week of exploring a dedicated or general sales tax with the city of Abilene. At their commission meeting on October 28, 2013, a resolution that would entertain discussion with the district, to allow voters to decide if they would support this sales tax, failed by a vote 2 to 3. Since this option lost, one board member asked what the others thought of splitting the bond into 2 questions on the ballot. One would be for the gym and auditorium at the high school and the other would be for everything else that has been proposed. This spurred a lot of discussion. One concern raised was what if the gym/auditorium passed, but the rest didn't. Another board members thinks that we should just go for it all with a spring 2014 special election. If it doesn't pass, then we can consider other options to put on the ballot of the November 2014 elections. The possibility of losing state aid could become an issue if a bond isn't passed prior to the end of the upcoming legislative session. However, some board members believe that the legislators won't take the aid away at this point since we are coming into an election year. Board members also worry that if the bond issue doesn't pass the first time, it may get more and more difficult each time we try.

One of the city commissioners was in the audience. Board members asked him if the possible sales tax discussion is dead. The answer was no, we just need to change one vote. We can go to the city as many times as we'd like. Board members allowed him to address them. He feels that if the bond issue is split into 2 questions, the public won't believe that they are totally behind it. Focusing on the solution is better than focusing on the problem. He'd like to see them support the Facility Advisory Committee that they put together. If items are removed from the list today, it may be more difficult to put them back on tomorrow. Selling their story the first time should be pursued, with cutting/splitting used as a last resort.

Board members asked how much of a voter spread there was on the last bond issue. Two-thirds to one-third in favor is what most recalled.

Board members don't feel that they are ready to make a final decision on the bond issue yet and they certainly don't want to discount the work of the Facility Advisory Committee.

Denise was asked what kind of feedback we have received from staff. Both she and Chris said that it has been mostly positive with several believing that we need a new high school. Board members commented that they are comfortable with the fact the Denise had Keith address this with the long-range plans presented earlier in the evening. This should also ease the minds of voters that have these same concerns. Board members were asked if they want to leave district needs for our children to take care of. No was the answer, however they feel that we have done well in maintaining and improving our buildings.

Keith was asked what he can do to help us tell our story. Brochures and information on our website are a couple of things. Steve Shogren of George K. Baum and Company will also have a hand in this portion of the bond issue. Keith did let board members know that they are only allowed to share non-partisan information, no opinions. He also warned about putting too much information out as it will give people something to throw darts at.

Denise reminded board members that in order to have a special election in March or April of 2014, they have to have a resolution ready by December 2013 or January 2014.

Kari asked board members what they need in order to make a decision. General consensus is that they would like another shot at talking to the city about sales tax assistance. With this in mind, Denise will set up a joint meeting with the city. Board members willing to be present at this meeting are: Kari, Jeff and Barb. Mark will be an alternate. Board members asked if the city commissioners have received accurate information on the bond issue. Denise said she believes so as we had a city employee and commissioner on the Facility Advisory Committee. This meeting will allow the district to elaborate on the details/information and answer any questions the the commissioners may have.

Prior to the next facility study meeting, Denise will also attain a proposed payment schedule from Steve Shogren for the project amount plus fees. She sill also have Steve clarify if the bond issue and tax question (if allowed) are tied together on the ballot.

Keith was thanked for his services.

A 5 minute break was requested at 9:00 p.m. There were no objections. The meeting reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

At 9:05 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 matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 9:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

At 9:50 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 and matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 10:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Randy Gassman and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

At 10:00 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 matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 10:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Randy Gassman and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

At 10:10 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 matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 10:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:20 p.m.

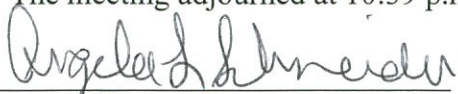
At 10:20 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for the discussion of non-elected personnel matters in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed; matters relating to employer-employee negotiations and matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 10:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Randy Gassman and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:30 p.m.

**Board-Administrator Communication** - Randy has agreed to be the board's representative at the Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce governmental forum scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 in the library auditorium of the Eisenhower Presidential campus. Questions that will be asked at the forum were discussed.

Mark Wilson made a motion to have Gregg Noel serve as our delegate alternate at the Kansas Association of School Board annual convention December 6-8, 2013. Randy Gassman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Barb Brittan to **Adjourn** the meeting. Mark Wilson seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.



CLERK



PRESIDENT