

**Minutes of the Community Facility Advisory Group
Unified School District No. 435
Dickinson County**

Abilene, Kansas

June 28, 2013

The Community Facility Advisory Group of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for a meeting at the Abilene High School Media Center at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2013.

Dr. Guy introduced Keith Blackburn of HTK Architects and then briefed attendees on the road that led to the facility study. In the past several years, McKinley and Kennedy both received additional classrooms to their buildings. Garfield was next in line when the bottom dropped out of educational funding and they did not receive an addition. This was the driving force behind the facility study. During the 2011-2012 school year, the district hired Dr. Kent G. Stewart to do perform this task. Many items were included in the study including: enrollment trends, school building details, building maintenance and recommendations. The completed study was made available to board members on June 11, 2012. Meeting attendees also received a copy of the study. Dr. Guy summarized the study, directing attention to Dr. Stewart's recommendations.

One of the items mentioned in the study was strategic planning meetings. The district has already implemented some of these meetings. Attendees at them will overlap with the Community Facility Advisory Group. A handout showing the results of the strategic planning meetings was disbursed.

Dr. Guy commented that the district maintains our buildings well, however, the needs have changed since the 1950s. Some of the things that have influenced these changes are: legislative action, the education of all students and the way teaching takes place.

A summary of Abilene Area School District Mill Rates was handed out. Abilene has a Total Mill rate of 45.712 and a Bond & Interest Mill rate of 2.359. Both of these rates put us near the bottom of the list vs. other districts in our area. Also included was a summary of how different bond issue amounts would affect the property taxes of patrons. Attendees had a couple of questions for Dr. Guy and Keith regarding mill levies. They answered the questions to the best of their ability and offered to have our bond and interest expert in attendance at the next meeting.

Keith then took over the meeting stating that his goal for this group, is to look over the facility study plans and make a recommendation to the board on whether a bond issue should be pursued. If the recommendation is yes, an election can be scheduled for November 2013, January 2014 or April 2014. Keith's recommendation is January 2014. He feels that November 2013 is not realistic and that April 2013 may be too late. One of the perks to having new construction is that districts receive extra funding on any new facility space that is used by students. The legislature has talked about taking this funding away. If a bond issue is pursued and passed in January 2014, we would still receive the funding no matter what the legislature decides next session. Keith then explained the timeframe of bond issues and summarized the process.

A projector and screen were used to show attendees some of proposals, detailing what changes/additions need to be made and the costs that would apply. Board members have seen the proposals at facility study

meetings earlier in the year. Keith explained that he spent a lot of time at each building, with the principals and staff before developing the proposals to meet each of their needs. Security at the buildings and Garfield are the main concerns. The last proposal provided to board members in May 2013 would call for a bond issue of 23 million dollars. Attendees received hard copies of the plans before leaving the meeting.

Some discussion ensued with the general consensus of the group being that an addition to Garfield wouldn't fix the problem. Another concern of the group is what would become of Garfield if a new 4-5 building is built. Keith informed them that there are companies that purchase this type of building and then turn them into old folks apartments, etc. Warning them that the purchase price is minimal. Dr. Guy stated that there are other options for Garfield that could be discussed at future meetings.

More questions and discussion followed.

Dr. Guy said that attendees had received a lot of information in a short time and that she'd like them to take some time and process it. Group members will be informed of the next meeting. There were a few invitees that could not be in attendance this evening. This information will be disbursed to them as well.

Attendees were thanked for their time and willingness to serve.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.