

**Minutes of the Facility Advisory Committee Meeting
Unified School District No. 435
Dickinson County**

Abilene, Kansas

September 11, 2013

The Facility Advisory Committee of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for a meeting in the District Office at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2013.

Dr. Guy addressed the committee, stating that her goal for the evening was to: narrow down the list of district needs, get the prices for them and rearrange the list according to the committee's wishes.

Steve Shogren of George K. Baum & Company took the floor next, introducing his son, Bret Shogren. Bret is the newest employee of the company. Several handouts were dispersed. The first showed the history of our Bond & Interest state aid percentage. It is currently at the highest rate that it's ever been.

Mill Levy Assumptions was the second handout covered. It showed how home owner and property owner taxes would be affected should a bond issue pass.

Steve then made a suggestion that the district consider partnering with the city to pursue a dedicated sales tax to help pay for the project. In order for this to happen, it would need the city's approval and be a separate vote at the special election if a bond issue is pursued. A dedicated sales tax has a 10 year limit. Since Abilene is a tourist town, the outside traffic would help pay for the project. Much discussion followed. If the sales tax passed and the bond issue did not, we would not be obligated to access the tax. The bond issue election would be district wide, but the sales tax election would be city wide.

HTK Architect's Keith Blackburn then addressed the committee. Drawing and price scenarios were handed out regarding district wide improvements, with Garfield being the driving force. Keith summarized the scenarios and informed committee members that they have all been reviewed by our Board of Education. The advice given to board members was to pursue a bond issue to build a new 4-5 building that would have the potential to be expanded as our other elementary buildings age. Pros and cons of a new building versus renovating the current Garfield building were discussed. There is only a 2.6 million dollar difference between renovation and a new building. Keith said that isn't much more for what we'd get if we built new.

Dr. Guy then took Keith's price estimates and placed them in a spreadsheet of the committee's priority list determined at an earlier meeting. The floor was open for discussion. One committee member feels that the location where the new building would be built at 11th and Vine is safer than the current location at 7th and Cedar. A couple of committee members expressed their wishes to renovate the current Garfield building and not build a new structure. Others are concerned about what would be done to preserve the current Garfield which is in the Historic Register. One option is re-purposing the building to an early childhood development center. The committee would like to see an estimate of what this would cost. Keith cautioned them that children under second grade cannot be on stairs.

A vote was then taken regarding a new building versus majorly renovating the current one. Nine were in favor of a new building with 2 in favor of the renovation.

Dr. Guy gave committee members things to consider as they move forward. Where do they want to draw the dollar line? What amount do they think the community would support?

Steve Shogren gave examples of other districts that gave their community choices at elections and felt that the people appreciated having choices. The results of an election gives our Board of Education the authority, but not the obligation. Some committee members liked the idea of choices. Steve cautioned that the down side to this is that the community could be confused and vote wrong. Keith said that this type of vote is common but that the questions need to be clearly defined.

Facility Advisory Committee members scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. to finalize their thoughts before presenting to our Board of Education at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 14, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.