

FACILITY STUDY COMMITTEE

October 29, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. – Olpe Chicken House/Dinner – Olpe Elementary Meeting Room

Members Present: Mike Argabright, Mike Klumpe, Jerry Haag, Linda Davis, Jill Davis, Michelle Barnhart, Dorothy Dunn, Bill Ballinger, Lisa Mautz, Don Roberts and Gwen Wellnitz

Members Absent: Mike Rhudy and Emily Darbyshire

Others Present: Jeanette Schmidt, Bill Warner, Shari Hatfield and Brenda Redeker

The meeting started with dinner at the Olpe Chicken House at 6:00 p.m. with 14 attending. It continued at 7:20 in the Olpe Elementary Meeting Room.

Superintendent Argabright started the meeting with corrections to the Minutes from the October 15, 2008 Meeting – Michelle Barnhart expressed concerns for the time allowed for students to eat lunch at Olpe Schools due to feeding K-12 students in approximately one hour.

Jerry Haag (Don Roberts) made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2008 meeting with the correction as presented. Motion Carried. (10-0)

Superintendent Argabright recommended appointing a Chair and Vice Chair for the committee to preside over the meetings and present information to the Board of Education. Superintendent Argabright recommended Don Roberts as Chair since he was a previous Board member but he declined due to conflict with meeting dates of the Fair Board which he was also a member; that he could be Vice Chair. Mr. Argabright then recommended Jerry Haag as the Chair since he also was a former Board member. Linda Davis (Michelle Barnhart) made the motion to appoint Jerry Haag as Chair and Don Roberts as Vice Chair for the Facility Study Committee. Motion Carried. (8-0 with Jerry Haag and Don Roberts abstaining)

Olpe:

Bill Warner, Principal of the Olpe and Neosho Rapids Elementary schools presented needs from the Strategic Plan with regards to Olpe Elementary. Those needs and concerns are: increase the size of the playground and replacing the mobile units with at least four additional classrooms. Also needed are a Music Room with storage, Special Education Room, Early Start Room and Resource Room. The “what if” St. Joe school would close scenario was brought up and that our current facility could not accommodate their approximate 60 students if needed. Jerry Haag mentioned that we need to focus on the district’s immediate needs and plans for the future. Current classroom numbers are approximately 16-22 students each with 20 students per classroom being the ideal maximum according to Principal Warner. If building onto the current elementary was the plan, which direction would you build on with the concerns of space for playground and parking. Numbers at the Jr./Sr. High School are approximately 161 and in a few years could have as many as 200 students due to current enrollment numbers. They would also have additional needs for classrooms. Ideas were brought up of having a new elementary built on another site and using the current elementary facility as grades 6-12. This would address most of the current needs of the 7-12 building with some improvements. The next question was where would there be enough land to construct an elementary with the recommended acres for a new building design. It was noted that it was more important to have room for our students’ education than constructing an all-weather track(s) in the District.

Shari Hatfield, Principal of the Olpe Jr./Sr. High School presented needs from the Strategic Plan with regards to the 7th thru 12th grades. A larger Music/Band room was needed for practice and storage. A need for another computer lab due to the fact that the two current labs are in classrooms and can only be used during that teacher’s plan period and the third lab only had approximately 11 computers. Concerns for a meeting room and other classroom shortages were brought up as some teachers are “doubled up” in classrooms. If future enrollment increased, a shortage of classrooms and staff would be great concerns. The older part of the

high school has smaller classrooms than the new added classrooms and the restrooms by the old gym need to be brought up to compliance. The Shop area needs updated with a ventilation system and air conditioning; and the P.E. and Track area has drainage problems. Each year brings new challenges from a facility standpoint. Bill Ballinger added that the roof top units have a lot of age on them and it would be recommended to replace a few at a time. It would also save money and be more efficient to hook the old systems into the computerized system to be controlled at the central office.

Linda Davis mentioned the humidity problems in the Olpe Elementary due to the moisture under the building. The moisture was also affecting the tile flooring and is probably due to the drainage problem on the north side of the building and kitchen area.

Michelle Barnhart mentioned that new construction was easier to work with than reworking current buildings. The elementary was built on in 1991 and the additional three classrooms were added in 1996.

How many times a building could be added to was discussed. The oldest part of the building at Olpe is in the center. This area is over 50 years old and has several concerns. Dorothy Dunn suggested finding out a price comparison of items from the Strategic Plan to those of purchased land and construction of a new elementary.

Jerry Haag asked for a motion to direct Superintendent Argabright to present the pros and cons of building on or new construction to the Board of Education at their next meeting. Michelle Barnhart (Lisa Mautz) made the motion to direct Superintendent Argabright to investigate the purchase of land for the construction of a new elementary or additions to current building with the Board of Education so that more accurate cost comparisons and long term planning may be implemented. Motion Carried. (10-0)

Neosho Rapids:

Superintendent Argabright mentioned that he thought Neosho Rapids Elementary should have their own gym for the students and that the layout may be a factor because of the drainage situation. Neosho Rapids needs rooms for the Specialty Teachers, Counselor and District Nurse. Gwen Wellnitz suggested a gym area with a few classrooms and meeting area.

Hartford:

Don Roberts mentioned that the family who donated the lot at Hartford would be satisfied if it had a Shop or Weight room constructed on it as long as it benefited the kids.

Mike Klumpe mentioned that the shop ventilation systems should be a “must” at all schools.

Thanks was given to the Board of Education for providing supper to committee members.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education office in Hartford with supper provided.

Mike Klumpe (Lisa Mautz) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. (10-0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Redeker