

MINUTES

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2016, District Office 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Board Members: President Ken Durrant, Vice President Mark Farmer, Neil Carrigan, Ted Taylor, Ron Blunck

District Staff: Superintendent Doug Jacobs, Business Administrator D'Lynn Poll, Secretary Denise Rich

Other Staff and Patrons: Terry Allen, Tim Wolff, Ron Litchfield, Alan Bune, Jennie Earl, Heidi Andreasen, Gina Stuart

Planning Meeting: Discussion regarding capital improvements

President Durrant welcomed everyone. A planning meeting was scheduled to talk about issues facing the district because of increasing enrollment, overcrowded and aging buildings. Board members want to do what is educationally best for students. President Durrant prepared a spreadsheet showing estimated enrollment projections over the next several years.

Discussion points and opinions included:

Changing district boundaries would be upsetting for a lot of people. Students and faculty sharing a facility is not a favorable option. It is hard on morale and there is no continuity. Principals prefer keeping 5th and 6th grade students together. Building a two-story addition to the existing Mountain Green Elementary School was mentioned as an option because that is where the growth is. School starting times could be changed to help with bussing issues. Having a central kitchen and transporting food was discussed as a cost-saving measure.

The district doesn't have the financial capability to build a new high school. The old classroom wing at the high school could either be remodeled and brought up to code or demolished. If the old wing is remodeled, a fire suppression system would need to be installed. A new kitchen is also needed at the high school. The cost to taxpayers is a concern. Future building projects would be very basic and cost-effective. Board members talked about bonding in 2017. If a bond failed, an option would be to use a capital lease to fund these projects.

There are equal numbers of Morgan students and Mountain Green students housed in the middle school. Building a middle school in Mountain Green for grades five through eight would release the pressure in the elementary schools and the middle school.

Board members gave direction to put building a two-story middle school in Mountain Green that would house grades five through eight and build a two-story addition in front of the high school that would include a kitchen on the March board meeting agenda. When the high school addition is completed, the old classroom wing would be demolished. There will also be two new classrooms added in the upper level of the Trojan Century Center.

The board members would also like to hire an engineer to evaluate the boilers in both the high school and the middle school. The steam heating system at the middle school needs to be replaced. Ted Taylor will help the district maintenance supervisor implement a maintenance plan for the heating systems.

Board members also want to look for property centrally located in the county to build another elementary school in the future.

Portable classrooms will be used for the next few years to accommodate enrollment growth. They will be placed at Morgan Middle School and Mountain Green Elementary School as needed.

The planning meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Business Administrator, D'Lynn Poll