

USD 377, ATCHISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

USD 377 FOCUS Group (Facilities) Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, November 24, 2008

6:30 PM – Lancaster Elementary

1. USD 377 Budget Presentation – Mr. Wiseman **presented information about the state's** fiscal woes. The state is projecting a deficit in state funds somewhere between \$800 million - \$1 billion for Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010). School districts around the state have been advised by KSDE to prepare for possible cuts in funding anywhere from 3-5%.

Mr. Hinrichs reported on state and federal programs.

2. USD 377 Board of Education Update – Mr. Wiseman presented information on the Board work session held on November 17th. District administration will be putting together information to be used to help determine how the district could cut costs. This information will include a Building Assessment Study, a study to move all elementary classes to Effingham – using only existing buildings or mobile units, and various programs and operations costs.
3. Small Group Session – attendees were divided into two groups with a two-fold objective: 1) develop a list of issues the district needs to work on and 2) develop a list of solutions for the concerns discussed.

Summary of small group discussion:

Concerns:

- **Conditions of building “A” and “B” (mold)** – Mr. Wiseman reported that the duct work has been replaced in both buildings and that the district will be conducting an environmental quality air analysis sometime in the next couple of months.
- Where will PE and Music be?
- Consolidating Lancaster and Cummings will increase the length of the bus route for those elementary kids.
- How do we increase membership?
- We need to explain the USD #377 increase in taxes as shown on the tax statements.
- How do we convey to others what the current conditions of the buildings are?
- **How are we working on improving “Communication”?**
- How can we implement the change and recommendations we want?
- **Some will perceive consolidation as a “back door” to a new school.**
- Where is maintenance?
- Why is maintenance not being done?
- Not knowing when meetings are.
- Communication is terrible.
- **We don't maintain what we have.**
- Crowding at elementary schools.
- Athletic complex – Mr. Wiseman explained the funding and that this has been addressed in the district newsletter on several occasions over the past year.

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- Middle School restrooms (boys/girls) need paper towels, new toilets, sinks, stalls, get rid of smell!
- High School boys restrooms needs to have doors installed on the stalls.
- Big words in district newsletter.

Ideas/Solutions:

- Make the website more user friendly (links/design).
- **Utilize “Site Council” more effectively for change. Go to BOE.**
- Address tax issue with a press release, newsletters, website, and newspaper.
- Bring patrons into the building when kids are in them.
- Parent/Student exchange day.
- **Parent/Student “Thanksgiving” meal (lunch).**
- Utilize email to improve communication.
- More specific communication.
- Utilize community service to help with maintenance.
- Utilize parent volunteers to help with maintenance.
- **“Main Street Decorating” would like to be added on the “bid list”.**
- Tired of butting heads with negative people.
- Provide a list of committees with description at the beginning of the year – Mr. Wiseman reported back that this was sent out in the August newsletter.
- Provide calendar reminders for meetings.

Other Topics:

- Next meeting, January 5th, 2009 (Monday) @ building “A” (Effingham).

Agenda Topics

Processes and solutions

Communications presentation

Cost analysis presentation

Building Assessment Study Update

Parent Survey – Finalize questions and prepare distribution method

Review of Five Year Capital Expenditure Plan

Review of Five Year Technology Expenditure Plan

State Budget Update

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