



## **SOUTH VERMILLION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FAQ SHEET - SCHOOL FACILITIES PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING #1 - VAN DUYN ELEMENTARY**

### **Section I - Educational Programming**

- Has the committee considered the quick transition for pre-K and kindergarten students if Option #3 is chosen?

***This is a great question. We have preliminarily researched the FAQs of implementing a pre-K program. Since students already transition from a pre-school to kindergarten program, students being in the same setting for pre-K and kindergarten may benefit the student moving forward into the elementary years. Here are a couple of educational links that may help in understanding transition periods for the early years of education:***

***<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/transitions/article/transition-kindergarten>  
<https://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/lancasterextension/8281/47767>***

- What will be the impact on the staffing?

***We will move forward with current staffing. Regardless of the recommendation of the School Facilities Advisory Committee and the decision of the Board, current staffing will be status quo. No staff member will lose a position with the school corporation. If any staffing positions are eliminated, it will be through attrition based on retirees or resignations and those positions not being filled.***

- If Central Elementary students miss the bus, they can currently walk to school. Has the committee considered that this will no longer be an option?

***The same argument could be made for every school in the corporation currently. If the decision was made to go to one campus, then those students who live close to***

***the current SVMS and SVHS campus would have that luxury. Every student is provided the opportunity for transportation.***

- Why is the committee not considering a pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade building and a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 5<sup>th</sup> grade building? Has the committee considered piloting the closing of one building and absorbing the students into the other two buildings?

***In 2014, Mr. Chapman and the Board initiated this conversation with several meetings and a community forum. At the conclusion of this, the community was adamantly against this option and the Board chose not to pursue this option at that time. The Board did approve the redistricting of the elementary boundaries at that time to balance the enrollments.***

- If a new elementary building is built, is it built with an increasing enrollment in mind?

***Yes. The square footage of the building would hold an estimated 700 students. We do not anticipate a significant growth in enrollment with the current data trend. We anticipate a 6 classrooms (sections) per grade level based on overall class sizes. We do see the possibility of returning to class sizes that have been experienced in the past.***

- Could the committee please provide the specifics of the pre-K program?

***The pre-K program will be in accordance with the Early Learning standards for the state of Indiana (<https://www.doe.in.gov/earlylearning/framework>). The plan for the schedule of programming would be in accordance with our kindergarten cohort.***

- How are all of these building change proposals going to affect the kids that are enrolled who have special education requirements of any kind, whether it be an IEP or any sort of accommodations? How will you staff the schools with SPED teachers and their aides, given that the kids in each grade who require the services can be very low or very high numbers?

***If the corporation is to reduce the number of elementary buildings from three to two buildings, or three buildings to one building, the programming of all of our areas could benefit. The number of students to teacher ratio in a program area would still remain the same or benefit, since all of our teachers and resources would be condensed into one or two spaces. Therefore, students could benefit from the strengths of each teacher in the same environment.***

***Not only would this improve the capacity to improve special education programs, but also STEM, Gifted & Talented and other enhanced programming needs.***

## Section II - Fiscal/Operations

- If Option #2 or Option #3 is chosen, what would be the cost and consideration of separating the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from the upperclassmen at SVHS and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at the current middle school?

***The administration is aware of the necessity of separating the underclassmen from the upperclassmen. Performance Services will determine the design and cost of the renovations for Option #2 and Option #3.***

***This is a major shift in programming and we are aware of the necessity of the design to deliver the quality of education at all levels.***

- Why was the cost of repairing all three schools not given?

***The goal of this project is to no longer operate with the current three building configuration, all of which are not operating at full capacity. The estimated cost (in current dollars) to upgrade the current elementary buildings (HVAC/Controls, lighting, ceilings and roof replacements) would cost in the \$13 - \$15 million range. This does not include windows, doors flooring, casework, general finishes, site improvements, etc... By adding the costs for utilities, upkeep and general repair of each building, reducing the number of operating buildings is the most fiscally responsible approach.***

- Has the committee considered the transportation routes and age differences on the school buses?

***Mrs. Bogetto, Transportation Director, stated that there are already large age differences for the Van Duyn and Ernie Pyle students. There have been no issues reported due to the age differences. Students are separated on buses, as well as video and audio surveillance present on each bus.***

- Could having a central campus be beneficial to the transportation department?

***Yes, the fuel transportation costs would quite possibly decrease. The overall impact of these costs are hard to estimate due to cost of fuel, as well as the newly designed routes.***

- Why would the transportation department be moved to Van Duyn when all of the students are on a central campus (Option 1/Option 3)?

***At this point, this is just one option due to the new traffic flow and configuration of the SVMS and SVHS campus (if Option 1 or Option 3 are chosen). There is still a***

***very good possibility of the transportation department to remain in its current location.***

- Why is the committee considering keeping Van Duyn as opposed to Central?

***After reviewing the building assessments and recommendations made by Administrator Assistance and Performance Services, the most fiscally-responsible action is to keep Van Duyn open in comparison to Central. Van Duyn was most recently renovated in 2001.***

- Is there any way that a building project could take place at Central?

***Due to the location and issues with the topographical implications, it may not be the most feasible option. Central is “landlocked” and if we were to look at keeping Central open, transportation and traffic logistics would also create significant issues.***

- Have the utilities, specifically the water and wastewater been evaluated?

***Yes. The annual average utilities costs over the past 10 years are as follows:  
Central - Electricity (\$46,695), Gas (\$11,450), Water/Sewer (\$13,200)  
Ernie Pyle - Electricity (\$38,150), Gas/Propane (\$12,510), Water/Sewer (\$1,910)  
Van Duyn - Electricity (\$31,905), Gas (\$6,832), Water/Sewer (\$2,027)***

- When will the high school need to be replaced? Has the committee considered the added debt of a new elementary restricting other projects?

***It is hard to determine at this time as we have gone through a number of major improvements/upgrades over the past 10 years. We anticipate the High School to be a viable building for many years to come.***

***Any option decided on will have an impact on any new projects. We have been very cognizant of the financial stability of the school corporation and the impact any project would have on the tax rate, as well as implications for additional projects in the future.***

- Has the committee considered what will happen to the existing buildings and what are the plans of repurposing those buildings?

***Yes, the committee has had informal conversations of how each building could be repurposed. Along with School Corporation needs, informal dialogue has taken place to consider the possibility of community centers, senior living centers, and***

***city/county offices. Other options will continue to be discussed and evaluated as we continue the process moving forward.***

- Is there a dollar amount that we can stay under to avoid a referendum?

***The Referendum process is subject to any project costing more than \$10,000,000 for the School Corporation. The Referendum process is initiated one of two ways: 1) If it is initiated by the lesser of 500 registered voters living, and owners of real property located, in the School Corporation's boundaries or 5% of the registered voters living in the School Corporation's boundaries within 30 days after the Notice of Preliminary Determination is published or 2) If the School Board determines to have the Referendum Process apply to the project.***

- Does the corporation still own the Wilson Center on Highway 36?

***The Corporation does not, nor has ever owned the Wilson Center. It has only been leased for our PVETI/WRCTE vocational cooperative along with North Vermillion, Southwest Parke, and Rockville (Parke Heritage). The Corporation is looking into implementing a potential alternative education program to be housed within the corporation.***

- What are the projected construction (materials/labor) increases by 2025?  
***While it is impossible to project these costs, construction costs have increased by 22% just in the past year (national average). We are anticipating those costs to fluctuate in the future as 2022 costs are not an accurate barometer for the future.***

***(Continued on next page)***

- For each option, could the committee please provide the financial impacts on a \$75,000 house, \$150,000 house, and \$300,000 house? What about farm and commercial property?

### **Summary of Estimated Annual Tax Rate Impact**

Estimated Tax Rate Impact in 2024:		\$0.6206	\$0.2000
Market Value of Home	Net Assessed Value	Illustrative Scenario 1	Illustrative Scenario 2&3
\$50,000	\$13,000	\$80.68	\$26.00
75,000	19,500	121.02	39.00
84,000	23,400	145.22	46.80
100,000	33,800	209.76	67.60
125,000	50,050	310.61	100.10
150,000	66,300	411.46	132.60
200,000	98,800	613.15	197.60
300,000	163,800	1,016.54	327.60
1 Acre Agricultural Land		9.31	3.00
100 Acres Agricultural Land		930.90	300.00
\$100,000 Commercial/Rental Property		620.60	200.00

### **Summary of Estimated Monthly Tax Rate Impact**

Estimated Tax Rate Impact in 2024:		\$0.6206	\$0.2000
Market Value of Home	Net Assessed Value	Illustrative Scenario 1	Illustrative Scenario 2&3
\$50,000	\$13,000	\$6.72	\$2.17
75,000	19,500	10.09	3.25
84,000	23,400	12.10	3.90
100,000	33,800	17.48	5.63
125,000	50,050	25.88	8.34
150,000	66,300	34.29	11.05
200,000	98,800	51.10	16.47
300,000	163,800	84.71	27.30
1 Acre Agricultural Land		0.78	0.25
100 Acres Agricultural Land		77.58	25.00
\$100,000 Commercial/Rental Property		51.72	16.67

***Note: Individual tax positions will vary based on an individual's overall composition of property. In addition, Net Assessed Values listed above includes changes to the mortgage and homestead deductions effective for taxes payable in 2024.***

### **Section III - School Safety**

- If all students were on the same campus, are we more concerned with student safety and security?

***Mr. Chapman stated that the student safety and security would benefit if all of the students are on the same campus. We currently have four School Resource Officers employed by the corporation on a daily basis. If an emergency occurs while students are on one campus, the four officers would be able to respond immediately – decreasing the response time of off-campus emergency personnel.***

### **Section IV - General**

- Is the information going to be the same at all of the community meetings?

***The basis of the information will be the same. As questions are asked in previous meetings, information may be added to the presentations and discussion, along with additional information on the FAQ link.***