



November 18, 2021

USD 460 HESSTON | PRE-BOND

MEETING NOTES FROM - November 17, 2021

PARTICIPANTS:

Hesston Steering Committee
Greg Tice
Mike Decker

COPIES TO:

BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR THE BOND AMOUNT

- They felt an amount in the middle \$20 million range would be acceptable to voters.

MIDDLE SCHOOL USE / CONCEPTS

- Local Private Industry gave a strong (positive) response to leasing the building.
- Options based on Private and District co-use of the building were discussed.
- The lease agreement would be based on long time limits.
- Recommended building a new entrance on the south side of the gym.
- A name was proposed for the gym to address the change of identity from the Middle School Gym to private / public use - as – “The Alumni Center”
- Discussion ranged from supportive to cautious as the board is employed to address educational issues rather than functioning as a landlord.

SECOND SUBCOMMITTEE

- Address the preschool activities component on the District Campus.
- Include but not limited to Daycare and Preschool.
- Superintendent would assemble the committee
- The work has to be accomplished within a short timeframe in order to develop and present information for the various committees and board to decipher and make decisions that could affect facility planning within the bond.

POPULATION GROWTH

- District has pushed up the date to meet with City officials to determine how credible the stories are about population growth in the near future.
- The meeting has been moved to December '21 from February '22

BOND BUDGET LIMIT

- The committee broke into eight separate discussion groups – and presented
- 30 year \$30.9M budget would be acceptable
- Mid \$20M range acceptable
- 30 year \$30M budget acceptable

- Not afraid of any of the numbers presented in the mill levy tables and bond budgets up to and over \$30M.
- Undecided on 25 or 30 year term – and the bond budget
- 30 year \$30M budget acceptable but should cover all the bases including replacing aging gym equipment, seating, etc.
- 18 to 20 Mill acceptable and echo concern to address investment in athletics
- Same thoughts as majority for budget and term (\$30M), like the concept of maintaining two buildings as opposed to three.
- Discussed addressing MEP upgrades on a phased basis with District funds as opposed to Bond funds. The one time replacement of systems under the bond might lead to the need to address replacement of the majority of the systems again in 25 years (before a 30 year note is completed).

PICK ONE OF THREE FACILITY OPTIONS -

1. K-4, 5-8, 9-12
2. K-5, 6-12
3. PreK-3, 4-6, 7-12
4. The majority favored two buildings for several reasons - K-4, 5-12.
 - Discussed removing the middle school building and constructing a new gym where the pool was located behind the High School. There are drainage issues in this area that could be addressed when doing this. The gym has been flooded often enough that insurance coverage may not replace the floor if it were flooded again
 - The need to include 5th grade in the high school discussed for access to band and choir
 - Discussed changing the narrative from 5 – 12 high school to “A Middle School / High School Facility”. There is an undercurrent of concern for 5th grade students sharing the facility with High School students. The discussion included the task of addressing the concerns the public has in this regard with information & answers that quell the fears about this issue
 - Discussed developing options based on budgets ranging from \$28M to \$35M. So the committees can see what they look like.
 - Return in early December to take in information regarding preschool and analyze the options.
 - April was emphasized as the target month for the bond vote as was the purpose of a short timespan for promoting the bond / vote.
 - The notion of providing two questions in the vote was discussed and noted as a method that often divides voters and increases the chance bond to failure. Best to be united toward the same goal with bond funding.
 - CMAR interview efforts will begin so as to provide a recommendation within 4 to 6 weeks.

END OF MEETING NOTES