

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees (Board) called a Special Session to order at 6:06 pm. The meeting was held at the Knightstown Community High School located at 8149 W. US 40, Knightstown, IN 46148. Those in attendance were:

Attendance:

- Board Members: Wade Beatty, Steve Dalton, Mark Fort, Kevin Knott, Leah Kopp, Thomas Schaeztle, and Timothy Wehr
- Central Office Staff: Gary Storie, Superintendent; Jena Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Michael McKillip, Facilities Director;
- Media: Jeff Eakins
- Patrons: Approximately 43 patrons

I. Call to Order

Jena Schmidt took roll and noted all members were present. The Board President asked all to stand for the Pledge to the American Flag.

II. Strategic Planning Work Session

Kevin Knott read an opening statement indicating the necessity for the special session. The purpose is to discuss possible projects the funds from the refunding of Bonds could be used for. A list of projects is a requirement before the 1028 Hearing could take place. He also stated if patrons had questions to write them down and the Board would attempt to address questions and comments.

Board packets had been received by all members prior to the meeting. The meeting was turned over to the Superintendent. He reminded the Board the funds could only be applied at Knightstown Intermediate School (KIS) or Knightstown Community High School (KHS). His intention is to have an agreed upon list by the close of the meeting. His recommendation is to use a majority of the funds to renovate and update air quality and climate at KIS and to use any remaining funds to begin building athletic fields at KHS. He stated the Board should begin to build athletic facilities, however should maintain the commitment to KIS. The Superintendent asked Gary Turner, architect, to give a short presentation.

Gary Turner thanked the Board for the opportunity to give a presentation. He also stated his firm has had the privilege of working with CAB on various projects for approximately twenty years. His firm first focuses on past, present and projected enrollment. He presented the board with some projections he had compiled. His recommendation is to consider a five year plan to keep KIS open and in operation. The Board President stated KIS currently uses mostly original equipment. He asked the architect for specific detail on how proposed improvements would increase the educational value. Gary Turner deferred to educators. He was provided a list of proposed projects from the Facilities Director. His presentation is based on that list. He explained some items on the compilation would not be recommended unless the Board was willing to make a commitment of ten years to KIS. On the other hand, some projects would be recommended on a five year commitment. He also explained KHS

has an 80% student population capacity of 580 and a 100% capacity of 660 students. He stated the building is large enough to house grades 7-12. He also made it clear that would not take any programming and curriculum into account. He informed the Board he was not an educator and those decisions should be left up to administration. There was much discussion.

Leah Kopp read a prepared statement on her opinions on funding expenditures based on the belief statement the Board was collectively creating. Her main focus is on education not athletic fields. She feels the Board's focus should be on academics. As a result, a majority of the funding should be spent to commit to KIS. It "is an asset to our community". The advantages given to students in the environment and on programming advantages at that level are far greater. Kevin Knott stated he had given much thought to the list of projects presented. He concurs he is most comfortable spending the dollars needed at KIS in order "to provide educational experiences there." This would be his number one priority. He also agreed with the Superintendent in that it would be a good time to add some athletic facilities at KHS. Leah Kopp and Kevin Knott agree and recommend the ten year plan should be given serious consideration. The Board President stated his recommendation is not to spend all funding on athletic fields and neglect KIS.

Mark Fort stated he was "not in favor of closing KIS". He did remind members, the Board told the Kennard community, they would look at all buildings. He asked the Facilities Director what would it take to "stop the bleeding" at KIS. Mike McKillip, Facilities Director, stated domestic water piping is necessary. He also stated a savings of approximately 12-15% would be gained in natural gas prices if the boiler was saved. The current chiller is expensive to operate because of age. He also stated if the Board was comfortable paying a \$60,000/year utility bill, he thought the Maintenance Department could keep it in operation an additional 3-4 years. The Superintendent explained the issue at this point is timing. The Board needs to decide where to spend funding dollars prior to the public hearing scheduled for June 2, 2009. He also stated an opportunity to issue new debt in two years may be possible. Much discussion took place among Board Members. The Superintendent reminded members; to complete the athletic facilities proposed by Steve Dalton would require a bidding process to vendors and must include an architect and engineer.

Steve Dalton expressed "we are only talking bricks and mortar here not teachers." He strongly disagrees to spend a million dollars at KIS. He asked patrons present, if the same teachers were placed in another building, couldn't CAB produce the same numbers and quality education? The patrons in unison stated "no".

Don Scheumann and Chris Bundy, administrators at KIS, presented data and statistics to Board members in an effort for them to understand advantages offered at KIS. They stated the difference "is in the environment". A separation between grades 5-6 and 7-8 has been maintained since the creation of KIS. Don Scheumann said this system has allowed students to remain at age appropriate levels more so than a grade 7-12 building allows. Chris Bundy explained it was not a building issue, it was a student issue and the Board should desire to do what is best for students. He then read some compelling statistics.

- 205 registered users on STI HOME – a parent component of the student management system. This shows active parent and community involvement
- ISTEP Math in 7-12 building averaged 68.25 %; 5-8 building average is 82.25%
- ISTEP LA in 7-12 building averaged 64.25% in 5-8 building average is 75%
- ISTEP-Special Education Math; 7-12 building=21.5% and 5-8 building=59.25%

- ISTEP-Special Education Language Arts; 7-12=17% and 5-8 building=48%
- ISTEP-Free & Reduced Students (Math); 7-12 building=48% and 5-8 building=69.5%
- ISTEP-Free & Reduced Students (Language Arts); 7-12 building=45.5% and 5-8 building=60.25%

Chris Bundy also explained when the corporation had a grade 7-12 building the scores were consistently below the state average in Language Arts. Since the existence of the grade 5-8 building, KIS has risen above the state average every year in both Language Arts and Math. He stated sixth grade has achieved a 15.67% increase in Math and a 16.33% in Language Arts. With the existence of KIS, students have improved more than the state average. He said this says more about the environment and not just bricks and mortar as alluded to earlier in discussion. He emphasized it is the atmosphere these students exist and are educated in. Kevin Knott asked if discipline numbers comparing the two schools existed. Chris Bundy explained the differences. When grades 7-12 were in the same building, it is very difficult to have age appropriate rules for all levels. He stated 7th grade students do not always make healthy choices. In the existence of a grade 5-8 building, more consistent and age appropriate rules can be enforced. Don Scheumann then explained when the Intermediate School was created; the faculty had to apply for that building. Teachers have a vested interest in that age level student. The atmosphere, environment and structure are more desirable for middle school students. Chris Bundy then stated “I am adamant we do not go back to the old structure, I was there and it was not a good situation.” Don Scheumann stated his belief the “separation is beneficial for all involved, both as a parent, an educator, an administrator and taxpayer.” The number of eligible 21st century scholars has increased significantly since the inception of a three-tier school corporation.

Scott Fields, 7th grade Social Studies teacher reiterated the same beliefs as Don Scheumann and Chris Bundy. He explained he taught this level for 12 years and the worst educational environment he has been a part of was the first year at CAB when a grade 7-12 building existed. “It made for a toxic situation.” He explained if a decision to go back to a two tier educational system was made, the Board would see a rise in teen pregnancy in the 12-15 year old age group.

Mark Fort stated KIS does good work; however he questioned spending a large amount of money into the building. He does not feel it would be fair to Carthage and Kennard Elementary not to do a complete study of all buildings. He again stated to “stop the bleeding” would cost \$195,000.

Thomas Schaezle clarified the recommendation from the Superintendent to utilize the services of Performance Services, Inc. and to renovate HVAC at an approximate cost of one million dollars. However, he acknowledged the estimates from the Facilities Director were lower. The superintendent then clarified the cost would essentially be the same as the quotes did not include all the same upgrades. He again stated his recommendation would be to do what is needed to commit to KIS for 10-12 years. He would also like to see some funding to begin installing athletic facilities at KHS. He informed the Board in his educational experience all point to a continuing trend to keep at least a three tier system and keep junior high students and high school students in separate facilities, not to combine them. He asked the Board to choose items they felt were reasonable at KHS and use remaining funding at KIS. There was much discussion surrounding KIS and athletic facilities.

Discussion regarding a football/soccer field ensued. The Superintendent stated he felt Performance Services, Inc. had done extensive work to date for CAB and their research could not be compared to the estimates from the Facilities Director. He stated CAB owed this firm a concrete

decision and contended using their services is good business. Their company would stay with each project to ensure continuing future savings.

Kevin Knott moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and update facilities at KIS, however instead of repairing the track at KIS; a track would be built at KHS. The Superintendent suggested the motion to commit a dollar amount to KIS with the remaining funds going toward athletic facilities at KHS. Thomas Schaetzle suggested wording to provide for a track at either location, but budget the high dollar amount. Kevin Knott retracted his motion and then moved to fund between \$1 million and \$1.1 million at KIS and the remainder spent on athletic fields at KHS. Wade Beatty seconded the motion. The motion was opened for discussion. Timothy Wehr asked what the estimate would be to add classroom space at KHS if the Board chose to return to a grade seven through twelve building. Gary Turner, architect, stated space was not the issue, it was curriculum and programming. Very roughly the cost of ten additional classrooms or 15,000 sq ft, could possibly be constructed at a cost between \$3-4 million dollars. Don Scheumann and Chris Bundy both stated the programs could not be duplicated with the suggested ten classroom addition. A disservice would be given to the students and the progress gained would be lost. Steve Dalton stated academics are important. He also feels that rushing this process would be a disservice to taxpayers. He thought the Board should be fiscally prudent. He quoted a study from Iowa indicated higher GPA among athletes. Kevin Knott then informed the Board he respected the estimates supplied from the Facilities Director; however, he remains firm in his motion. There was continued discussion between Board members.

Kevin Knott called for the question on the motion. He stated discussion had taken place for over thirty minutes this evening as well as previous meetings. Steve Dalton disagreed, discussion was not complete. Thomas Schaetzle asked Mark Fort to provide a list of projects as he was in disagreement and had not provided guidance. Mark Fort stated the request was fair. However, he did not supply such a list. Timothy Wehr and Steve Dalton continued to refer to the list of items on the Facility Director's list. Thomas Schaetzle stated these items would be discussed in the future when funding was received. He felt putting \$1.1 million at KIS and utilizing remaining funds for a soccer field, softball diamond, and track at KHS would be putting the kids first. He then explained, the only other option would be to delay the 1028 hearing advertised and scheduled for tomorrow and wait an additional thirty days.

Kevin Knott called for the question and asked if the Board was ready to proceed. Consensus was yes. He stated the motion again, funding would be distributed with \$1-\$1.1 million at KIS with the remainder spent for athletic facilities at either KIS or KHS. Roll call was taken for the vote. Wade Beatty-yes; Steve Dalton-no; Mark Fort-no; Kevin Knott-yes; Leah Kopp-yes; Thomas Schaetzle-yes; Timothy Wehr-no. Motion carried 4-3.

Steve Dalton moved to cancel the agreement with Performance Services, Inc. immediately. Timothy Wehr gave the second. With no discussion, motion carried 6-1 with Wade Beatty casting the negative vote.

The Superintendent recommended the Board remain with the Architect who has extensive knowledge of this corporation and facility. Wade Beatty moved to retain Gary Turner with a second by Leah Kopp. Motion failed 3-4 with Steve Dalton, Mark Fort, Kevin Knott and Timothy Wehr casting the negative votes.

Public Expression

Jeff Weiland, President of Knightstown High School Building Corporation – He stated he would like to see this board commit to writing, a three-tier mechanism. He informed them after much research a three-tier configuration is an overwhelmingly best practice. “I think it is imperative this board maintain that building until a decision is made to build a new building at KHS.” He then stated the hearing is not to declare a budget, only to develop a plan. He pleaded not to close Knightstown Intermediate School without building a new one. It is important and the steering committee’s whole idea of progress.

Jane Rodgers, Elementary Physical Education Teacher – She stated the future of Kennard Elementary is Knightstown Intermediate School. That is the promise that should be kept.

Tom Crawford, Industrial Arts Teacher – “I heard Steve Dalton say I made a commitment to Kennard. Does the board work as a whole?” He then stated he felt the Board made the right decision and that it is a bargain. He then explained it was his understanding from comments from Gary Turner to be a new wing would cost approximately \$3 million dollars. He also stated a project of that magnitude would require an engineer and the Facilities Director is not an engineer. Additional costs would be required.

Gerald Leonard, former School Board Member – Wished to clarify to patrons the eight years he was on the School Board, the only mention of closing Kennard was from the public. The School Board never discussed that issue as was alluded to earlier from Steve Dalton, when he said “a previous Board discussed”.

Unknown Patron asked who would take care of athletic facilities at Knightstown Intermediate School to ensure those students would not have to travel for practices.

Don Scheumann, Knightstown Intermediate School Principal – Stated the track at his facility would work for his students to practice and meets could be scheduled for Knightstown Community High School. He believes the two buildings could work together. He also feels the same for football, a practice field could be built at the High School and games could be at his facility. He then addressed the previous patron and stated the facilities would be the responsibility of the corporation if it was to become a junior high facility. He also stated if junior high students were to be moved to the high school, one if not two gymnasiums would need to be built as his are in use daily for activities and practices.

Marsha Redmon, patron – Stated after looking at the proposal she felt some of the estimates to be inflated. She felt a concession stand could be built for under \$110,000. She then asked if anyone had checked to see what would happen to taxes if a new football stadium would be built. She had spoken with a tax assessor who informed her taxes would indeed increase. Steve Dalton stated that would not be the case.

Kevin Knott stated the Board needed to move to a more specific way to utilize our dollars. He felt the discussion and decision would help to enable the Board to move forward.

Wade Beatty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBERs