



Hardin-Jefferson I.S.D.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the December 14, 2006 Facilities Committee Meeting

Staff Members Present: Superintendent Shannon Holmes, Dr. Jamey Harrison, Dru Mushlian, Sandra Sherman, Joel Nolte, Melanie Nunez, Mary Alice Jones, Randy O'Bannion

Committee Members Present: Tammy Ballard, Merlin Breaux, Gene Broussard, , Waynette Cooley, Richard Courville, Gail Davis, Mary Alice Griffin, Hal Johnston, Mike McGill, Angela Mackan, Dianne MacKenzie, Angela Mireles, Mike Padgett, Kim Pelt, Ronnie Pfleider, Zeke Provost, Julie Radley, L. V. Riley, Sharon Richard, Clarence Russell, Dan Stevens, Michelle Yentzen

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m.

Invocation

Merlin Breaux gave the invocation.

Introductions and Meeting Logistics

- Shannon Holmes stated that the next meeting will be at Sour Lake Elementary in the Library at 5:00 p.m.
- Mr. Holmes introduced two new members to the committee representing the China community, Mary Alice Griffin and Richard Courville. Mr. Courville will be replacing Jolene Leger who was unable to attend.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Clarence Russell, seconded by Merlin Breaux, approving the minutes of the November 30th Facilities Committee meeting as presented. All members present voted for the motion.

Media Coverage

Mr. Holmes distributed information that was released to the media and the coverage that Hardin-Jefferson has been receiving regarding the facilities. He also issued a map of the campuses to the members.

Presentation of District-wide Facilities Study

Mr. Jim Owens stated that he would not take up much time going over the manual just that the major deficiencies at the Henderson campus were the roof, A/C, electrical, and ADA. He did stress that if any member had any questions he was available at any time day or night, just give him a call.

- Zeke Provost wanted to know how many portable buildings there were. Mr. Holmes stated there were 5 double portable buildings which provided 8 classrooms.
- Mary Alice Griffin asked when Region 4 was commissioned to do the facility study. Shannon Holmes stated that in the spring that Lamar University Education Department wanted to do a facility study of Henderson Middle School and China Elementary. The report came back the first part of the summer with poor marks. China Elementary was poor as a whole and Henderson was poor or borderline. That study prompted the administration to hire someone that was an expert in the business to look at the whole district. Region 4 has a very strong facilities group that consults with other districts. They started around the first of September and the report came to us around the end of October. Dr. Harrison added that the final report actually did not come back until the middle of November and the reason they chose Region 4 was because they did not build schools.

Tour of Facilities

The committee took a tour of the Henderson Middle School campus.

Architect Presentation

Mr. Holmes said that the committee is about to begin the process of making a recommendation to the board in February based on the information they have seen and that they all can agree upon. To come to that end, they will start by putting up options and discussing the pros and cons of each.

Dr. Harrison explained the process for the selection of PBK as the district's architects. Requests for Qualifications were sent out around the 10th of November and 16 firms responded and they interviewed six firms the week after Thanksgiving. They did a second round of interviews two weeks after Thanksgiving. The board officially hired PBK on Monday night.

Mr. Holmes introduced architect Ron Bailey of PBK, Inc. and his associates Steven Bryan and Luis Salazar. Mr. Bailey began by telling the committee a little about the PBK firm. He stated that the task of the committee and the architect is to develop a long range master plan to meet the future needs of the students. He outlined the steps to getting started.

- Step 1 Assess facility needs
- Step 2 Demographics analysis
- Step 3 Develop long range planning options and adopt

During Mr. Bailey's presentation the committee expressed some goals, weaknesses, strengths, and needs of the district.

- Tammy Ballard asked if a bond was passed, how long it would take to build a new school. Mr. Bailey said it would take approximately 18 months for an elementary school, two years for a middle school and three years for a high school.

Question and Answer Session

- Dianne MacKenzie stated that she was having the Sour Lake Women's Club meeting at her house on January 8th and Mr. Holmes and Dr. Harrison will be attending to give them information on what the committee is doing. She also stressed the importance for all the members to get word out to community members to keep them informed to eliminate rumors.
- Rich Courville asked if there was a possible tax benefit if a new facility could be used as a shelter in case of an emergency such as during a hurricane. Mr. Holmes said the answer would probably be no because Jefferson County is a Tier 1 county for evacuation and Hardin County is a transient county.
- Tammy Ballard wanted to know if the committee could get the number of Jefferson and Hardin county voters in the district. Mr. Holmes stated that he did have that information and he would get it to the committee members
- Merlin Breaux stated that the committee should be careful and not be too hasty in their decision making until all the planning process is complete. He stated that he doesn't want people of the community to think that a decision has already been made to build a school until all the options have been presented and looked at.

Discussion of next meeting

The next meeting will be on January 11, 2007 in the Library at Sour Lake Elementary at 5:00 p.m.

January 18, 2007 tour of other schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.