



Mastering New Worlds

Manson Northwest Webster Community School Board of Education Meeting November 13, 2008

The Manson Northwest Webster Community School Board held a Work Session on Thursday, November 13, 2008, in the boardroom at the elementary center.

Pres. Paterson opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Duane Paterson, Zuella Swartzendruber, Brent Johnson, Terry Lawler, Dan DeWall. Absent: Hewitt, Bush.

Others present: Supt. Egli, and members of the Facilities Use committee – Joyce Hammen, Jim Huss, Mark Pugh, Connie Johnson, Brad Bleam, Denise Weiss, Holly Witham, Rose Davis, Tony Jacobsen, Marlyn Johnson. Also Merle Rambo and Dave Thomas from Facilities Cost Management Group.

After the agenda was approved, the meeting began at 5:30 p.m. with a tour of the high school and elementary buildings. At 6:30 the group enjoyed a light lunch in the board room and listened to a presentation by Merle Rambo of Facilities Cost Management Group.

Mr. Rambo presented a report on the current MNW facilities and their usage. The high school appears to be well built for its era and has a high rate of usage in nearly all areas. Mr. Rambo suggested that trying to move things such as the business lab and mass media class out of the old junior high area and “shoe horn” the middle school into the existing spaces would be a mistake. Technology and increased offerings have changed the nature of high school and middle school. The District should not try to go back and mirror what it used to be pre-merger.

Mr. Rambo stated that the 1950’s segment of the elementary site is a building suited more to Arizona or California and 19 cents per gallon gas. Its structural problems along with asbestos content make remodeling prohibitively expensive. Mr. Rambo suggested that it is not a building the District should include in future planning. However the 70’s addition of the gym and supt office, referred to in his drawings as the Activities Center, is reasonably well built and serves a valid purpose for the future.

The Barnum middle school building is also a combination of older and more recent construction. Because of its size, much of its space is under-utilized at 50% or less. Although the elementary wing is similar in construction to the Manson elementary building, it is better constructed and more amenable to remodeling.

Mr. Rambo stated that making moves now to improve the District’s facilities in line with educational opportunities will be advantageous whatever the future might bring. Squeezing into outdated, deteriorating facilities offers no advantages and will inevitably

lead to soaring utility costs and forced remodeling as national fire codes and maintenance problems come into play.

Four building formats were presented. Option 1 places grades 9-12 at Manson, PK through 8 in Barnum. Option 2 has 7-12 at Manson, PK through 6 in Barnum. Option 3 has 6-12 in Manson, PK through 5 in Barnum. Option 4 has 5-12 in Manson, PK-4 in Barnum. All formats require the removal of the oldest structures and remodeling or additional construction to reconfigure students in updated facilities and to gain best personnel and other operating cost advantages.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Comments:

The next Facilities Use Committee meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Board room on December 17.

Board Secretary pro tem

Board President