

BUILDING FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2011

The Building Facilities Committee met at Parker Elementary school at 7pm on October 5. We began the meeting with a walk around tour led by Bobby Johnson. The school was built in 1986. It is a brick structure which has been sealed. It is similar in construction to the school in LaCygne. The Parker building has been plagued by roof leaks in the past but that problem seems to have subsided after added tin flashing on the east side of the structure. The LaCygne building does not have this issue. Heat pumps are used at both locations. The oldest unit is 8years old and the cost is \$8,000-10,000 to replace. At both schools, all classrooms are heated and cooled. All common areas are heated with a circulation system used to cool the areas. KCPL provides electric service at both locations.

The playground equipment is the original with a mulch base added several years ago. Concern was expressed regarding termites in the playground mulch at LaCygne. Bobby had not heard of this but will investigate.

We moved to the inside of the school and were shown one of several small rooms. These rooms are used for splitting out small groups and conferencing. We were shown one classroom-all classrooms are the same size, all have a sink area.

Bobby advised that the main need for both Parker and LaCygne was a computerized control system for the heating and cooling system. Both schools are in good shape as far as electrical, plumbing and lighting systems. Other items of note mentioned were that the LaCygne plumbing was updated two years ago and that the stage at the Parker school now served as a computer lab housing 22 computers. The average class size at Parker is 16-17 students with 75-80% capacity reached.

Bobby projects that \$100,000 is needed to do the updates needed at Parker, LaCygne and Prairie View.

The meeting was turned over to Dennis Arnold, Economic Development Director for Linn County. Dennis addressed the growth and growth areas of Linn County. He addressed the current trends in the county which included increased staff at KCPL plant and the IPC Concrete plant in Pleasanton. He urged the committee to understand that the introduction of a big business does not mean growth in the community, case in point, Pleasanton and the IPC Concrete plant. Due to the mobility of the work force, the attraction of the community is the key factor in determining if someone will move their family there. He also pointed out that KCPL would be adding 800 people to the workforce over the next 5 years but many of these workers were within driving distance of the plant anyway. No major population changes are expected although there will be some.

Dennis advised that the population of Linn County has increased .9% since the last census in 2000. Pleasanton lost population while LaCygne gained 50, Parker stayed even

and Linn Valley gained 200 people. He stated that Linn Valley is driving the population growth.

Dennis also presented demographics on the population of children from ages 0-19. He offered a website for us to visit-www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata. It was stated that there are 1000 kids in the Prairie View school system and that number has maintained over the past 20 years. Dennis also shared that the number of building permits had dropped substantially to 3 last year. Prior to that the average was 40. He advised that Miami County had the same issues and that the growth areas in that county were Paola, Spring Hill and Louisburg. These figures are not expected to change over the next 5 years.

Co-chair Rick James thanked Dennis and we moved on. Rick said that Miami County Economic Director, Janet McCrea had offered to address our committee and we all agreed we would like to hear from her.

Rick called for new questions from the committee. Several committee members shared questions they had been asked by people in the communities.

~Does the district get more money for Miami County students than for Linn county students? No

~Is there any guarantee that Kansas will continue to subsidize out of state students? No and we need to make sure that everyone understands that we do not solicit out of state students.

~Are the taxes paid by the school less in Linn County than in Miami County? No taxes are paid by the school district.

~Is rural water available at Fontana? Yes, by Mi Co #3 if we built near Hedge Lane

~What about traffic concerns if we build on Hedge Lane? Suggestions included building off the main road.

~Rumors are circulating in Fontana that we have already decided to close the school and what can the city do to keep that from happening? We need to assure people that this committee is making no decisions but, recommendations and if the city has something to offer they need to let the committee know.

~How much does it cost per year to operate Fontana school? \$600,000

~How many of the Linn Valley kids go to LaCygne? 99%

Rick asked if the committee would be interested in holding a couple of town hall sessions open to the community. The committee felt that this was a good idea. We will set up two sessions-one at Prairie View and one at LaCygne. Questions we will need to be ready for include will taxes increase and what will we lose by closing Fontana-employees, students, etc. The committee feels we need to be ready to answer these types of questions if we have any information available.

We discussed again the issue of the possible closure of Pleasanton School and would we gain students in that event. We also discussed reclassification based on high school student population.

Our next meeting will be October 12 @ 6:45pm at Prairie View. We will use the extra 15 minutes to view the outside particularly the stadium and track facilities. We will also hear from the school architect, the bonds person and Janet McCrea, Miami County Economic Development.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnna Ross, Secretary