

**Scott County School District 2
School Board of Education Meeting
Central Office Board Room
375 East McClain Avenue
Scottsburg, IN 47170**

**Board Minutes
November 20, 2017**

Board Work Session - 5:15 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
Mr. Kendall called the Board Work Session to order at 5:15 p.m. with all members present.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Recognition of Visitors
- IV. Consideration of Modification to the Agenda and Approval
Dr. Slaton asked permission to add one field trip request to the agenda for the SHS Boys' Basketball team to go to Louisville to watch the Louisville Women's game on November 24. Mr. Mays made a motion to approve the agenda with this addition. Mrs. Soloe seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Mays made a motion to approve the field trip, Mrs. Soloe seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- V. Discussion of Elementary School Overcrowding and Physical Space
 - A. [Google Slide Presentation](#)
 - B. [Enrollment Trends 2005-06 to current](#)
 - C. [Current Elementary Enrollments- November 2017](#)
 - D. [Current Elementary Enrollments vs. Elementary Classroom Max Capacities](#)
 - E. [Options & Pros/Cons](#)

Dr. Slaton shared a presentation outlining the current conditions at each elementary school in regard to overcrowding and physical space. He provided information on current enrollment, enrollment trends, and classroom maximum capacities. All elementary principals were in attendance to provide input and respond to questions as to specific situations in their buildings.

Immediate needs (1-2 years) were identified as:

- No empty classroom space in any building
- Seeing more kindergarten students not prepared for kindergarten and what we can do to help better prepare them
- No room for additional staff or any additional student programming in any building
- VFES special education classroom (currently on the stage)
- VFES art is on a mobile cart and utilizes classroom space of class being taught
- VFES music and library share space in the modular unit
- JES special ed MO room needs larger space
- JES has no good space for library

Dr. Slaton added that it is difficult to predict future considerations due to current political climates locally and regionally. He noted that the Mayor and the Economic Development Commission are continuing to work to bring new industry to our area and the impact of the new bridges and development of the River Ridge area bringing more families to the area could be a factor.

Mr. Rose spoke of the sewer issue in Scott County and how that situation could negatively affect growth in the area and any possible additions to buildings.

Dr. Slaton listed three possible courses of action to address these needs.

Option 1: Do nothing from a physical facility standpoint and address the overcrowding by limiting school choice.

Negative impacts from this option included the possibility of enrollment suffering if parents are not allowed to take their students to the school of their choice, moving the overcrowding from one building to another, and not providing a long term solution.

Positives would be maintaining debt capacity flexibility for other district projects.

Option 2: Build at the individual schools as needed.

Challenges to this option include uncontrollable factors (job market, economy, etc.) possibly leading to fluctuations in building numbers that could force more expansions or leave expansions unused later. This could also require limiting building choice especially where we have landlocked schools. There would be more in soft costs by doing multiple bond issuances over time and this option would not allow for additional programming.

The cost to build on to VFES at this time is estimated at 1.7 million dollars and would provide 3 rooms. This would allow the special education room to move off of the stage and Title I, art and music to have space; however, the space would be full even after the addition, plus additions would also need to be considered at JES.

The positive to this option would be spreading out spending by addressing buildings over a longer span of time on an as needed basis and eliminating the need to limit school choice, at least in the short term.

Option 3: 5th Grade Academy and District Preschool

This would entail building a fifth grade wing at SMS for all fifth graders which would open rooms at each building and allow the possibility of adding preschool at each building to help prepare students for kindergarten.

Dr. Slaton noted challenges to this option as making sure parents and teachers were in support of the move and the possibility of still needing some space after adding preschool.

Positives were that research indicates children are entering pubescence earlier than they did a few decades ago, which aligns fifth graders better with middle school cohorts than elementary. Much of the fifth grade curriculum is middle school oriented and the middle school team layout would allow for better emphasis on different subjects. Collaboration between fifth grade teachers in the same building would enhance instruction and test scores. Research indicates that students from disadvantaged socioeconomic situations benefit greatly from having a preschool education prior to kindergarten. Preschool is desperately needed in all of our schools to promote success and address needs prior to kindergarten.

Mr. Marshall spoke to the incredible success he witnessed when preschool was added to his former school system, stating that this is an opportunity to do something really big and make a huge difference in the early education of children in our county. With the number of children in the district from broken homes, drug babies, foster children, etc., growing, preschool could actually make a difference in their lives. He added that the governor plans to add a new round of Indiana preschools in 2019 that Scott 2 could join and if students meet certain socioeconomic federal guidelines, schools can get \$8,000 per child. He also felt enrollment would benefit from parents who would like to take advantage of preschool for their children.

There was considerable discussion about the pros and cons of this option. The majority in attendance did not favor Option 1 as viable. There was also question about the advisability of spending 1.7 million dollars to build on to VFES to gain 3 classrooms while not addressing any other buildings, when spending 3.5 million would open up more space and address every elementary building.

Option 3 was discussed at length including whether or not to include gym space for approximately 1.5 million which would raise the cost to build the fifth grade academy to about 5 million and would lock up debt capacity until about 2021. The needs for gym space were discussed including that the YMCA has a waiting list in every building for their after school program and they are trying to expand, however they must have gym space in order to get the grant to expand. With the addition of many elementary sports and archery gym space is at a premium. Ms. Nass felt parents would like to have fifth graders separated as much as possible and gym space would provide their own area for large groups, physical education, and assemblies. Not having a gym for fifth grade might also cause the need for a playground. Mr. Mays voiced concerns about building a gym and VFES still not having space in another year or so. Mr. Kendall also felt gym space needed to be justified and was something that could be added any time. Additional staffing, cafeteria issues and additional parking were also discussed. Mr. Moore stated that he felt there should be 2 elementary art and 2 elementary music teachers.

In closing, Mr. Kendall stated that they will need to continue to look at VFES for solutions for next year, at least until long term decisions are determined. He added that if anyone has other ideas they should not hesitate to share them.

Mrs. Soloe asked if there were any extra-curricular groups meeting without coaches/adults present. Dr. Slaton will look into this and make sure that board approved coaches and sponsors are in attendance at all practices and meetings.

Mr. Lowry was asked about the time frame for the gym curtain dividers and stated that he would like to have them installed over Christmas break and will keep the Board updated on the progress.

Dr. Slaton asked if any Board members have questions for the insurance representative regarding the change to self funded insurance. Arrangements will be made for Mrs. Soloe to speak to the representative individually.

VI. Adjourn

Mrs. Roberts made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Mrs. Soloe seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Jason Kendall, President

Josh Mays, Vice President

Ron Moore, Secretary

Christy Roberts, Member

Andrea Soloe, Member