

## November 20, 2017

The special meeting of the Wessington Springs School District Board of Education was held on November 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm with the following members present: Jeff Assman, Jim Burg, Todd Grohs, Amber Kolousek, Gerry Orth and Dustin Weber. Absent: Tonya Aldrich.

Walk through tours of the middle/high school building had been given by Todd Grohs and Amber Kolousek at 6:00 pm prior to the meeting for interested patrons.

Motion by Orth, seconded by Burg to approve the agenda as proposed. All ayes, 0 nays. Carried.

President Todd Grohs spoke to the large group present as to why the Board is going to the public for a \$4.5 million bond for middle school/high school renovation and \$1.0 million bond for an auxiliary gym and the impact on the students, school and community. Amber Kolousek also spoke as to why this project is important to our school and community. The MS/HS building is structurally strong and solid, but the heating and plumbing systems are wearing out, some of which are the original piping from when it was built 100 years ago and many of the windows leak air and water when it rains. Both said the gymnasium would allow more flexibility with school activities and athletic practices as well as community events. Amber Kolousek spoke to possible air quality improvements in the ag shop.

Tonya Aldrich joined the meeting.

Marty Gilbertson, Doug Maust, Jeff Martin and Shane Christensen of Johnson Controls as well as Dean Marske of HKG Architects were present to discuss the renovation. Some slight changes were made to the plans presented previously for better movement through the building and cost efficiencies. One change is the mechanical room is going back to the original boiler room.

Jerry Spethman of D. A. Davidson was present to discuss the bond and tax implications as per valuations. Approximately 62 cents per \$1,000 valuation would be levied for 20 years, depending on future valuations. The possibility exists to refinance bonds at a later time that would lower the amount of debt. Interest rates are expected to rise and what that would mean to our debt.

Dean Marske reviewed the auxiliary gymnasium plans and why it is being proposed where it is on the south side.

Marty Gilbertson said there may be some revolving fund money from the State of South Dakota for projects with energy saving improvements loaned at 0% interest. The amount available would vary depending on the project and number of successful applicants as it is approx. a \$1.5 million pool to be shared.

President Todd Grohs encouraged local vendors to let the Board know if they are interested in this project so that Johnson Controls/HKG can contact with them when the bidding begins.

Patrons present brought forth their concerns and support for these projects.

8:46 p.m. President Todd Grohs thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

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Todd Grohs, President

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Julie Kraft, Business Manager