

Gym questions answered at forum

On Thursday, Oct. 16, a public forum was held to give people facts about the proposed new gymnasium to be built on the south side of the St. Francis high school. The St. Francis Board of Education is asking people to vote "yes" to float a \$2.5 million bond to build the facility. The new addition will include a collegiate-size gym, allowing practice floors for two volleyball/basketball teams, seating for 1,200 people, a walking track, a commons room for the public with rest rooms, a concession area and an official's room, all of which will accommodate both gyms.

The forum lasted two hours and during that time, there was information and facts which were followed by questions. There was not enough time to answer all the questions so they are now being answered by Rob Schiltz, superintendent.

1. With the new construction completed, will the southeast entry to the football and track activities be opened for tickets and entry for both visitor and home parking?

We understand closing of the southeast gate has been an inconvenience for people. The only reason that gate is closed is be-

cause with it open, we have five entrances to sell tickets (counting the cafeteria door when we have a feed before the games). It seems to be difficult to find enough people willing to help sell tickets and miss the game.

The southeast gate was the only feasible method of reducing the number of entrances to the facility — we couldn't think of any way to close off the other entrances successfully. Closing the gate has caused issues we are concerned about, and we will likely open it back up whether the gym is built or not. If people would like to volunteer to take tickets at the game to make it easier for the school to open the gate, please contact Alice Kinen at the school.

2. Was an indoor swimming pool ever considered in the proposal in reference to a total community project?

Adding a pool to the proposal is something that has been discussed with individuals from the community, but to the best of my knowledge, the board has never seriously considered a pool as something the school should do.

3. Why can't we take that \$2.5 million and build a new grade school with a regulation-sized gym? The present grade school

will be 90 years old next year and we could all benefit with a new grade school and gym. It could even be built where the new gym is proposed.

I guess if we are questioning whether a gym can be built for \$2.5 million, I have a hard time understanding how we'd build a gym and a new grade school for that amount. Maybe for an additional \$5 or \$6 million we could do both.

4. What about an art room at the junior/senior high school?

We are not planning on adding an art room at the high school at this time. If the board and administration feels that should be done at sometime, it will likely be pursued.

5. Will the parents of out-of-district students that come to St. Francis be taxed?

Only if they own property in the St. Francis district. If those parents own property outside USD 297, they are probably paying higher taxes in their own district. There are residents of

Cheyenne County that own property in other school districts and receive no direct benefit from their taxes for educating USD 297 students.

6. Could this gym have been built without a vote on the mill levy?

There is enough leeway in our local option budget so that the board could have proceeded with a gym without a vote of the public. However, the local option budget is generated by a tax on property and would have the same mill levy impact on the taxpayer as the bond will have. The board chose to put the gym project to an election to see what the desires of the public are. It would not be possible to build the gym without a mill levy increase.

7. If safety is an issue, should our school decline to play in the small gym in Oberlin?

No, but our athletes probably don't push themselves to their maximum potential when playing in that gym either.

Diabetes monthly meetings schedule

The Cheyenne County Hospital, clinic and health department are teaming up to provide diabetes monthly meetings sponsored by the Kansas Diabetes Quality of Care Project.

The first organizational meeting will be held from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, in the basement conference room of the clinic in St. Francis. This meeting will be an informational meeting in regards to initiating monthly diabetes educational programs.

Soup and sandwiches will be served through the sponsorship of the Quality Care project and are free of charge to participants.

This meeting will be beneficial for those who attend. The input of diabetes clients is important to the staff members scheduling the diabetes health meetings. The diabetic health related topics suggested at the organizational meeting will be presented throughout the year.

"We want to focus on the cli-

ent's health concerns, making their diagnosis of either diabetes type I or type II, as manageable as possible," said Mila Bandel, county health nurse.

The meetings will be kept to 30 minutes in length with diabetes materials and handouts available for clients to pick up at each meeting.

Mrs. Bandel pointed out that poorly controlled diabetes is the leading cause of adult blindness, end-stage renal disease and non-traumatic lower-limb amputations. It also doubles the risk of stroke and heart disease. People with diabetes are also at increased risk for neurological symptoms, cardio-vascular disease and other complications.

For more information regarding the diabetes educational program, contact Mrs. Banel at 332-2381, Susie Walz, Cheyenne County Hospital Diabetes Educator at 332-2104; or Erika Zimbelman, clinic office manager at 332-2682.



St. Francis Community Gym Board Proposal



Early 1900 St. Francis school building. All grades 1-12 met here.



St. Francis Community High School today.



The future St. Francis Community High School.

Our children will inherit the decisions we make today. Let's leave them a community and a great school we can be proud of.

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." —Les Brown

Vote Yes on Tuesday Nov. 4