

Public gives architects ideas for project design

IDEAS, from Page 1

Klemm said he personally felt they need to stop the plan now, and then need to ask for a new idea. He said he did not feel it was the right time for the school district to be asking the voters to increase the property taxes.

Klemm then asked the people in the room if they would vote to pass a bond issue based on the information they had.

Board member Gary Slough said that did not make any sense because they don't have the facts. He said the school board has followed the recommendations and once they have all the facts it will be up to the people to decide.

When the full group came back together Joy had each group provide the large sheet of paper with the priorities each group felt were important.

Dale Schields was the spokesperson for the high school and junior high group.

He said this coming together was something the community had experienced before and that the junior high had been part of the high school for 15 years.

He said one thing the group felt might help the traffic was to make the streets around the high school one way as they had been years ago. The one on the north side going one way and the street on the south side going the opposite.

He said the group felt the combination could be an advantage



The group who talked about the changes that might have to be made at the existing high school site to accommodate the junior high were Mike Miller, Amy Sederstrom, Mike Brannick and Mike Cochran. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

allowing more sharing of teachers and technology.

Gennifer House, wife of the late board member Andrew House, was the spokesperson for the existing building committee. She said her husband had been in favor of the two-school concept and said she hoped the project would continue.

She said the group felt there were

three options for Grant. One was to donate to make it a museum, second to give it to Northwest Tech or third to destroy the building.

She said the group felt if the building was not used for a museum or the college the best thing is to tear it down to make the land more salable.

The group felt West could be

sold to be remodeled into possibly an assisted living facility and the playground could be given to the city as a park, she said.

Central would become the district offices and storage, she said, plus moving some things like the technology into Central.

Klemm was the spokesperson for the Why ask why committee, and

said the group felt this was not the right time to do this.

He said his group did not feel they were ready to work with an architect, and wanted to ask the voters to pass a bond before proceeding.

He again mentioned the wild cards of population, state budget cuts and federal mandates.

He said when the group of 23 were asked if they would approve a bond issue at this time two raised their hands. (The two who raised their hands were Curtis Duncan and this writer.)

Mike Brannick was the spokesperson for the junior high and high school site committee.

He said the small group talked about how the junior high can be segregated as much as possible, and said the group felt the courtyard might be something available for future expansion.

He said Mike Miller of Miller Construction was one of those in the group and said he had provided some good information about the existing high school building. He said the building has the needed space and classrooms, but that everything is outdated.

Jessica Cole was spokesperson for the junior high group, and said they had some of the same issues as the site committee beginning with separation of the schools.

She said the group felt the junior high could enter through the south side and a new entrance be built on the north side for the high school to enter through the library area.

She said the group felt the library was something that had to be updated, and the group wanted to be sure that each portion had separate identity.

She said they were glad the mascot colors had been changed.

The group felt the courtyard might be a place for a gym, and felt the high school students could be positive mentors for the junior high students.

Trevor Linton was spokesperson for the elementary group and said safety and security were an important consideration. He said the group wanted the school to be safe, but did not want it to be like a prison.

Including planning for a tornado shelter was something the group felt was important, and how to handle the access to and from the buildings, he said.

Another aspect the group felt was important was to be sure there was sufficient electricity and technology needs.

An area the group felt was key was the classrooms ought to be designed to hold 25 students, he said, and ought to have expandable potential.

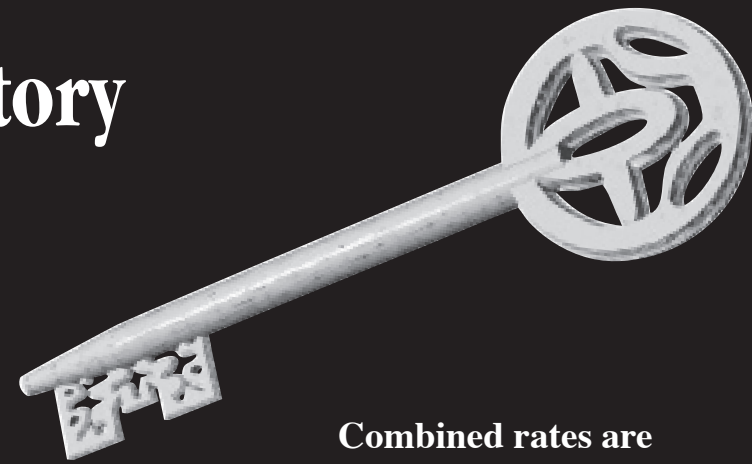
Following the presentations Joy thanked everyone for participating and said all the information would be put together and a meeting date would be set in November for the next meeting.

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