MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

A SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE HARDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #31-1 WAS HELD ON JULY 21, 2026, AT 6:00PM AT THE HARDING COUNTY SCHOOL GYM.

Members present: Taz Olson, Billy Clanton, Dillon Lermeny, Clint Doll, and Tawni Cordell.
Administration present: Superintendent Josh Page, Principal/AD Kelly Messmer, and Business Manager Elizabeth Henderson

Visitors Present: Approximately twenty-five community members were in attendance.

President Olson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Unless otherwise noted, all Board action was by unanimous decision.

26-178 Approve Agenda. Motion by Clanton, second by Doll to approve the agenda with the addition of Open Comment after Facilities Discussion. Motion carried.

26-179 Facilities Discussion – CTE/Phase II Information. Board member Clanton opened the discussion with a welcome to the public and introduction of guests, Jared Carda from Co-Op Architecture and Toby Morris of Colliers Securities.

Superintendent Page gave a review of the events that led to the current discussion of building projects. Northwest Area Schools closure is the catalyst to building a CTE (Career and Technical Education) building. With closure, the mobile units were divided amongst the remaining member schools; Harding County has received Construction Trades. Mr. Padden is qualified to teach the Construction Trades classes starting this fall. While the board and administration were researching and making plans for the CTE building in order to add additional classes and programs, they also looked at what it would take to finish Phase II of the original building plans – a multipurpose room/weight room/locker room addition. The goal from the beginning was to make this a tax-neutral project.

Jared Carda of Co-Op Architecture gave a short review of the work his firm does – including facilities assessment and planning, enrollment and capacity, life cycle costs, facility design, and construction administration. He reviewed the tentative plans for the building projects. The multi-purpose/locker room/weight room is approximately 9,350 additional square feet off of the south-west side of the current building. It would house two additional locker rooms, a weight room, additional storage and training room, and a multi-purpose room that would be used for wrestling during the season. The CTE building would be a stand-alone pre-engineered metal building to the west of the school, approximately 80 feet by 120 feet in size. It would house two classrooms, one of which would have kitchenettes for food science classes as well as a large open shop area. It would also be used to store buses and vehicles during the summer and would have several large shop doors to allow projects to be built indoors. The total approximate cost of the whole project is $9.2 million.

Toby Morris of Colliers Securities reviewed the proposed funding for this project. Mr. Morris had previously helped to secure the funding for the new school building in 2010. The district would be able to dedicate approximately $1.9 million dollars of cash on hand to the project and would add capital outlay certificates of $2.7 million, which is paid for with current taxes levied and would not increase the current levy. The district does need to ask for a new bond for the remaining $4.6 million dollars; however, it would be tax neutral. It would begin after the current bond ends and would be at approximately the same levy that is currently taxed. There would be no new taxes, only a continuation of the current level. Mr. Morris did recommend requesting a bond not to exceed $4.9 million in order to cover any unforeseen contingencies, restating that only the amount needed would be utilized. If bids were to come in well under the estimate, then a lower bond would be executed.

Those in attendance asked questions throughout the presentation. This would require a new vote, which would be held with the November election. The project is still in the development stage. The buildings could be completed within 12-15 months of an affirmative vote.

The board plans to hold additional meetings throughout the fall with dates and times to be determined.

President Olson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

Submitted By:

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Elizabeth Henderson	Taz Olson
Business Manager	Board President

The approximate cost of this publication is $115.00.