

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ILLINI WEST HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #307
Special Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 600 Miller Street, Carthage, IL 62321

- 1) The Special Meeting of the Illini West High School District 307 of Hancock County, IL was called to order at 7:00 PM.
- 2) Roll Call:
 1. Tracey Anders
 2. Darrell Sutton
 3. Betsy Wujek
 4. John Huston
 5. Shannon Pence
 6. Beth Pence – Absent (arrived at 7:03PM)
 7. Holly Wilde

Audience Member – Mike Carter

- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) Motion by Anders, seconded by S. Pence to approve the consent agenda item as presented:
 - a. Approve Agenda

Roll Call: Wujek/yes; Wilde/yes; B. Pence/yes; Huston/yes; S. Pence/yes; Sutton/yes; Anders/yes.
Motion carried.

- 5) Recognition of Visitors – Mike Carter
- 6) Public Comment - None
- 7) Discussion/Action
 - a. Building for the Future:

Our goal is to become educated to all options prior to the November Board meeting.
Our biggest concern other than the fact we don't own the building IW is currently using is the safety of all our students. Modulars are not appropriate and have been used for too long. Entrance and exit into IW from all modulars allows for easy access for anyone.

Options:

Spring referendum – with a December 16th deadline

1st run referendum to borrow money to a set amount; once legislatures see we have constituents and then they look at proposing a bill.

50/50 Capital Money - rules coming out in March 2019 and money coming out in July 2019.
50/50 Legislators - MUST have local money secured (referendum) and go to the legislatures to secure a bill.

Fall referendum - if we wait until fall, we most likely will lose out on capital money.

HLS - The Russell report is an overview but not official.

Mike talked about doing a more thorough assessment of the property that IW does not own, from specialists: electrical engineer, plumbing, etc. Mike said the cost of the building assessment depends on the goal of the assessment - comprehensive - special cameras down sanitary sewers, asbestos roof samples etc. Once a report is written like this, it is typically signed off by the superintendent and sent off to ISBE. The issue with this is that for each code violation you will need to align with corrective actions - urgent items in 1 year less urgent in 5 years. This opens a can of worms that you can't take back. There could be severe damages to the elementary district if we did a comprehensive report and we choose to walk away. If IW were to walk away, this report is still then at ISBE and Carthage elementary district still has the corrections that must be fixed. A rough estimate for the cost of the survey and report is between 6 - 14 thousand

The last referendum was based on \$33 million for about 450 kids and built so it could be expanded. Currently at 320 kids enrolled at IW which is significantly lower than 450 so the cost of the building would be reduced slightly. Dropping down 100 kids would be about 4 classrooms.

Carthage Elementary is not pushing or rushing us as they do not have plans to kick us out

Currently, Mike said the development off the 40 acres would cost about \$27 - 28 million and a campus with everything. Gym sized to host sectional tournaments. Low sloped roof and pitched roof over the gym and other important parts. Most likely we would scale things down to align with current enrollment.

So many moving factors that we have no control over for a truly scary picture.

Darrell Sutton said if you want it passed, then you need to pare it down. Our population is old and when they went to school, they didn't have these things and don't see why it is important. Title 9 has made this very challenging and difficult in terms of space needed which is why a new building would require some additional rooms/space/multipurpose room, gym that some of our older constituents do not feel is necessary.

Shannon indicated that we should at least give the voters a chance to say yes or no to building on the farm for an estimated cost. Mike said he would give us an estimated cost at our next special board meeting on Friday, Nov. 15th. Mike said to update the plans would cost the district about 3000-4000.

Ask David Pistorius to come to the November board meeting so he can answer how much will every million cost the taxpayers?

Mike will come to the next board meeting in November.

Betsy indicated her only hesitation is the timeline of all of this. Beth, Tracy, and Betsy are all open to a referendum but hesitation on timeline. Betsy also was concerned with making an educated decision based on facts. Without knowing the rules and not having a strong understanding what a new school would cost to build on the farm, and what exactly will be in that new school is what makes educating the constituents extremely difficult. If Mike can provide us some hard numbers, it will make coming to a decision slightly easier.

There will be a special meeting on Friday 15th @ 7:00 to discuss the information that Mike will share with us.

- 8) Motion by Anders, seconded by Wujek to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Roll Call: Huston/yes; Anders/yes; Wujek/yes; B. Pence/yes; Wilde/yes; Sutton/yes; S. Pence/yes. Motion carried.

John Huston, School Board President

11/20/2019

Date

Betsy Wujek, School Board Secretary

11/20/2019

Date