

November 28, 2022
EJCS BOE Study Session Minutes

A study session of the East Jackson Community Schools Board of Education was held in the East Jackson Elementary Community Room. The session was called to order by President, Ken Straub at 6:02 PM. Secretary, Jan Maino conducted roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present: Ken Straub, Mishele Wilkins, Jan Maino, Mickey Cromley, Misti Bell, Amy Boatright

Board Members Absent: Lisa Hendricks

Administrators/Supervisors Present: Superintendent Doerr
Amy Blackledge, Joel Cook, Becky Hager, Jeff Punches, Randy Wilkinson

Staff Members Present: Marc Daly, Ray Hill, Deana Minder, Lisa Vogt

Visitors Signed In:

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - None

Questions, Comments, Petitions from the Public - None

Discussion Topic – Building Placement for 6th Grade Students

- Superintendent Steve Doerr began the discussion by stating that conversation of moving 6th grade from the elementary building to the secondary building started 6 months ago at the monthly administration meetings. He added that he does not have a recommendation at this time. Steve also shared that the JCISD will be vacating East Jackson Memorial Elementary and occupying Jackson Public Frost Elementary at the end of January 2023.
- Principals, Amy Blackledge, Joel Cook, Becky Hager, and Jeff Punches shared their opinions of pros and cons, which were included in the Board packet.
- Steve Doerr shared on behalf of the Transportation Department that EJE bus runs are full capacity and due to student drivers, the EJSS bus runs have room.
- Board members inquired about 6th grade enrollment numbers and number of classrooms currently not being used by classroom teachers at each building. There are 3 classrooms of 6th grade with enrollment being 66 students. The elementary has 3 rooms not used by EJ classroom teachers and the secondary has 4 open rooms which are scattered throughout the building and not being used as classrooms for good reasons. (noise level, no windows, size)
- Maintenance Supervisor, Randy Wilkinson shared his report regarding the building layout of Memorial Elementary and estimated costs for required capital improvements within the next 5 years. This report was included in the Board packet.
- Jan Maino wanted to know what prompted this conversation. Elementary Principal, Becky Hager responded with hopes of keeping EJ families in district by having more preschool space. She added that 6th grade would benefit from more grade level resources and support.
- Mishele Wilkins asked to hear input from teachers present at the session. 6th grade teacher, Lisa Vogt stated that she agrees with all the pros mentioned from each principal, however she does not think the answer is to move 6th grade into the secondary building with high school students.

Although she understands the financial burden and doesn't see the possibility, she strongly supports middle school students, 6-8 being separate from K-5 and 9-12. Marc Daly, secondary school teacher, attended as a parent of a 6th grader. He has faith that the Board will make a good decision for students and staff but added that he doesn't believe it is the best move to place 6th grade students amongst high school students. Ray Hill, secondary school teacher, believes in doing what is best and right for our students although he does not have knowledge of or experience with elementary students, therefore he declined input.

- Current opinion of Board members present:
 - Misti Bell does not support moving 6th grade to the secondary building.
 - Amy Boatright does not support moving 6th grade to the secondary building.
 - Mishele Wilkins does not support moving 6th grade to the secondary building.
 - Mickey Cromley does not have an opinion at this time.
 - Jan Maino does not have an opinion at this time and would like feedback from the 6th grade teachers regarding the needs of 6th grade.
 - Ken Straub did not state an opinion and suggested getting input and thoughts from staff.

Adjournment

Mrs. Wilkins moved to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Mr. Cromley 2nd

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Jan Maino
Board of Education Secretary