

BOONE CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

PLANNING, DISCUSSION AND RATIONALE



OVERVIEW

This document provides an overview of details and information compiled by the Boone Central Board of Education and Administration to better clarify the study findings and address community concerns. The efficiency information included is not final; rather preliminary information being used as a guide in our quest to provide the highest quality of education for our students now and in the future.

Planning is a crucial part of any effective school district. The success of our students is a direct result of thorough preparation, forecasting, and organizing. This document is more than just words and numbers; it is a commitment and part of a strategic plan as we strive to position the Boone Central district as the educational hub of our region.

We have listened to those around us. We have learned about our strengths, and have engaged in some very candid conversations about our most pressing needs and challenges. The communities have affirmed that we have a lot to be proud of, and that we have many areas in which we must improve in order to continue to develop and progress as a district. We have listened to every idea brought forward about the future of our school district and we have discussed those ideas. Above all, we have heard about the desire to work together.

This process has allowed us to closely examine where we are now, and has helped us better understand what lies ahead. As Board members and administrators, we are committed to doing what is best for all students, both academically and financially. We are fully dedicated to the bond that has been built between the Petersburg and Albion communities, and we are committed to building this legacy known to others as “Boone Central”. Regardless of the outcome of upcoming Board action, it is our promise and intent to continue to fully support both communities and treat the Boone Central community as “one” community inclusive of all throughout the district.

This document serves as a guide for communication and engagement. It highlights our focus of making decisions that are in the best interest of our students, our families, our staff members, our community members, and our neighbors. The document defines our vision, addresses key concerns raised during community engagement, and details financial information as it relates to the middle school. It includes rationale as it relates to information we are reviewing to make decisions in the best interest of the Boone Central School district now and as we consider direction for the future.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In May, the Board was presented with a final copy of the economic cost-benefit analysis prepared by Dr. Ernie Goss & Associates. This information, along with a detailed assessment of the Petersburg facility, has assisted the Board in evaluating fiscal data, community feedback and reviewing priorities as we prepare for next steps to be taken at the regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for August 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Art Room at Boone Central High School. At this time the Board is focused on gathering additional information, listening to the patrons in both the Petersburg and Albion communities, and further discussing all ideas and concerns.

Potential timelines, facility plans and other elements of future consideration will follow the action to be taken on August 12th.

GOALS & PRIORITIES RELATIVE TO DECISION-MAKING

Goals and Vision

- Provide an educational facility designed to support the needs of our communities; specific to the needs of our middle school aged students.
- Provide an educational space that will accommodate how educators deliver instruction for improving student learning.
- Allow for flexibility and future needs and changes of the school and communities while positioning the district to be a regional education hub.
- Design an educational learning environment that is a direct reflection of our school and communities pride.
- Keep all stakeholders up-to-date on the planning and decision making by communicating information effectively and in a timely manner.
- Keep health, safety, and security of our students a top priority.
- Effectively evaluate the use of already available space and resources.
- Design an educational learning space that is an economic and efficient investment to the school and communities.
- Prioritize our needs to ensure that this investment is designed to have the largest impact and long-term return for taxpayers.

Priorities

- Boone Central Middle School Aquestt (Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow) rankings set by the Nebraska Department of Education suffer in the following areas:
 - Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success
 - School partnership with community groups and support services for the academic success and healthy social and emotional development of all students
 - Effective strategies for increasing family participation and attendance
 - Family Engagement
 - Community and Support Services
 - Transitions
 - Strategies to support successful transition of all students from elementary to middle school
 - Strategies to support successful transition of all students from middle school to high school
 - Educational Opportunities & Access
 - Students are offered before school and afterschool opportunities for expanded learning
 - College, Career, and Civic Ready
 - The school partners with business and industries to provide students with workplace experience to identify career opportunities in Nebraska and to develop career-readiness skills
 - Opportunities for educators and administrators to collaborate and communicate across the district

Key Areas of Community Concern

Concern: *Our middle school campus has been a great success allowing our students to grow and develop in a separate educational setting, what will be done to preserve the middle school concept?*

Response: We've heard this concern loud and clear and much discussion has been had regarding preservation and enhancement of the middle school setting. This is a top priority. Efficiencies of a 5th thru 8th middle school setting are being evaluated. Considerations of shared spaces and separate commons gathering spaces have been discussed. Enhanced educational opportunities would exist in the district's ability to offer intro to Industrial Tech, Ag, and Business, Family and Consumer Science classes to middle school aged students. Mentoring opportunities between all grade-levels would be possible.

Concern: *Has consideration been given related to safety as it relates to school nurse location and distance to health care facilities?*

Response: Yes, the Board and Administration understand that our school nurse can't be in two locations. We have great faith in the local emergency services of both Petersburg and Albion.

Concern: *Is the board taking into consideration, based on population projections, the future landscape of other school districts in our county and area?*

Response: Yes, the Board is taking into consideration how the location of school district facilities could impact the landscape as it relates to education facilities in our region in the next 10, 15, 20+ years in the future.

FISCAL & FACILITY ANALYSIS RELATIVE TO DECISION-MAKING

Budget Efficiencies

The financial section of this document examines efficiencies of a single campus and associated savings.

Transportation	Realized Cost Savings	Detail
Bus Operating Expenses	\$22,000	Elimination of bus operating expenses associated only with the 6 routes specifically ran between Petersburg and Albion transporting MS students. *Elimination of routes potentially resulting in a decreased number of buses owned by the school and related operating/maintenance costs.
Vehicle Operating Expenses	\$8,000	Elimination of vehicle expenses associated with those staff members driving to and from Petersburg during contracted time. *Elimination of staff travel during the school day potentially resulting in a decreased number of vehicles owned by the school and related operating/maintenance costs.
Facilities, Utilities & Maintenance		
Utilities	\$17,000	Utility and maintenance savings associated with newer, more efficient equipment ⁽¹⁾
Materials & Equipment	\$6,000	Elimination of duplicated expenses (Copy machine and Bobcat Lease, Classroom/Instructional materials duplicated)
Property Insurance	\$4,500	Net savings on Property Insurance ⁽²⁾
Contracted Services for Facilities	\$11,000	Elimination of contracted services (Petersburg FB field rent \$3,600, Fire & Boiler Inspections, Appera, Culligan, etc. \$7,400)
Salaries & Benefits		
Educational Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$213,000	See cost breakdown below.
Transportation Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$36,000	Elimination of salary/ benefits for the 6 bus trips ran daily to transport MS students to and from Albion. Does not include cost to run regular morning and afternoon routes through Petersburg nor the cost of transporting MS students after practices and events.
Lunch Staff Benefits	\$26,000	The lunch fund is expected to be as self-supporting as possible; health insurance mandates resulted in an expense from the general fund (GF) each year to support the lunch program. If the single campus option is chosen 1.5 full-time positions will be eliminated. Cost savings to the lunch fund will be zero, although the GF will no longer need to support the lunch program resulting in a cost savings; those funds will be shifted to the building fund. (\$26,000 transferred to Lunch Fund from GF to cover Health benefit cost last year)
Custodial Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$77,000	Currently 3 full-time positions are budgeted for at the MS. If the single campus option is chosen 1 full-time position will be eliminated and the associated cost savings will be shifted to the building fund. In addition, \$11,000 is budgeted for annually to cover the cost of summer workers. These funds will also be shifted to the building fund.
Contracted Service Providers	\$13,000	Elimination of duplicated service providers due to students being located at different campuses. Services include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech/language therapy, etc.
TOTAL	\$430,800	EXPECTED SAVINGS USED FOR BUDGETING PURPOSES

* Represents additional savings to be determined. No value is considered for these items at this time.

(1) Source: Goss & Associates (2) Source: Spann Insurance Agency

Educational Staff Cost Savings

MS Computer/Math Teacher - Current teacher will continue to teach at MS, in addition will take on technology director position. Two additional teachers are involved in covering the duties of these two positions as well. ESU is contracted to assist with technology needs. If the single campus option is chosen the position will be eliminated; staff member will take on the technology director position full-time. Associated general fund certified staff and ESU services budget will be shifted to building fund.

HS English Teacher – Currently this position is still open; applications will still be accepted and considered. The position is being covered internally. If the single campus option is chosen this position will be absorbed and associated general fund certified staff budget will be shifted to the building fund.

Paraprofessional – Currently 23 full-time paraprofessionals are budgeted for throughout the district. If the single campus option is chosen at least 2 full-time para positions will be eliminated and associated general fund support staff budget will be shifted to the building fund.

*Other efficiencies may be considered if the single campus option is chosen.

DECISION-MAKING FACTORS EDUCATIONAL & INSTRUCTIONAL OUTLOOK

Educational Opportunities

- Increased opportunities for collaboration and communication amongst all staff members, including teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, and administrators.
- Increased opportunities for regular, face-to-face communication between staff members and students, especially the opportunity for coaches and sponsors to communicate with students they would not typically see on a regular basis.
- Course offerings including Intro to Industrial Technology, Business, Family & Consumer Science (Home Ec.), and Agriculture.
- Grade-level mentoring opportunities for middle school students (middle school students mentoring elementary students).
- Better use of instructional time lost due to travel.
- Opportunities for middle school students to use educational space not currently available to them (ex: greenhouse).
- Increased efficiency of staff members (teachers working with students vs. current travel time between buildings).

Instructional Priorities

During the 2017-18 school year the middle school day started at 8:10 a.m. and ended at 3:10 p.m. equaling 6.5 instructional hours per day, compared to 6.95 instructional hours for our high school students (starting at 8:03 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m.). Over the course of the school year this amounted to the equivalency of 10.3 school days lost due to the late start and the early dismissal at the Petersburg campus.

During the 2018-19 school year the school day was extended by 10 minutes for the primary purpose of adding a few additional instructional minutes each day. Over the course of the school year those additional minutes accounted for 25.7 hours of instructional time gained (approximately 3.8 school days)

Currently, our students spend 40 minutes each day traveling back and from Albion to Petersburg. Our school year calculates out to about 155 full days of school each year; the bus ride is the equivalent of 15.5 school days.

In addition to the changes made in 2018-2019, aligning the middle school hours to the current high school hours would account for 51.4 instructional hours, which is the equivalent of 7.6 school days.

Key Areas of Community Concern

Concern: *As it relates to the existing middle school refurbishment and upgrade costs detailed in the facility assessment, what would have to be fixed?*

Response: The facilities committee feels that if the middle school remains in Petersburg long term all identified deficiencies would need to be addressed. It is estimated that in a scenario in which the building is occupied for an additional 5yrs that approximately \$500,000 would be required to address mechanical, ADA and life safety related deficiencies. Given the anticipated budget impact above, the anticipated operational savings would be approximately \$2,154,000 over that same 5yr period. Financing of any required updates, additional facilities, etc at the Albion campus would primarily be funded by these expected operational savings.

Concern: *Has consideration been given to extra-curricular activities, fine arts, sports and competition scheduling and facility requirements?*

Response: Yes, Administration and the AD have examined scheduling, facility use, locker room requirements and overall needs as it relates to requirements related to extra-curricular. Planning and scheduling options have been developed and reviewed. Avoiding negative impact on fine arts and performing arts has been considered with the increased need for gym space during seasonal high use.

