

BOONE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle School Feasibility Study Press Release



June 3, 2019

The Boone Central Board of Education has been working to determine the feasibility of the current location of Middle School. To assist in defining the best economic solution three outside consultants were hired to provide and analyze specific information about the feasibility of the Middle School.

The purpose of the feasibility study was to obtain an objective analysis that would be used to assist the Board of Education in better understanding the costs of making necessary infrastructure repairs of the aging facility as well as modernizing the classrooms to provide our children with 21st Century educational experiences. The goal of the study was to provide the Board with an overall rate-of-return to residents, businesses and other organizations in the county for the best use of taxpayer funds.

In January, Wilkins Architecture Design Planning, LLC, along with consulting engineers from Engineering Technologies, Inc. performed an onsite facilities assessment of the Petersburg campus. The onsite evaluation observed the current condition of the building envelope (roof, walls, windows, structure, etc.), the mechanical and electrical systems, safety and security systems, energy and operating efficiency, plumbing systems and also noted specific instances where the campus is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition, the utilization of the current building space was evaluated. The primary objective of the facilities assessment was to determine the probable cost of bringing the building up to current codes and standards. An opinion of probable cost was developed by Wilkins Architecture Design Planning. The ADA code renovations, mechanical, electrical, fire safety compliance, and security estimates aided in determining the overall feasibility of the Middle School. In addition to providing the probable cost for renovation of the Petersburg facility, drawings and cost estimates were provided for the possible construction of a replacement facility at both Petersburg and Albion.

To ensure that the feasibility study adequately addressed the perspectives of the public affected by this decision, one-on-one interviews with external stakeholders were conducted in March by JEO Consulting Group. A total of 10 individual stakeholder interviews were conducted in person and over the phone. Those interviewed included Albion and Petersburg community members including business owners, parents and grandparents of school district students, rural residents, and members of various community boards and committees. JEO compiled the key impressions from the interviews and provided the Board with an analysis of the responses, recommendations and considerations for how to approach the future involvement, education, and communication with the community. This information also aided in determining the overall feasibility of the Middle School.

A subsequent study completed by Dr. Ernie Goss and Associates was developed to provide a cost benefit analysis of possible options for the Middle School developed by Wilkins Architecture Design Planning. The feasibility study took into consideration enrollment projections, cost of renovation and/or construction, transportation costs, utility and maintenance costs, and employment costs.

Prior to the Regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for June 10th, 2019 a Special Meeting will be held to present the details of the feasibility study. The Special Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Boone Central Middle School Library in Petersburg. Feasibility Study documents will be available via the school's website on Friday, June 7th. In addition, agendas for both the Special Board Meeting and the Regular Board meeting will be available via the school's website on Friday.