

September 24, 2007

Dear Fulton/Sandidge Community & Staff,

As you are aware, the Board was involved in studying renovations for Fulton and Sandidge during the 06-07 school year. It engaged the architectural firm of Dahlquist and Lutzow (D&L) to evaluate the facilities. The firm determined the extent of the repairs that would be needed at both schools and the costs to complete those repairs and renovations. After an analysis of primary and secondary repairs and the costs of renovations, the Board decided to combine Fulton and Sandidge into one school. The architects indicated that the Fulton site could house a PreK-5 school.

The Board asked D&L to develop renderings (often referred to as “footprints”) of a new PreK-5 school. It also asked the administrators to work with the architects related to program needs. Ron Gonser, Fulton Principal, Rosemary Bova-Wood, Sandidge principal, Denise Bettenhausen, Director of Special Services and Nancy Schwab, Director of Curriculum, served on the program committee to help set priorities. John Mehalek, Board Vice President and John Malloy, Board member, served on the Board Construction sub-committee. Both committees met on multiple occasions to analyze their work and respond to the Board’s questions.

In addition to discussions with the architects and the program committee members, the Board also engaged in fact finding sessions related to its ability to finance the construction while fulfilling its day to day obligations. The Board’s long term commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability has placed it in a position of being able to fund a new PreK-5 school on the Fulton site. This decision was made on September 24th, at its regular meeting. The cost is estimated at \$14,000,000 with an additional \$500,000 authorized for a new sprinkler system at Memorial School.

There are many more questions than there are answers at this time. The Board will rely on its architects to lead us through the “next steps” but there are several parameters for now:

- Complete the schematic drawings and bidding in the 07-08 school year;
- Begin construction in the summer of 2008 and complete it during the summer of 2009;
- Use the Sandidge School during the 08-09 school year. The Board has not made any plans for the Sandidge School beyond the 08-09 school year; and
- Discuss and determine where students and staff from Fulton and/or Sandidge will be located during the construction phase (08-09 school year).

A construction period is not going to be without its bumps. As the Board president often says, there is going to be some pain in order to experience the gain. However, be assured that we will work together for the best possible outcome for the Fulton/Sandidge families, students and staff.

Sincerely,

Dean Casper

Dean Casper
President, Board of Education

Marion Hoyda

Marion Hoyda
Superintendent

c: District 146 Board Members
Fulton/Sandidge Principals