

FOUNDATION UPDATES

The Alburnett Community School District Foundation had its annual meeting Tuesday, November 12th with 22 people in attendance. We want to thank all of you from the district and community for attending.

The annual report shared information on foundation start up, publicity, database development, financial status and project determination. The board is still discussing what project it wants to undertake. We have spoken of the need for a multipurpose auditorium/gymnasium for fine arts, athletics and other purposes as well as the desire for land acquisition and the building of a sports complex. We have initiated a search of land and are trying to determine if this is even a path we can travel. We have looked at safety issues, zoning, proximity to school and town, access to city water and sewer, sidewalks, lay of land, watersheds, hard surface road access and more. We have no final answers and may not for awhile. Many desire to have a sports complex that would have an all weather track, football field and ball fields all in one place.

The need for a multipurpose room is great as well. It is extremely difficult to schedule gym time with all the different teams and fine arts that need to use it. With only one competitive size gym we can only schedule one athletic event at a time which again causes us to travel more or not have events here. We have many different individuals practicing various things in hallways as well as the gyms all at the same time.

We had very open and honest question and answer time which gave the board much feedback and thoughts to ponder. Here are some of the comments:

1. We need to remember in our decision of project determination the following, Safety, need and want and in that order
2. If we can get land, that is the way to go. We may not use it all now, but the school needs land if it is to build. We can not build where we are without replacing what we need to move. We could be a catalyst for the school board in allowing them to go forward with plans they may be developing.
3. Why not build a brand new 9-12 school on the land?
4. There is a very great need for space for storage. Great need for improved stage and room again for the fine arts. Many desire to see improvements here.
5. Opening up facilities for the community, such as weight room, treadmills, library, computer room and the track for walking.
6. It was stressed repeatedly that the foundation was not in this for itself, that this would be a foundation, community and school effort. If the school remains vibrant and growing the community will reap rewards and vice versa.
7. That the foundation is a very good thing and that the decisions we have to make are difficult ones but both options are very positive.

The Foundation Board elected three new board members to three year terms. The new members are Dave Gardner, Chris Harstead and Kelly Baier.

The Foundation Board realized after the meeting the great need to have quarterly or biannual informational meetings. This will allow community and district members to attend and be informed and allow the board to get feedback from you. We felt it was time very well spent and hope you came away feeling some ownership in this venture. We thank you very much for coming and helping us move the community and school forward in such a positive way.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Patty Shaffer