

**Kiel Area School District**

**Pool Study Committee**

**November 19, 2013**

**5:30 p.m.**

Present:

Dr. Blankenheim, Sheila Lefeber, Kevin Schwinn, Lee Watson, Al Winkel, John Buchholz, Kristy DeBlaey, Scott Weir, Tessa Farley

Discussion:

Dr. Blankenheim welcomed everyone and explained how this committee came to be along with the purpose of the committee. A pool observation deck was part of the recently passed referendum. Once the construction process began the Board was advised of structural issues relating to the pool, at which time the Board requested a study be conducted on the pool. Councilman-Hunsacker performed a full assessment on the pool. The Board reviewed the results of the pool audit and asked that a pool committee be formed to review the pool audit report and provide an advisory recommendation to the full Board.

Dr. Blankenheim asked committee members for their initial thoughts/comment, etc. Mr. Buchholz shared that he read the full report and the pool is old and it would be like maintaining a 42 year old car. If monies were invested into fixing items, what type of warranty would be provided? Feels that if the District is going to do something, it needs to be done right, which would mean going to referendum for a new pool. He is concerned with fixing problems.....how many other problems will evolve that are unknown at this time.

Mrs. DeBlaey asked if numbers for pool usage were available....Mr. Weir shared that he has numbers for open and lap swim, swim lessons and also noted that gym classes also use the pool. He will forward those numbers. Mr. Buchholz asked if the pool brought monies into the district? Dr. Blankenheim indicated that the pool is not just for the school, but it is a community pool and usage is very high.

Mrs. DeBlaey asked about the fire extinguisher that was noted on page 10 in the report and whether or not it was being replaced. Mr. Schwinn indicated that the extinguisher in question is only accessible to a few school employees, but yes he will upgrade it with a water-based extinguisher as recommended. Mr. Schwinn informed the committee that some of the items identified on the last pages have already been addressed.

Again, Mr. Buchholz spoke to the fact that the pool is just old. Dr. Blankenheim noted that if the committee has determined that the district goes to referendum then an architect would need to be brought on board. The committee discussed whether or not we needed to increase from 6 lanes to 8 and Mr. Buchholz did not feel that was necessary. The district is currently grandfathered in for diving, but if we get a new pool we would need to have depth of 12 feet for diving. Mr. Watson and Mrs. DeBlaey both agree with Mr. Buchholz that the district should pursue a new pool.

Mr. Winkel shared that the pool is inspected yearly, which includes: ladders, doors, tiles, locker rooms, but nothing is noted in regards to the pool structure itself.

Mrs. Farley inquired about the possibility of grant monies.....at this time there are no known grants.

Dr. Blankenheim inquired to any need for locker room upgrades? Mr. Schwinn, Mr. Winkel, and Mr. Weir all noted that locker room upgrades are necessary.....especially the shower areas. Mrs. DeBlaey asked about the referendum monies that were designated for the pool observation deck. Dr. Blankenheim shared that some of the pool money was used for other items, but that \$140,000 was set aside for pool purposes.

The consensus of the committee is to recommend that the district seek a referendum for a new pool. It needs to be communicated to the community about the usage numbers for the pool, warranties, cost and energy savings, etc. The committee does not want to invest a lot of additional monies into pool repairs.

Mr. Schwinn shared that Bray and C.D. Smith would do the leg work at no cost if guaranteed the work should a referendum pass. The committee would prefer to solicit bids to get the best price.

Mr. Watson wondered if the District could solicit large businesses for help. Dr. Blankenheim shared that the group who was working on the athletic complex did solicit businesses and were told that because it was not enclosed they would not support.....so perhaps we have an opportunity with the pool.

The committee briefly discussed what would happen if a referendum passed – would the current pool need to be shut down during construction.....the answer is yes. The committee discussed the possibility of co-oping with neighboring district during construction. The committee did not feel there was a plan B, only option is to recommend a new pool.

Dr. Blankenheim will develop a memo to the Board and the recommendation will be placed on the January 15<sup>th</sup> board agenda.

Adjourn            The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.