

**Central Community Unit School District 301
Board of Education Minutes**

Where: Central High School LMC
Date: September 8, 2011

Meeting: Regular
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present

Doty, Steve	Y
Gorman, Jeff	Y
Perry, Rich	Y
Rabe, Laura	Y
Roberts, Mike	N
Weigand, Gary	Y
Diaz, Rose	Y

Administrators Present

Stirn, Todd	Y
Rabenhorst, Greg	Y
Cope, Ron	N
Esther Martin	Y
Sarah Nolan	Y

Roll Call Roll call was taken at 7:58 a.m.

1. Roll Call
2. Board Members were asked to rate their SWOT results.

Dr. Stirn reviewed enrollment trends back to 2001. The boundary shifts and school openings were noted where major enrollment trends took place. Lily Lake (LL) and Howard B. Thomas (HBT) enrollment has been declining for several years. Lily Lake could have three single section grade levels within two additional school years. Kindergarten enrollment trends will be the deciding factor on future grade level sections.

Esther Martin reviewed achievement data covering the combined elementary scores and Lily Lake scores.

Todd gave the board a list of seven different options for Lily Lake that included: status quo, establishing a policy to maintain at least two sections of each grade level, convert to a multi-grade school, realign boundaries, convert elementary buildings to grade level centers, convert Lily Lake a 1/2 day kindergarten or convert it to an early childhood center. A boundary shift would mean driving past one school to get to another school.

The district closed Plato Center school completely and it now sits empty and the bad economy prohibits us from either renovating or selling the closed property. Closing Lily Lake is not a good option because the district may need to use it as a school when the housing market returns. When housing starts again the district will experience big jumps in enrollment and will need the space LL provides

Discussion took place on exploring options related to Lily Lake and the board discussed how it might gather input from other forums. More cost data is needed to see what the cost is to keep it open as well as closing it. Plato Center closed in 2000 and looking back it should not have been closed without maintaining some district programs in the facility.

One concern was HBT and LL having trouble with the new curriculum and common core because teachers need to collaborate and it becomes burdensome when just a few teachers must represent the school on numerous committees. The smaller the school the less change takes place in instruction, but by merging HBT and LL you will offer teachers great opportunity to grow with their peers. The east side of the district is still growing and expansion or boundary shifts that will need to be discussed at some point in the next few years. If enrollment ever necessitated the closing of Lily Lake, Board members would most likely opt to use the facility as an Early Education Center, but the Lily Lake community has emotional ties to their neighborhood school.

Cost information will be gathered on various options. The Administrators will have cost analysis ready and the next meeting will be Monday November 7, 2011 5:30 CHS conference room.

Recording Secretary