

If USD 210 only has 1.5 million in Capital Outlay at this time, how can we commit \$1.857 million to the project if the vote passes? Yes, at this time we do have \$1.5 million dollars in Capital Outlay. This is a fund generated by a 3 mill levy that earns almost a million dollars a year. We will not need to spend the \$1.857 million until the fall of 2010. As early as January of this year, we will have half a million dollars more in this fund from the State.

Will there be enough in Capital Outlay to cover unexpected expenditures, possible increases in prices, extended construction costs, and furniture? Built into the total expected costs of \$22,875,000 is an ample projection for all of these items. Here are some examples: Parking and drives-\$215,000; Site utilities-\$134,375; Demolition costs-\$215,000; HHS administration renovation-\$430,000; Inflation contingency-\$500,000; Also we will be reimbursed FEMA money for the two "hardened tornado rooms" we plan to build. Finally, we are eligible for "new facility weighting" money from the state for two years after we inhabit the new facilities.

In addition, the cost estimations were carefully made to reflect the cost to build in Hugoton, not Wichita or even Dodge City.

What do we typically use Capital Outlay funds for? The good news is in our District we do not anticipate any serious boiler or HVAC issues. The HMS boiler is due to be replaced in the near future but, this summer a three year internal inspection revealed it is working fine. We have a thorough roof rotation schedule. We will, however, need to continually spend money in the area of technology and new buses/vehicles.

Could we build any of these projects with Capital Outlay if the bond election fails to pass? Yes and No! We could legally increase our Capital Outlay funds up to 8 mills. Any increase in this five year resolution is subject to a public protest. If the vote fails, we could try again and/or we could increase the Capital Outlay money and build smaller projects spread out over 5 to 10 or more years. Due to the ever increasing nature of construction costs, this would be a very expensive and a cost prohibitive approach.

Are the building plans proposed for the USD 210 voters large enough to accommodate our current student space needs? First of all, much thought has gone into the size and the capacity we are planning for. Recently, a K-12 Enrollment Projection Report was conducted by a research specialist from the Kansas Association of School Boards. This study researched growth trends, live births in Stevens County and SW Kansas population trends. In light of the projected enrollment numbers, we believe these plans will give us the needed extra capacity at each attendance center.

Why not move 6<sup>th</sup> grade up to the middle school and use the vacated space to increase our early childhood needs? Most Hugoton parents we have heard from are against the idea of having our 6<sup>th</sup> graders share school space with the older students; however, there are many other

reasons as well. Even if the sixth grade wing, consisting of four classrooms was vacated and attempts were made to do a major remodel of the Elementary School, the classroom space would still be significantly lacking. We need three more Kindergarten classrooms to accommodate all-day kindergarten and we need a minimum of two more adequate sized pre-school classrooms. Currently, Mrs. Susie Scott and Mrs. Shelby Evans conduct pre-school in rooms originally built for an intermediate class. These rooms simply do not function very well for our youngest students. Kindergarten classrooms, like pre-school are larger than normal classrooms and require easy access to bathrooms. Even if major remodeling and reconfiguration of where grade levels were placed, the current Elementary School would still be lacking needed educational space.

**What about the increase in enrollment we anticipate from Abengoa?** If and when housing is available, Stevens County could see over 100 new families move and stay in our area due to long term jobs. Right now the total needed housing units are not available. In any community, the housing market typically responds slowly to community needs. Liberal experienced a similar housing shortage recently when their ethanol plant geared up. The average number of students per new family in Kansas is one per household. We believe our current plans accommodate for this growth.

**Final thoughts:** We have said all along we need this project no matter if Abengoa comes or not. It looks very certain Abengoa is coming. We really can only estimate the number of students our community would receive due to this project, and the additional spin off job opportunities. Our 2008-2009 enrollment has dropped slightly, but the KASB research projects our enrollment will grow over the years to come. We truly have a healthy community and a lot to offer in Hugoton, Kansas. The future looks bright for the children and students of USD 210.