

**Facility Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 18, 2015**

Present: Sarah Sullivan, Tina Huffsmith, Terry Beaver, Kent Kultgen, John Carter, Steve Thennis, Diane Neff

Guests: Karen Goldsberry, Liz Stine, Darryl James, John McEwen, Alan Nicholson

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m. at Helena High School. Dr. Kultgen introduced Steve Thennis, Principal.

Mr. Thennis began the tour in the Health Room. He said it is very small. Students in wheel chairs can't enter the nurse's area. There is no privacy, therefore students don't come to get the help they need.

Next they looked at the main office. It very difficult to get access. The staircase is the most direct way to get to the office but there is no parking out the main door nor is easy for someone with special needs to access the office. The main doors, cafeteria doors, and gym doors are the only doors left open throughout the day.

Enrollment at Helena High is 1,577 on this day.

Next the group went to the cafeteria. Dr. Kultgen encouraged everyone to stop by the cafeteria sometime at lunchtime to see what it is like. The cafeteria holds about 170 students. When the weather is nice, many students eat lunch on the front hill. Students are allowed to leave campus for lunch. There is only one lunch period because there are classrooms near the lunchroom so it would be difficult to conduct multiple lunch times. We encourage students to stay on campus for lunch. A few years ago, a chunk of the lunchroom was taken away because of the need for a special education space. When students come in for lunch it is full. Lunch is from noon – 12:30 p.m.

Helena High has been known to have a lot of silverfish in the building. It is an on-going problem.

Next the committee visited the boiler room. Recently two of the three boilers were replaced costing around \$185,000.

There are two floors at Helena High. A science wing was added in 1998. It was well thought out and built very well. The CSCT (mental health) was placed in this wing which it was not intended. They looked at the Chemistry Room which was well thought out. The lower level sunk, sitting on clay, sunk a few inches this summer and had to be raised. A member asked if having flat roofs create problems. Mr. Carter said they are not desired because drainage becomes a problem.

Next the committee went to the Little Theater. It is very limited capacity. The seats are old which makes it very difficult to get parts when they break.

Next the committee went to the west wing. This wing was designed well with lots of natural light. This wing offers English and World Literature. HHS offers four years of Spanish, three years of German and three years of French (there may be four years offered next year).

Next the committee visited the library. Many teachers have computer access in their rooms, but those that don't come to the library. Chromebooks are nearly one for every student.

What are things that need focused on at HHS:

1. A food court instead of a lunchroom – more of a common area
2. Administration's offices
3. There are structural issues – lack of ventilation, fresh air and circulation
4. Not enough gym space – this is the most used space – used nearly every weekend.
5. Better/more accommodating access to the main office – steps at the entry way
6. Better privacy for students when outside services come in – counselor area
7. Vo-Tech – it is similar to Capital High but not adequate for what is needed and it is totally separate from the main building

8. A sewing room was turned into a Special Education space which doesn't meet the needs of students.

When the building was built the needs of students were different, but Mr. Thennis said we make things work, but that's not to say the staff and students don't get frustrated.

A member asked if there is a problem with HHS being located where it is. Mr. Carter said the heat in the spring is more intense which is hard on the staff and students. The ground is losing moisture which means the clay the building is sitting on is consolidating.

Mr. Thennis invited the committee to come back to visit any time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next Facility Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at C.R. Anderson Middle School.