

USD 493 Football Stadium Information

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School districts all across Kansas have experienced serious budget cuts for the 2009-10 school year. USD 493 has \$500,000 less in budget authority this year than this past year. Districts all across the state are bracing for even further cuts the first of the calendar year.

School districts have capital outlay funds, which can be used to maintain, equip and remodel existing facilities. USD 493 uses these funds to maintain the buildings of the district. The current balance in this account is not at a level where any major project could be paid for with these funds.

The USD 493 Board of Education is discussing the possibility of a facility project to construct a new football stadium at Cecil Kline Field. The stadium received considerable structural damage as a result of the windstorm on May 8, 2009. The lights and power source were also destroyed in the storm. These have been replaced by using insurance, FEMA and a small amount of capital outlay funds. A temporary press box was purchased for the 2009 season. The structural engineer has highly recommended replacing the stadium by the 2010 season.

- The stadium was built in 1950 at a cost of \$25,000
- The seating capacity was 1,800
- The condition of the stadium today is considered very poor by the structural engineer
- The concrete has weathered away and is crumbling
- Steel reinforcement is showing
- The concrete seats are breaking apart
- Several steps have broken pieces
- The stadium is showing settlement and movement
- There are large cracks developing in the top of the seating areas
- The underside of the stadium, corrosion is noted around the front beams of the stadium
- Water infiltration has taken place
- One of the concrete support columns has cracked out at one of the bolt connections
- We have small transverse cracks appearing in some locations
- The masonry walls are cracking
- The biggest concern is a new longitudinal crack all the way through the slab (middle of the stadium)

- Because of this we are not allowing anyone to sit in the middle portion of the stadium this year
- We had to make some improvements the past two months just to get clearance for use this year.

The board had a community meeting on September 22 in the high school auditorium to discuss the stadium. Crossland Construction gave a presentation on a possible stadium option. The new stadium would seat 1,800 on the home side and 500 on the visitor's side. The stadium would meet all new code requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Because of the new code requirements bathrooms would have to be updated.

The USD 493 Board of Education understands the economic impact a new stadium would have on the taxpayers of the area.

- The district cannot financially pay for a new stadium out of the general fund or capital outlay budget
- The estimated costs of the entire proposal is around \$1.4 million
- If the taxpayers passed a bond issue the Kansas State Department of Education (State) would pick up 34% of the bond issue
- The State of Kansas share would be \$476,000
- USD 493 would pick up: \$924,000
- A 10 year bond issue would result in a 2.23 mill rate increase
- Interest Rates are very low currently. Most likely around 3.5%
- On a \$50,000 home, taxes would increase \$13.50 a year
- Another funding option would be to increase the capital outlay mill levy and try to secure a zero interest loan for ten years. The mill rate would be higher than the bond issue and we could only secure \$1,000,000. We would still be \$400,000 short of what was projected to build and renovate the facility. The state would not contribute any portion of the funding.
- Insurance will not pay for any damages to the current stadium
- FEMA will contribute approximately \$7,000 for the damage that was sustained.

USD 493 is seeking input and suggestions on the stadium project. A committee is being developed to look at all alternatives and possible solutions. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact the USD 493 District Office at: 620-429-3661 or e-mail: dcarriger@usd493.com. The board appreciates the continued support for the children of USD 493.

