

**Northeast Dubois County School Corporation Public Meeting #3**

January 7, 2019

The third public meeting was held January 7, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria. The event was well attended (see attached Sign-In Sheet). School Board members as well as the Superintendent were in attendance. VPS presented recommendations. Below are the questions and answers given.

1. Q: How many sections per grade are there currently at Dubois Elementary?  
A: Every other grade will have 3 sections.
2. Q: During these proposed projects, can we look into school safety/security grants?  
A: Absolutely.
3. Q: How many students/grades will there be after the consolidation?  
A: Every other grade will have 3 sections.
4. Q: Based on your recommendations, have you saved enough money to not have to do another referendum?  
A: That depends on enrollment. The School Board must do what it takes to get there. They have 7 years to figure it out; this is the first step towards that.
5. Q: How many students are there currently in each section of 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Dubois Elementary?  
A: 27 and 28.
6. Q: Is there anything “cosmetic” we can do to increase the “curb appeal” of the high school?  
A: The goal is to make updates that do not increase the overall footprint of the building. Right now we are recommending some updates to the main entry. 3-4 years from now in the next Bond Issue, a chunk will likely be spent at the high school.
7. Q: What is our debt cap/ceiling?  
A: You are not currently at your debt ceiling. The goal is to remain tax neutral for both Bond Issues over the next 4 years.
8. Q: The money is focused on building; what about curriculum? My son had to go to Jasper to take an Electronics class.  
A: This money cannot be used to start new programs or hire new teachers. This is a Construction Bond and must be used for Construction only.
9. Q: Based on the timeline, how many teaching/administrative positions will be downsized?  
A: (3) 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers down to (2). If Celestine closes, administrative and custodial positions will move to Dubois.
10. Q: If we move the 4<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle school, might there be unforeseen space issues, i.e. Cafeteria, Bathrooms?  
A: No.
11. Q: Do you know of any other middle schools that include 4<sup>th</sup> grade?  
A: Yes. Princeton has a 3-8 intermediate school.

12. Q: What is the cost per student at Celestine Elementary?  
A: \$6,100.00 per student at Celestine. This information is available on the school corporation's website from previous public meetings.
13. Q: Is the next School Board meeting open to the public?  
A: Yes. School Board meetings are always open to the public.
14. Q: Is it necessary to move the 4<sup>th</sup> grade to Dubois?  
A: Dubois can't absorb all of Celestine. There are currently 70 students in pre-school. If/when Celestine closes, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade would also move to Dubois. Renovation will include 2 new classrooms. Kindergarten is 3 sections. May have to utilize computer lab.
15. Q: Why wait until 2020-2021 school year; why not do it all at once?  
A: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades at Celestine compared to Dubois (2 sections)...We have the room.
16. Q: Why not now move 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders from having to be in the same building as 8<sup>th</sup> graders?  
A: The renovations need to be complete prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade moving.
17. Q: Do you have a breakdown of capacities for each facility?  
A: Yes. This information is available on the school corporation's website from previous public meetings.
18. Q: Will we continue to have pre-school at the elementary school? Why not get rid of the pre-school now so that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders won't have to be with 8<sup>th</sup> graders?  
A: My personal opinion would be to *not* do away with the pre-school program. While it is not state funded, it is a "feeder" program into the school corporation. You have a better shot at retaining the students if they begin pre-school here.
19. Q: Can we include a generator in the next project?  
A: No.
20. Q: What happens to Celestine Elementary?  
A: It will go back to the Diocese for \$1.00.
21. Q: What if they don't want it back?  
A: They have no choice. They can't demand that it be demolished.
22. Q: Is there a way to get After School Programming? That would make the schools more attractive to working parents.  
A: I will relay this comment to the School Board.

## Comments

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1. A parent of a Celestine pre-schooler and teacher from the parochial school system spoke about the recent consolidation of Catholic schools. While the transition was difficult, she spoke highly of the benefits. Teacher collaboration has improved. There are now multiple classrooms per grade, which creates a better social atmosphere. Resources are used more widely. The students are happier and there is less division among them. There has been an increase in student participation in sports and clubs. She urged the public to think about their attitudes; a positive attitude yields positive results and determines success. She hopes to see a fresh start and bright future for Dubois schools, which will hopefully attract new families and increase enrollment.
2. We ask every year if there is interest in After School Programming (it is state mandated that we ask). Each year, maybe one or two parents at most are in favor of it, which does not warrant the cost.
3. We need to make the schools ADA compliant.
4. All K-6 teachers have the same license which enables them to teach any elementary grade. Two teaching positions may be absorbed over the next few years, but we don't foresee hiring any new teachers because we already have them.

# VPS ARCHITECTURE

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## Public Meeting Sign-In Sheet

**Project:** Northeast Dubois County School Corporation Study  
**Owner:** Northeast Dubois County School Corporation  
**VPS Project No:** 2018034.00  
**Date:** January 7, 2019

Name	School
Judy Haase	CES
Denise Schroering	CES
Blinda Reikelhoff	St. Asidore Parish / Grandkids
Jerry Kluesner	DuBois Grade School / Grand Kids
Chad Kluesner	Dubois Grade School
Kate Schmitt	Taxpayer - My sons went to school DES-DMS-DHS
Stan & Karla Goodman	CES & DMS
Genevieve Terwiche	
Kelly Knis	DHS + DMS
Jody Knis	DHS + DMS
Judy Bickman	DHS DMS DE
Andrew Mathis	DES
Brian Dodel	NDHS
Curt Breitwieser	Tax payer
Kim Miley	DES, DMS
Lizette Braedley	DES, DMS
Chris Hasenour	CES
Andrea Rickelman	CES, HS
DENNIS RASCHKE	
Nick + Rachelle Hasenour	CES
Maureen Zuehlke	DES
Allen Kuytich	
John Snyde	Trans
Kurt Serrand	
Katrina + Kathy Messmer	NDHS

