

Sherman County Jr./Sr. High School
One Campus Configuration Thoughts/Possibilities
Wes Owens – Superintendent

PLEASE NOTE: THIS LIST WAS MADE WHEN I WAS SJSHS PRINCIPAL IN 2009

Background

- ❖ Since the 2008-09 school year the Sherman County School District Staff has been engaged in several conversations (staff meetings) regarding the advantages of a one campus elementary and Jr./Sr. High School configuration.
- ❖ I have attended numerous board meetings, special board meetings, and have been involved in many conversations regarding a one campus configuration for the Sherman County School District. I am in total support of a one campus configuration for the District.
- ❖ The Sherman Jr./Sr. High School Site Council has discussed this issue in detail. On January 16, 2009 the Site Council voted unanimously to support the new campus configuration. (The Site Council is made up of students, parents, community members, certified staff, classified staff and administrators).

Educational Advantages

- Daily interaction of district administration.
- More opportunities/possibilities for administrative professional development.
- Creation of professional learning communities that consist of high school, Jr. high school and elementary staff.
- Coordinated instruction kindergarten-12th grade. Having one campus would allow and facilitate interaction between teachers in regards to articulation and curriculum mapping.
- The potential for home room and/or block classes for jr. high students.
- Addition of choir or elective music offering into high school schedule.
- Addition of child development course offering. Student aides would have easier access to assist elementary teachers and students.
- High school lessons and programs that incorporate elementary students (i.e. Birding lessons in Science).
- Spanish language offerings to elementary, junior high and high school students.
- Possibility of offering advanced placement classes, honors program or TAG.
- Computer network at one location for easier monitoring.
- More computers or computer labs for student and classroom use.
- Team teaching opportunities k-12.
- More teachers to choose from to cover classes or substitute when a teacher is absent. This would be a cost saver for sub pay.
- Junior and or senior high school reading class (remedial or advanced).
- More teachers allows for more opportunities for elective offerings.
- Teachers having the opportunity to teach towards their strength areas.
- Specialists could see the students that need more services daily rather than once or twice a week.
- Potential for elementary students to take upper level math classes at jr. high.
- Enhanced communication for emergency response, inclement weather situations, lockdowns, intruders, etc.
- All district meetings at one site without travel.
- Easier to schedule district meetings when schedule is consistent at one location.
- The potential to build one “united” teaching team.
- Easier transportation coordination and many students would spend less time on the bus.
- A new facility may draw more students.
- There will be less transition related stress for students changing buildings.
- Better use of new library.
- There may be an increase in parent involvement.



Athletic Program Advantages

- Consistent communication with the community on sport schedules and practices.
- More control of athletic administrative duties by the administration k-12 when at one site.
- Two full sized competition gyms for hosting large tournaments during the school year and summer.
- It would be easier for high school coaches to be more involved in practice situations with elementary and jr. high students after school.
- It would create more opportunities for high school coaching staffs to support and observe at home contests.
- More opportunities for high school students to work with elementary and jr. high students before or after their high school sport team practices (clinics).
- Potential to offer officiating class at the high school level. Elementary physical education classes could be used as learning/teaching experiences.
- Potential to offer athletic training class at the high school level. Students could assist and work with elementary and high school teams.
- Central location for equipment and inventory.
- Potential for more district teachers to coach teams at all levels due to less travel between schools.



Classified Advantages

- Coordinated work hours and teamwork on large summer and school year custodial projects.
- Potential for a consolidated lunch program.
- Less mileage pay to classified traveling personnel.
- All secretaries at one location for communication and support of each other.
- Sub coverage for secretaries would be done in house.

