

TIOGA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #15

Presentation to the Energy Development and Transmission Committee

October 29, 2015

The changes in the Tioga Public School District #15 over the last five years are a result of increased enrollment due to the “oil boom.” In 2006, a total of 233 students attended Central Elementary and Tioga High School. Ten years later, we have seen a 103% increase in student enrollment; today, we have 474 students in both buildings.

Increased numbers have impacted our district in facilities, staffing, and busing.

Facilities:

In 2012, five elementary classrooms began classes in the Central Elementary Gymnasium.

- Modular classrooms were prepared for occupancy in late October 2012.
- In January 2014, a bond referendum passed for \$9.925 million dollars to fund construction.
 - Elementary kitchen/cafeteria, handicapped accessible restrooms, 9 classrooms, administrative offices, secure front entrance.
 - Expanded kitchen/cafeteria at high school, handicapped accessible restrooms.

Future plans:

- In the short-term future, two renovations to modernize/update facilities must occur:
 - Update the 1950’s FACS classroom
 - Update Old Central, built in 1953
- In the long-term future, phases 4-5 provide the following at the high school:
 - Add art and science rooms, a second gymnasium with handicapped accessible locker rooms.
 - Add a 7-8 grade or 6-8 grade addition of 8 classrooms, administrative offices, support for gym.

Staffing:

- Teaching staff has increased since 2011 from 29 to 41 teachers in 2015. In addition to elementary general classroom teachers:
 - Full-time ELL teacher shared between buildings
 - Full-time Reading Strategist
 - Two full-time special education instructors
 - Full-time counselor at elementary
 - Full-time dedicated science instructor at elementary
 - Full-time English and math instructors at the junior high and high school level
 - Full-time FACS and art teachers at high school
- Recruiting teachers: We have few applicants despite high pay and outstanding benefits.
 - 2 elementary classroom openings—6 applicants
 - 1 elementary PE/Health opening—4 applicants
 - 1 grades 7-12 business opening—2 applicants
 - 1 special education opening—1 applicant
- Affordable housing is still an issue. District is forced to be a landlord.
 - Two bedrooms apartments that rented for \$2400 per month last year are now \$1500 per month.
 - District owns 6 small trailers and 3 larger trailers for teaching staff.
 - District rents 6 apartments and a small townhouse for employees.

Busing: The district has added one route since 2011.

- More heavy truck traffic on the roads and not enough maintenance has required the district to spend more on bus repairs and maintenance.
- The district in the last five years has purchased a minimum of one new bus each year; some years, two.