

Tillman PTO Membership Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, February 23rd
7:00 p.m.

About 40 people were in attendance, including:

Tillman PTO board

Dr. Stobbe & Dr. Crnko

Teachers and Parents of Tillman Students

KSD Speakers:

Dr. David Ulrich - Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Matthew Bailey; Assistant Superintendent for Data, Intervention & Supports

Dr. Howard Fields - Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Dr. Bryan Painter - Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Mike Romay, CPA - Chief Financial Officer

1. Welcome by Kelly Struckhoff and Laura Eads, Co-Presidents
2. Presentation: Proposition R and impact for Tillman (Dr. David Ulrich)

“This is the fun stuff, and the time is now. The most trusted voices are the ones who work directly with the school and the staff working with the children.”

- a. Prop S failed last year. The district sent out surveys to the community to get feedback, and they listened and developed Prop R.
 - b. Parents indicated that they want to maintain class sizes, but a majority stated that they did not want a new Elementary school building.
 - c. The district is looking at capacity and utilization to make a new plan.
 - d. Tillman (and Westchester) have buildable land.
 - e. It has been over 40 years since the district has redrawn boundaries.
 - f. Why now?
 - i. We are already behind.
 - ii. Our community understands we are overcrowded.
 - iii. It will take time to build out.
 - iv. 18-24 months once approved.
 - v. This is one of the last times we can do this without asking the community to raise the debt service levy.
 - vi. The Tillman library does not meet the size/needs of our population.
 - vii. The “Tillman shuffle” with the gym is extremely difficult for everyone involved.
3. Dr. Stobbe & Dr. Crnko
 - a. We REALLY need this!!!
 - b. The “Gymeteria” is taxing both for staff and students.
 - c. We will be adding kids, our community is strong because of clubs, volunteers, involved families. Having a dedicated gym space will be amazing to continue all the great traditions (Veterans Day, school plays)

4. Questions:

- a. What is the “Debt Service Levy”? Answered by Mike Romay
 - i. It is a tax rate- used for building improvements/additions, brick & mortar.
 - ii. We have the 3rdlowest in STL County.
 - iii. It is being used to pay off bonds from 2010.
 - iv. We have an opportunity to use the money now while the property tax rate is historically low- under 1%
- b. Why do we need a new library? Answered by Mrs. Curtis
 - i. 3 other schools in our district have gotten new libraries
 - ii. We do not pass Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) library standards
 - iii. We could offer a fully flexible library that students can access anytime.
 - iv. Right now, only 1 class can be in the library at a time.
- c. Will building construction affect our outdoor space? Answered by Dr. Stobbe
 - i. It will have minimal effect on our green space.
 - ii. It will not affect IGNITE space at all.
- d. How will this affect Tillman?
 - i. Addition of 6 classrooms.
 - ii. Art & Music will have dedicated spaces.
 - iii. Library will be brought up to date.
 - iv. Students will have a dedicated space to eat lunch and a separate space for PE/health classes.
- e. When will Power Hours be available for more information?
 - i. Wednesday 3/3 at 7 PM
 - ii. Saturday 3/6 at 9 AM
 - iii. Link is on the District website.

5. Final Thoughts by Dr. Ulrich

- a. The time is now.
- b. We listened to the community feedback.
- c. We need to protect our investment.
- d. We want to continue our great education & community.
- e. We want to fix the “Tillman Split”.

6. Following are some of the key slides from Dr. Ulrich’s presentation: