

127 Rock Creek Could 'Go Green'

District to Have Energy Audit

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The Smoke Signal

USD 323, Rock Creek, could be going green depending on the results of an audit approved at the regular meeting on June 9.

Chad Remboldt with Trane in Lenexa discussed the findings of Rock Creek's preliminary energy audit, which was completed at Trane's expense.

Remboldt had first spoken to the board in February when he received approval to proceed with the energy analysis to see if Rock Creek would be a good candidate for the program.

The analysis consisted of a walk through of all district facilities, analysis of three years of the district's operational expenditures, and identification of improvements district wide that would decrease energy and operational expenses.

"You are a very good candidate for this program," said Remboldt as he provided figures of the district's annual utility expense per square footage and how the districts operational expenses would decrease over time once energy conservation improvements were implemented.

The board was informed of how Kansas State Statute 75-37-125 allows districts to use funds in their budget to improve operational facilities.

In turn the future ener-

gy savings would be used to cover the cost of the debt over 15 years.

According to the statute the Energy Services Company (ESCO) guarantees the savings by reconciling any shortfalls once improvements are made.

Remboldt recommended a program of district-wide improvements totaling a little less than \$1.85 million with an estimated annual energy savings of \$150,000.

Board member Dee Forge asked how quickly the new equipment would be outdated once it's upgraded.

"Everything would last 15 years or longer," said Remboldt as he explained how the district would have annual or semi-annual payments to cover the debt of the project over a period of 15 years using a municipal lease-purchase agreement.

The next step for the board would be to authorize Trane to do the investment grade audit at a cost of six cents a square foot for a grand total of \$10,080.

This cost would be financed into the final project unless the board decided not to go with Trane.

"When, if, we get to the point of the contract and the savings aren't there

do we still owe you the \$10,000?" asked Board member Rick Ebert.

"If we don't see the savings I won't charge the \$10,080," said Remboldt.

"Today we're just asking if you would allow us to move forward with building what the program would look like. This would result with a deeper dive into both pricing and energy savings."

Board members questioned the lease-purchase aspect of the project.

"This statute is different than the regular lease-purchase statute," said Superintendent Darrel Stufflebeam. "Since there is no tax increase this lease-purchase doesn't require public approval and it is not subject to a protest vote."

After further discussion a motion was made to authorize Trane to move forward with an audit, the next phase of the project. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0. Board members Mike Gee and Kyle Hutson were not present.

In other business:

- Stufflebeam updated the board on the new Kansas State Board of Education guidelines regulation items sold in vending machines and a la carte items served in the cafeteria.

The guidelines require that foods must have 35% or less of total calories from fat and 35% or less weight from total sugar. In addition there must be 200 calories or less per selling unit.

"What we're doing is good for kids," said Stufflebeam. "It's good to have some healthy choic-