

Board of Education Study Session Template

Monday, February 10, 2020 5:30 PM

School District Office 410 South St., Seward, NE, 410 South St, Seward, NE
68434

1. Preliminary Procedures

1. Call meeting to order & announce Open Meetings
Act is Posted

2. Public Notice as publicized per board policy

3. Roll Call

1. Action to excuse board members if necessary

2. Possible Discussion Items

1. Elementary Playground

2. Elementary Special Education Staffing

3. Facilities Update

3. Adjournment

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The board of education of the School District of Seward will meet in regular session on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. for a board study session to be followed by the 7:00 p.m. regular business meeting. The meeting will be held at the Administrative Offices located at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting which shall be kept continually current is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours.

To view the agenda go to <http://SewardPublicSchools.org/> and find the eMeeting link.

Seward Elementary Playground

February 10, 2020

Mission

The school district of Seward --where every student, every day is a success -- affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

Strategic Plan Goals that align with playground update:

Strategy 3: We will research, design, and implement practices to enhance wellness of students and staff.

Strategy 4: We will continue and expand on the communication practices and community partnerships to support our stakeholders.

History of SES Playground



- Playground was built in 2003 and replaced a wooden playground.
- All original components are still there, with the addition of the basketball court and spider web being added in the past 10 years.
- Wood chips replaced every other year
- Lifespan of Playground is 20 years

Pros and Cons of Existing Equipment

Pros:

Equipment is large and many children can play on the equipment at one time.

There are multiple choices for students to run, climb, jump, swing, and play sports (basketball, soccer, 4 square, etc.)

Cons:

Equipment is beginning to wear. Multiple pieces have needed replaced due to damage the past few years.

Playground is not accessible to special needs students.

Drainage problems







Playground Information

We need a playground that:

- Can accommodate up to 250 students at a time. Our playground was made for about half of that total
- Allows students to climb, run, swing, and slide safely
- Is accessible to all students, no matter their needs
- Has a more cost effective and safe surface area
- Can be a central location for our community to use safely
- Continues to utilize the spider web and new basketball court

Our Process

What we've already done:

- We have a great partnership with our PTO, who has agreed to help us raise money for the playground. The PTO will have approximately \$25,000 for the playground after this year. Hope to raise ?
- I have spoken with three playground company reps who have looked at our current playground and discussed approximate costs.
 - Total cost: between \$250,000 and \$300,000
 - This includes surfacing (concrete and the rubber surfacing), a new large playground, and all of the accessible features, swings, and stand alone features

Our Process

Possible next steps:

- Create a timeline for the project, pending School Board approval
- Continue fundraising efforts with PTO
- Create a playground “team” that includes parents, staff, and students to help design a playground
- Go through competitive bid process with companies
- Investigate and apply for applicable grants to help with funding, including asking local group for donations
- Learn about new ways to save \$ with the project, like using community members and our maintenance team to help tear down and build the new playground, with guidance from companies

Our End Goal

Seward Elementary wants a playground that promotes wellness for our students and community.

We are hoping for a large playground structure to accommodate up to 250 students, including the structure itself, and the smaller components that will also be nearby.

We are also hoping for a solid concrete slab, covered with rubber surfacing to be used under the playground structures, with a solution to our drainage issue in place.

Another goal would be to someday have a concrete walking loop around the outer edges of the playground.

Proposed Timeline

Best Case Scenario:

- Continue fundraising and submit grant applications
 - Playground built late spring/summer 2021

Or

- Continue fundraising and submit grant applications
 - Playground build late spring/summer 2022

School Board Thoughts/Questions

