

Alpena School District Narrative

2015-16

The Alpena School District is located just off Highway 62 N in North Central Arkansas shared between Boone and Carroll and Newton Counties. The 412 and 62 connect serve as a thorough fare for people traveling to Eureka Springs and/or Branson. The community has remained stagnant for the past several years with slight economic development (new liquor store and new Dollar General) the school still remaining the largest employer for the city. The total population of the community of Alpena is 394 according to the 2014 Census Bureau Study with 35.9% living at or below the national poverty level. The school district is comprised of roughly 125 square miles and pulls from various small townships.

Currently the district has an enrollment of 523 students with projections indicating a slight but continued decrease over the next ten years. The district's current debt-service mil rate is 8. The district has 70.2% of the students on Free and Reduced.

Due to recent economic downturns over the past few years, the district has not imposed a tax increase on its patrons but with the planning of a new high school addition, the district will most assuredly be seeking voter approval for a mill increase. Projects at the district to maintain the buildings systems have been done so with local operating funds and also ARRA stimulus funding (canopies, parking area, retaining wall and concrete pad). The district has worked on replacing HVAC units as they go out of operation and thus far has replaced over half of the units in the High School and approximately 8-10 units in the Elementary buildings. Though the district has many end of life issue; the systems are routinely inspected for performance and efficiency and are maintained to the highest level to continue to offer efficient service to the district's buildings. At this time, the will be applying for the replacement and upgrade of electrical service and distribution for the Elementary school and Middle School Buildings.

The district has current plans to apply for Partnership funding to replace the original Senior High School and Old Vocational Building. The current Old High School is not adequate for educational purposes. The building was constructed in 1936 with a Building Value of -60 and the Vocational Building was constructed in 1956 with a Building Value of -20. Within both structures, the majority of the rooms are well under the required standard size. Furthermore, the building has multiple issues with electrical, plumbing and HVAC and is not compliant with ADA laws. It would be more prudent for the district to repurpose this facility into a district administrative area and build a structure to house all of our high school students.

The district has four buildings in the district with a Zero or Less Value. The district has done many renovations and improvements to insure that these buildings are adequate for students. The list below indicates the buildings with notes of some of the things which have been done to the buildings. The district will continue to monitor these facilities and will continue to utilize the PM schedules as a tool for being proactive to any system failures.

1956 Maintenance/Storage Facility BV -20%: has electrical and a roof applied. Minimal additional work has been done, but the district rapidly responds to any issues the building may have.

1936 Senior High School and Old Gym BV -60%: The anticipated plan for this building is to seek removing it from Academic usage and repurposing it for Non-Academic Administrative services. Currently the facility does not meet any definition of adequacy or equitability for our students.

1956 Vocational Building BV -20%: The building will be replaced with a structure more suited and in line with the requirements of Work Force/ Career Education and will meet all the required standards therein. Existing structure to be repurposed into Maintenance facility.

In an effort to meet the changing demands of education and to eliminate students being in buildings below standard and in buildings with aging systems, the district is proposing to build a new high school and vocational area in the 17-19 biennium.

Again the district uses the PM schedules and routine maintenance work orders to be proactively aggressive in maintaining these facilities for current and future students.

The district is adamant on providing adequate facilities for our students and staff and will continue to maintain all facilities to the degree of excellence that we are proud of today.

