

SMITH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jimmy Hancock, Superintendent
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August 3, 2011

Dr. Tom Burnham
State Superintendent of Education
Mississippi Department of Education
359 North West Street, Suite 309
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Dr. Burnham,

Please find the enclosed duly adopted Evaluation of Proposed New School Site form for the proposed Polkville Elementary School. The Smith County School Board adopted and approved this evaluation on May 16th, 2011. The Board and I are very excited about this educational opportunity for Smith County. The creation of this elementary school would not only benefit the children in Polkville but also the surrounding communities of Sardis, Daniel, Rock Bluff, White Oak, Trenton, Lingle, Wicker Mill, as well as others. Furthermore, this school's impact will benefit the entire county by removing educational barriers that plague the northern part of Smith County due to geographical isolation. This growing part of the county will be better served by the Smith County School District if this school site is approved by the State Board of Education.

In regards to your criteria for a new school site, please accept the following information for your evaluation. The proposed school site is located at 6606 Highway 13, Polkville, MS on 16th Section land. The site is presently leased and being used for pasture land. However, the lease holder is willing to relinquish his rights to the land in order to construct a new school. This will provide more than adequate space for a new school and provide room for growth. It is situated with frontage along Mississippi Highway 13.

1. The site will initially serve between 175 and 200 students in grades K-6 with potential and expected growth. Students served will consist of a racial and gender ratio relative to that of the remaining part of the county. These students will be from an area ranging up to 12 miles from the proposed site. This will be the half-way dividing line between Raleigh Elementary and the proposed Polkville Elementary School.
2. The site will be located in an area of the greatest need for present and future school population growth. This portion of Smith County has the greatest potential for residential and commercial growth. Census data for 2010 shows that the Town of Polkville grew in population by approximately 30% going from 640 to 833 in the last 10 years. Polkville borders Rankin County and is located approximately 6 miles from Interstate 20.
3. The site free of any negative associated with factories, stockyards, railroads, mills, and etc. The site is free of any hazardous waste.
4. Public utilities are readily available to this site. Southern Pine Electric Power Association serves the area and has just recently upgraded the power sub-station facility in Polkville. The Town of Polkville has made recently upgrades to the water system which has lowered the capacity rating to 42% allowing for 500 additional customers. TEC, Inc provides telephone service as well as high-speed internet service to the area. The proposed site is located approximately ¼ mile from the Polkville Fire Department. Also, the Polkville Police

Department provides protection to the proposed school site. An independent sewer treatment plant will be used for sewage. The Town of Polkville is currently in the planning stages of developing a sewer treatment system for the Town which would serve the proposed school location. Propane gas will be readily available from Neill Gas, Inc located north of Polkville.

5. The 16th section land will provide for adequate space for the educational program of both the present and anticipated future. A total of 60 acres are currently available for the site with more land being available in the future.
6. The site is located at a high elevation out of danger of flooding or standing water.
7. All soils at this site have been tested and exceed the requirements for foundations, footings, athletic fields, and lagoons.
8. Since the land is 16th section land and belongs to the Smith County School District, there will be no costs associated with acquiring this site.

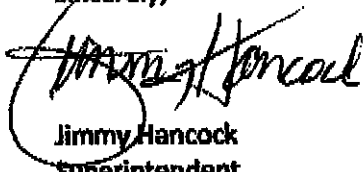
Requirements 9 and 10 are enclosed with this letter. Also, requirement 11 is met with the site being readily accessible by both vehicles and pedestrians.

Furthermore, the proposed Polkville School site is located approximately 20 miles from Raleigh Elementary. Students from Polkville and surrounding communities travel in excess of 20 miles to attend Raleigh Elementary. Many Parents of these students work in the Jackson area allowing for little parent involvement at the Raleigh school. Many of the bus routes are over 40 miles one way. An elementary school at Polkville would alleviate these situations by allowing for more parent involvement and shorter travel time for students. Also, by placing these students in a Polkville school, problems with overcrowding will be resolved at Raleigh Elementary.

As for the Town of Polkville, it is the fastest growing in Smith County according to the 2010, and it is the largest town by area and third largest town by population in Smith County. The Town is served by an excellent fire and police department. Also, there is a branch library of the Central Mississippi Regional Library System located in Polkville. A new park with a ¼ mile walking trail has also been constructed in Polkville. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of Polkville have aggressively sought grant funding for infrastructure improvements and economic development, and have pledged full support and assistance in serving the proposed school.

As you can see, this proposed school site benefits the entire educational system of Smith County. The children will benefit with a closer facility with smaller class sizes and increased parental involvement. The community and county will benefit with better infrastructure and more educational opportunities for its citizens. This being said, I would like to ask that you please place this request on the State Board of Education's agenda at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration of the proposed school site at Polkville. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Hancock
Superintendent
Smith County School District

EVALUATION OF PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL SITE

Regardless of the source of funds, new school facilities shall not be constructed on any new site until the site has been submitted to and approved by the Mississippi Board of Education. School sites will be approved according to the criteria established by the Mississippi Board of Education.

One of the most important steps in the new building program is the selection of an adequate site. The site should be convenient to streets and roads and should be planned so as to avoid traffic hazards. It is recommended that an elementary school should have 5 acres of land with one additional acre for each 100 students enrolled. A high school site should have at least 15 acres of land with one additional acre for each 100 students enrolled. The following minimum requirements must be met or exceptions noted and approved:

1. The site serves an area with enough children (present and future) to warrant its existence as a school center.
2. The site is located in a reasonable proximity to the present and future school population.
3. The site environment is free of the odors, dust, dirt, noise and smoke that are usually associated with factories, stockyards, railroads, mills, agricultural chemical aerial spraying, etc. The site is free of hazardous waste.
4. Public utilities such as electric power, water, sewerage, telephone, fire protection and gas service are available to the site.
5. The size of the site is sufficient to provide adequately for the educational program of both the present and the anticipated future.
6. The site grounds are at sufficient elevation to prevent flooding or standing water.
7. The sub-soil conditions are such that foundations, footings, athletic fields and lagoons can be built.
8. The site can be purchased at a fair market price. Copies of two certified appraisals of the land must be attached whenever the purchase price is greater than \$50,000.00. Please refer to MS Code 1972, Annotated, 37-7-301(aa).
9. A survey plat of the property is provided with this application.
10. The proposed new school site is plotted on the school district map and is provided with this application.
11. The site is accessible by both vehicles and pedestrians.

Exceptions to the above minimum requirements must be noted and explained in detail.

None

Additional information for proposed new school site:

1. Is the proposed new site located on 16th section land owned by the school district?

Yes No Section 16, Township 4 North, Range 6 East
Polkville, Mississippi

If yes, how many acres are available? 60 Acres

2. Is there organized opposition to the proposed site based on, but not limited to, the location of the school, acquisition of the land, safety issues, and/or community concerns?

Yes No

If yes, please explain. N/A

3. Will the school district have fee simple title?

Yes No 16th Section School Trust Lands

CERTIFICATION

We, the President of the Board of Education/Trustees and the Superintendent of the

Smith County School District hereby certify to the Mississippi Board of

Education that this Evaluation of Proposed New School Site for the construction of a

Polkville Elementary School location at 6606 Hwy 13, Polkville, MS 39117
(street or rural route, city)

meets the minimum requirements previously stated or exceptions have been properly noted. Further, this Evaluation of Proposed New School Site has been duly adopted and approved by the Board of Education/Trustees of the Smith County School District as evidenced by action taken by the Board of Education/Trustees of the Smith County School District at an official board meeting held on the 16th Day of May, 2011.

President

Prentis Adcock (Print)

Prentis Adcock (Sign)
5/16/11 (Date)

Superintendent

Jimmy Dell Hancock (Print)

Jimmy Hancock (Sign)
5/16/11 (Date)

Secretary

Renee Waites (Print)

Renee Waites (Sign)
5/16/11 (Date)

Robert W. Miles

Notary Public

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this
the 16th day of May, 2011

(SEAL)

