

USD 415 Board Approves Easement for Walking Trail

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha School Board has approved granting an easement for a walking trail that's to cross school property.

Mike Riley, a member of the Walking Trail Committee, met with the board Monday evening to receive their approval of a 25-foot permanent easement. Riley said they are getting close to letting bids for the project, but before then need to obtain all the necessary easements.

The board approved the right-of-way easement on a 4-1 vote, with board member Ian Schuetz casting the lone no vote. Board members Denise Elffner and Steve Lock were not present when the vote was taken. Schuetz said he feels the walking trail can be asset to the community, but voiced concerns that city taxpayers will be responsible for more than \$300,000 of the estimated \$1.4 million project cost. He said he feels the Walking Trail Committee should come up with the full funding before proceeding.

However, Riley said the grants that have been awarded for the project would be lost if they don't proceed within the next 90 days. He says the goal is to construct the walking trail this summer. The trail is to start near the Little Hands Daycare Center, proceed north past the Fisher Community Center, and loop around behind the middle and high schools.

Many Signals Communications