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USD 113 Capital Outlay Protest Petition Deemed Valid

(KMZA) --A petition protesting a capital outlay resolution passed by the Prairie Hills USD 113 Board of Education in May has been deemed valid.

Nemaha County Clerk Mary Kay Schultejans says her office has determined that the petition, which was submitted Monday, contained 520 valid signatures. At least 437 valid signatures were needed.

The petition was organized by rural Morrill resident Jim Scoby and Sabetha resident Dr. Allen Ross. Ross said the purpose of the protest petition was to give school district patrons the opportunity to vote on the tax issue.

The resolution approved by the board in May would authorize the school board to make a continuous and permanent annual tax levy in an amount not to exceed 8 mills on property in the district.

Superintendent Todd Evans says passage of the resolution alleviates the need for future resolutions regarding capital outlay, and doesn't obligate the district to levy the entire 8 mills.

Previous resolutions have been for 5 years. The district is currently under a resolution that allows the board to levy up to 6 mills, and 5.3 mills was levied for the 2013-2014 school year.

The school finance bill passed by the Kansas Legislature this year expands what capital outlay funds can be spent on.

The school board will now have the option to decide whether to take the issue to a vote.

Many Signals Communications