

Protest petition spurs need for patron vote

(KAIR)--No immediate decision is made regarding USD 377 plans following patron protest pertaining to the school district's authority to increase its capital outlay fund.

The issue was discussed during Tuesday evening's meeting of the Board of Education for the Atchison County Schools.

That comes after district patrons filed a protest petition against the school district's decision to approve its ability to increase the capital outlay fund by four mills.

Atchison County Clerk Michelle Phillips told MSC News the petition, requiring 314 valid signatures to stop the resolution adopted by the Board of Education in April, was verified by her office after it was received May 31.

The filing of the petition means the issue must be brought before district voters.

USD 377 Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Andrew Gaddis, told MSC News no action was taken by the board following lengthy discussion Tuesday evening.

Options facing the district leaders include a special election, likely to cost \$7,000, or a mail-in election, estimated around \$8,400.

The issue could also be placed on the November general election ballot at no cost.

Gaddis said the matter will again be addressed during the next board meeting in July, and a decision is expected to be made on how to proceed.

Gaddis said the school board decided that immediate action was unnecessary, as no matter which method is selected to allow a vote, funds would not be made available for next year through the capital outlay fund increase.

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