

OK, I've got a question

What about the last bond issue we passed to purchase land? What happened to that money and why haven't we purchased land?

Frustration to the point of peace.

In January of 2010 The school district voters gave the board of education permission to spend up to \$1.5 million dollars on a parcel of land for future development of mostly an undetermined nature. Where else is there that much faith in a school board? It is one thing to build buildings with public money, they can be seen almost immediately. But this project was different and I think came with an even greater weight of responsibility for the board members.

The approved bonds have never been sold. There has been no money collected or spent; therefore, no taxes have ever been collected. Over the course of these last nineteen months I know without question that a decision could have been made to purchase land. There have been a few tracts of land available, the sellers would have sold them, and the money graciously approved could have been thankfully spent. But, sometimes the strength of a leadership body can be seen better in what it avoids than what it embraces.

Each Board member involved may tell you that this has been the most frustrating non-transaction they have ever been a part of but I believe they will also tell you that the only thing worse would have been having try to explain why they made the transaction. We have now come to a time when there is a viable parcel to be purchased. If constructed properly, the transaction can be a huge win for both the district and the seller. The timing is much more favorable for the district in light of on-going building needs. There are circumstances which must all fit together for a deal to work but the board seems to have a peace about the outcome, whatever that outcome may be. It looks like the tortoise may win the race again.

Someone suggested that the last bond issue may be a hurdle for the next bond issue and I got worried because I have never seen a turtle jump. But then I considered that hurdles are obstacles and qualities like prudence and diligence are hurdles only to things you should avoid. But, just in case, if you want to see something funny, around midnight go to the Edmond Memorial High School track and watch Trent, Fred, and Kelli