

To: District Residents and Parents/Legal Guardians of students attending Sudan
ISD
From: Bo Lance, Superintendent of Schools
Re: The Fitness Hive
Date: August 14, 2012

EXCITING NEWS!

Sudan ISD will have a new fitness facility (cardio and strength) for the 2012-13 schoolyear. The good news is that the Board of Trustees has approved making the facility available to district residents and/or parents/legal guardians of any student attending Sudan ISD.

Background Information

In May of 2010 district residents approved a 3 Million Dollar Bond Issue to construct an athletic field house and junior high science lab and to fund capital improvement expenditures. With the completion of the new field house the question became what to do with the old facility that would be functional for the district and also would not create a financial burden. The one thing we decided on from the beginning was not to turn the facility into storage.

We had planned on approximately one half of the bond going to construction and the other half going to Capital Improvements. We built and sold the bonds at the optimal time. The recession hit and investors were looking for safe places to put their money. We received a bond interest payment rate of less than 1%! Construction dropped off all across the state. Contractors were hungry for work and were bidding jobs lower. We came out below of estimated spending on construction. We decided to put the unexpected money into turning the old fieldhouse into a productive facility that could serve our needs.

Coach Swarb was primarily responsible (idea and work) for the west side of the facility to be turned into an indoor golfing facility with 4 hitting bays, chipping mats, and a putting surface. We got this functional at the beginning of the golf season this year and it has proved to be a great asset to our kids. We kicked many idea's around for the east side and eventually settled on a fitness facility. There were some key reasons for this.

- *We have had our share of student injuries in the past and really haven't had a proper way for these students to rehab injuries here. The expense of therapy plus travel was a major detriment as well as an inconvenience. We have a great weight room in the new field house but it is designed mainly for strength and not the rehabilitation of injuries.*
- *A fitness facility will give flexibility to our high school PE classes by providing a modern conditioning regimen.*
- *A fitness facility available to district employees will help to provide a healthier and happier staff.*

- *Since the district will mainly use the facility at certain times during the day it will leave a large portion of the day as well as the summer months basically unused. Making it available to the above mentioned group would be a great way of showing the district's appreciation to people who have shown such fantastic support to Sudan ISD over the years.*

We put on a new roof on the entire facility, added central air and heat, totally renovated the majority of the east side (Mr. Richards, Mr. Scisson, and some summer student workers did a fantastic job), leveled the floor, added a good security system, purchased quality equipment, and even came up with a catchy name "***The Fitness Hive***".

What Does All This Mean?

This first year especially will be a learning experience for us. We are in the business of educating kids, not running a business. The district will have priority on use of the facility but there will be 24/7 access so I don't think finding time to use the facility will be a problem. We are not looking to make money but at the same time we cannot afford to continually lose money. There will be a nominal membership fee to cover upkeep and maintenance. Any full time current or retired district employee or Board Trustee may join for \$10 a month. All others that meet the eligibility guidelines may join for \$15 a month. We are not looking to recoup the money expended to get the Hive up and going but just to maintain its existence. We are not adding staff to handle paperwork, maintenance, etc., so we are looking to keep things as **simple** for us as possible (you will be able to find larger facilities with more equipment and more payment options at other places but I doubt very seriously that you will be able to beat the price or the convenience). Hopefully the Hive will be a viable part of this district and community for many years. You will find a membership application form on the district website along with other pertinent information in regard to rules and guidelines. ***We will have an Open House on Tuesday, August 21st from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.*** Come by and see the "Hive". If that time does not work for you just stop by school at your convenience. Someone will give you the "tour". If you have any questions about membership please call Tonjua, Vicki, or me. Thanks once again for your support of Sudan ISD and let's get to exercising!