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Tenpenny updates board on land transfer, mediation process

🕒 October 11, 2023 👤 by Erin Herrmann (<https://www.sabethaherald.com/author/erinherrmann/>)

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On Monday, Oct. 9, the Prairie Hills USD No. 113 Attorney Chad Tenpenny was present during the USD 113 Board of Education meeting in Axtell. During the meeting, Tenpenny shared some information with the board regarding land transfers and mediation.

Tenpenny first told the board that USD 113 was invited by a special committee on education to attend and testify at a hearing at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, at the State Capitol in Topeka. The topic of the meeting is attendance center closures and school district disorganization. Tenpenny said he would testify on behalf of USD 113, and USD 113 Superintendent Todd Evans would be present in case of questions. Tenpenny also indicated that Jackson Heights USD No. 335 Superintendent Jim Howard would provide written testimony for the meeting.

According to Tenpenny, below are some points that would be brought up during the meeting:

- Nemaha Central USD No. 115, Jackson Heights USD No. 335 and Vermillion USD No. 380 are requesting 40 percent of USD 113's land.
- 8.4 percent of the total number of 2022-23 USD 113 enrolled students have transferred to the three petitioning districts – USD 115, 335 and 380.
- Prairie Hills educates 127 students from outside the district and would gladly welcome more.

Tenpenny also told the board that USD 115, 335 and 380 have filed three separate petitions with the Kansas State Board of Education for mediation regarding the land and requested funds. Tenpenny said a mediator from Topeka was appointed on Monday, Oct. 9. The mediator's name is Larry Rute.

Tenpenny is awaiting details about the schedule for mediation and the rules involved in this process.

To watch the hearing on YouTube, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPDNNkWeUKY>.


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Erin Herrmann is one of two co-editors at The Sabetha Herald. She specializes in school board reporting, features and advertising design. Erin lives in Sabetha.



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