Grow Grand Island Initiative 4.2 December 2015

The subcommittee received the following information from GIPS in November of 2015; the schools in the closest proximity to the Downtown area referenced, 2,019 students are enrolled, 1,484 (73.5%) of those students are on “free” lunch, 238 (11.8%) are on a “reduced” lunch status, and 297 (14.7%) are “full pay” students.

Further narrowing down the proximities to the two closest schools to the downtown area, Dodge and Lincoln Elementary, of 671 students 548 (81.7%) are on “free” lunch, 78 (11.6%) are on reduced lunch status, and 45 (7%) are regarded as “full pay” students.

The information provided by Grand Island Public Schools did not include employment status, poverty tables, etc. The information did provide evidence regarding those schools in close proximity to the downtown area were 18 to 26 percent higher to receive “free” lunch status. Given the indicators placed on free and reduced lunch status in concerns to working poor, underemployment, lack of access to further education, and so on, these numbers can give credence to those families in habiting the areas surrounding downtown Grand Island.