

**Facilities Needs Committee Meeting
January 18, 2013 – 7 AM
Toepfer Board Room**

Attendees: Will Roth, Bryce Young, Nick Schwien, Brian Weimer, Josh Waddell, Greg Schwartz, Darren Schumacher, Aaron White, Paul Briseno, Tom Drees, James Leiker, Pat Lowry, Tammy Wellbrock, Todd Powell

The discussion was led by Pat Lowry. The format was for each committee member to give a 3-4 minute description of their ideas using the following framework:

- Define the problem
- What is the time frame
- Best way to move forward
- Additional thoughts

Definition of the Problem:

- Impressed by upkeep and maintenance of the buildings. The older buildings are some of the more sound and functional buildings. Not interested in abandoning the current buildings.
- Cafeteria facilities and gymnasiums need improvements to facilitate current needs. Buildings need quality areas in their gymnasium for parents/students to gather. Each building needs a good gym, cafeteria, and storm shelter.
- HVAC and electrical upgrades are needed in all buildings and there are savings to be had if done using financing through the savings. Energy audit reflects savings available and to use the state supported financing to make the upgrades.
- Rockwell is beyond its useful life. Are there spaces available elsewhere to support administration?
- Current constraint is space. Left the tours realizing the district has been as creative as possible in using space that they have.
- RAC has run its course and the district continues trying to use the building for different purposes than what it was intended for. Has become the catchall to be used for other things besides administration.
- Auditorium is an issue and is the most likely structure to be shared with other community groups. It will also be unlikely collaboration with another similar facility (such as Beach Schmidt) will be able to meet the need.
- Space-wise, no imminent needs in the next few years. Expansion needs to be considered for the future.
- Current needs and use for programs – spend the time to evaluate and see what is out there. Pride in all/special programs should be capitalized on. Sports facilities and programs are not behind in the big picture and are a lower priority.
- Safety is top of the priority for improvements. Avoid disaster with good forethought in mind.
- Space needs driven by increasing special education demands and continued practice of parents choosing elementary schools. Do not build onto schools because of parental choice; current buildings could be used more efficiently.
- Impressed by current spaces we have. Potential space is available to be used in some buildings.

- Impressed by the addition at HMS and a good option for expanding current buildings.
- Most buildings need some type of upgrade. For example, ADA compliant. Space needs to fit future growth.
- School system is the number one recruiting tool at HMC. Makes the task of the committee more difficult, because the school district is performing at an exceptionally high level. With that in mind, need to move forward with high standards in this committee.
- Distribution of students is an issue
- Staff functions at a very efficient rate. How long can they last at that rate with the resources they have?
- Input from teachers, their ideal classrooms/schools, and take that when we consider what we can provide.
- Update cafeteria, gyms, and commons areas.

Time Frame

- This committee needs at least 6 months to look at issues and decide what needs to be done before making a recommendation. A year is needed to mount a bond issue to make improvements.
- Be looking 10-30 years out for improvements.
- Determine where we are now, where we need to go, and how to get there in the next 10 to 20 years.
- Need to assess and make immediate goals, within 2 years, future needs in 10 years, and the long-term over 30 years.
- Timeframe – something to alleviate space needs. Maybe not redistrict, but cap enrollment at buildings. Some space needs can be alleviated in the near future.
- Likes the idea of having a 2-phase approach. Short-term needs can be addressed, but need to plan for 20 to 30 years out.
- Not the charge of this committee to be making recommendations on space and fields for next year. The charge of this committee needs to be 20 to 30 years out. What needs to be in each phase of the bond initiative? What is most important in the first 5 to 10 years and each phase out?

Moving Forward

- Solution – add gyms at each building that can double as FEMA storm structures and add adequate irrigation to fields at HHS.
- Use trailers for next year for a short-term solution, as there will not be a decision and recommendation made by next year.
- Need a consultant to assess the needs and work with the public to make a recommendation and steer this committee
- Not in favor of mobile classrooms, unless that is the only option there is left. Does not like the concept due to safety and look.
- Need input from outside sources. People want their opinions expressed during this process.
- Best way to move forward is a bond issue. Not sure what the dollar amount is. The committee can come together and prioritize needs and use the community to help decide and make a recommendation to the Board.

- Committee needs to go out into the community. Need more than a website soliciting input. Proactive in addressing the community, site councils, etc. to educate and get input.
- What do we need to look like to be that recruiting tool for the community?
- In favor of looking at redistricting
- Not the charge of this committee to be making recommendations on space and fields for next year.

Additional Thoughts

- Update one grade school for special needs children and do some districting to accommodate the increased enrollment.
- Purchase property south of Lincoln to expand the building, playgrounds, and add parking. Collaboration with NCKTC to expand parking south of Washington School.
- Water sports fields with effluent water like the municipal golf course fairways.
- City is conducting studies to look at water tables for the Big Creek alluvial. There may be more availability of water to the school district, but it will take time and studies to investigate that possibility.
- Hate to see solid buildings not have a use to support new building efforts, difficult to find uses for abandoned buildings in small communities.
- Taxes are the popular way to fund projects but do impact the community's image and we need to consider what we are asking citizens to do.
- Important to convey to the public, that all though you do not have children in school, it is a fair concern to address the needs for academic, athletic and performing arts use, because all aid in the recruiting and retention of employers. Improvement and investment in a school system can contribute to the community's identity and economic impact.
- Tighten down the spending, get the maximum for your investment. Make the current buildings more efficient for the future.
- All maintenance items pointed out on the tours should be addressed, prioritized and scheduled in capital outlay schedule.
- Once the committee has outlined needs of the district, we need to get input from all the stakeholder groups before making a recommendation to the board.
- There should be no offices inside the Rockwell garage.
- Can Rockwell itself be used for fifth or sixth grades to alleviate crowding elsewhere?
- Wants the best facilities for his kids, as well as other's children. Knows that being realistic about the best approach for the community as a whole and looking at all options available to best use resources.
- Need to take into consideration that people may not live in this community even if they work here.
- Routine maintenance that can be fixed should be planned into the capital outlay schedule. Look at how we can invest in the long-term in maintenance of what we have.
- Comparisons to other districts. Those that have consolidated and have not. What do other 5 A facilities look like?

Clarifications by Will Roth

- Wanted to address space needs currently and empty rooms at Washington and Lincoln. What the district is aiming for at O'Loughlin and Wilson is to become a full 3 section school. Once this goal is obtained, then we will cap enrollment.
- For example, Lincoln has two sections in K-2. It would be logical to add the second sections in the upper grades and utilize that available space.
- USD 489 would much rather redistrict within the district (capping enrollment) rather than debating and drawing new boundary lines every year. We can do a much better job by capping enrollment and redistributing students from within.
- Recapping themes: safety and building efficiency (HVAC, electrical). A top need would be a performing arts center.

Group Discussion:

- Go to site councils to prioritize needs. What do you need in the next 5, 10, 20, 30 years?
- The committee's responsibility is a global issue. A public setting can be emotionally driven. The committee needs to control the setting with public input. Take the input and formulate a plan. Develop the plan, educate the public, take input on each phase.
- Where do we go from today, using the perspective of making decisions from a macro level.

Future meeting schedule:

- Every Friday, 7 AM.
- Next meeting (1/25/13), prioritize most pressing needs from today's discussion, individually, in the following format:
 - 1 to 3 years into the future
 - 4 to 10 years into the future
 - 10 + years into the future