

Monday, December 7, 2020



MINUTES

1. Brief overview of building program modifications and changes was presented for each of the following:
 - a. Elementary (K-5)
 - b. Middle School (6-8)
 - c. High School (9-12)
2. Presentation was made of updated budget for facility study which was revised to include the remaining budget for district-wide HLS items.
3. Based on the November meeting, two predominate approaches to solution were discussed. This allowed for three new configuration option scenarios to be developed. The three options were presented, and the following points were discussed:
 - a. It is a general consideration that the Middle School solution is a top priority in the district. The solution for creating a Middle School at the Intermediate campus will create the single biggest impact for the least amount of cost.
 - b. District Administrators believe that the students are currently worse off in the current Junior High building due to conditions being the worst of any other building within the district.
 - c. It was stated that any solution which allows a building(s) to close will generate a savings to the district due to lowering operational costs, and creating efficiency in staffing and transportation. This savings is estimated to range between \$250,000 - \$500,000 annually.
 - d. It was stated that after the priority of Middle School, the Elementary solution is the next highest priority. It was also stated that the committee should exercise caution to not stop with a Middle School project, but rather follow immediately with an Elementary project. It was mentioned by one committee member that if the Elementary is to not be sequenced immediately that the Middle School project will be less impactful.
 - e. Administrators also feel that the Elementary is the next highest priority and stated that Staff is eager for a solution to solve the space and educational needs of the District.

- f. A question was raised as to the suitability of Apollo to serve as a High School building. It was discussed that it may be possible, but there will likely be more substantial addition and remodeling needed to provide adequate space for a high school at this location.
- g. There was concern expressed that the existing High School is experiencing much of the same issues that are currently a problem with the Joy campus. These are issues which will create a need to expend more money in repair and improvement over the next several years.
- h. Administrators have stated that the K-5 and 6-8 buildings are and should be of the highest priority for the district and generate the biggest impact for students in the district.
- i. It was mentioned that the construction of an Elementary building will save money that would otherwise need to be spent at New Boston and Apollo. It is also understood that HLS monies will likely be able to be used towards a project.
- j. A question was raised: What is best for communities, new Elementary or new High School from an educational perspective? Do High Schools or Elementary Schools provide more attraction for prospective families and teachers?
 - i. It was agreed that a Middle school project is easiest to sell to constituents, but what taxpayers want and will support is highly important to this process.
 - ii. Administrators strongly feel that the Elementary is more important to students because it creates a solid educational foundation for students to move forward through the district.
- k. A question was raised regarding HLS monies, and whether they can be used for the project. The general thought is that there is \$400,000 in funding for HLS items at this building and that it should be requested of the state that this be used in a new solution. This will reduce the overall amount which will be asked of the taxpayers.
- l. Several committee members raised concern as to the support of community. They do not want to make any final decisions without community engagement and input.
 - i. It was agreed that a survey and engagement strategy should begin to move forward.
 - ii. Questions the committee have of the community include:
 - 1. Elementary – New building or re-invest in the current buildings?
 - 2. Middle – Create a middle at the intermediate campus or invest money in the current Jr. High
 - 3. High School – Create a sequenced/phased approach for improvement or provide a one time improvement to this building.
 - iii. It is understood that a decision to ‘do nothing’ will still require a \$14M investment into the existing buildings to repair them, but will not necessarily ‘improve’ them.

4. Tax impact to the residents was provided and discussed. It was agreed that the community must be engaged and that the tax impact will be a very large factor in the decision of how to proceed.
5. Timeline, Phasing and Sequence overview was presented. This schedule outlined a sequence for how projects will need to occur based upon the options discussed at the meeting.
6. Next steps
 - a. Engagement strategy for district and community
7. Next Meeting
 - a. Tentative: 6:00 pm, January 11, 2021