

Delton Kellogg Schools
327 N. Grove Street
Delton, MI 49046
Phone: 269-623-9225 Fax: 269-623-9269

Did You Know?

District Planning 2010/20

This document is a compilation of questions from the community and answers provided by the Parent Advisory Committee for the development of the Upper Elementary.

Question: Are there plans for the third and fourth grade to move to the middle school?

Answer: We are engaging in community-wide discussions to gather input regarding this potential move. At this time, the district is planning to extend the proposed timeline to relocate fourth grade and third grade to the middle school building until fall of 2011 in order to allow more time for community-based committees to work on the creation and development of an effective and developmentally sound Upper Elementary program.

Question: Are there plans for the eighth grade to move to the high school?

Answer: At this time there are NO plans in place for moving eighth grade to the high school. The discussions around moving elementary students to the middle school building as an upper elementary are a result of the Strategic Planning Committee, which was established in 2008. This committee, in a series of community meetings made the recommendation to create an early childhood center serving K-2 students and upper elementary serving 3-5 students and middle school serving 6-8. That is the recommendation that this years' discussions are based on.

Question: I've heard the decisions have already been made by the district, has there been any community input?

Answer: The community has made, and will continue to make, the majority of recommendations regarding any student moves. The original strategic planning committee consisted of approximately twenty members of community, school district, and local business personnel. They met for approximately six months, once a week, in order to formulate their recommendations. Currently there is a parent advisory committee, comprised of teachers and community members who have children in the district as well as district administrators. They are meeting monthly to plan and coordinate further community input. We will be organizing a series of meetings that will be open to the public for input.

Question: We think of our teachers as professionals. What input are they having in this process?

Answer: We agree. We think our teachers know your students best. Our fourth and fifth grade teachers have already met twice to share their ideas and concerns and will continue to meet throughout this planning process.

Question: We've heard that third grade may move over to the middle school. Is that true?

Answer: Our parent advisory committee, after hearing the Strategic Planning Committee's presentation once again, asked us to see whether or not the move of both grades could be accomplished at one time. We are currently in the process of determining whether or not there is adequate space in the existing facility.

Question: Is Alternative Education still going to be in the Middle School?

Answer: At this time, we are still investigating room availability throughout the district and looking for the best educational placement for all students in the Delton-Kellogg School District. Alternative Education placement will be determined based on what grade levels will constitute the upper elementary.

Question: Why is the district rushing to make this decision?

Answer: The Strategic Planning Committee has been working on this initiative for several years. As student enrollment decreases in all schools in Western Michigan, Delton Kellogg Schools is attempting to make fiscally responsible decisions for your students.

Question: What's wrong with the old elementary facility?

Answer: We are attempting to utilize the best teaching and learning spaces for all of our students. The 1936 building; a beautiful community icon, does not have adequate space nor contemporary physical layout to meet the needs of our twenty-first century learners. We are anxious to provide quality learning spaces to every student in the district and the rooms available in the existing Middle School are larger, have better ventilation, electricity and physical space than the 1936 building.

Question: I'm very concerned about my eight, nine or ten year old being in the same building as eighth graders. What is the district doing to ensure they stay as young as possible?

Answer: Members of the Parent Advisory Committee have the same concerns and are working with us to review building configuration, classroom placement and school schedules that would help our younger students maintain a distinct upper elementary setting.

Question: Are there still ways for the community to give input or have all decisions been made?

Answer: Delton Kellogg Schools continues to seek input from all community members. We are hoping many community members will participate in the series of meetings planned for this spring and committee meetings throughout next year. Without input and feedback from all members of the community, no plan can be a success. Look for communications in newsletters, phone messages, and the DK Schools website for those dates to be posted.

If you know of community members without school age children who may want to be a part of this planning process, please let us know a phone number or email where they can be reached so that we may include them in the discussion of growing Delton Kellogg Schools.