

Community Forum

April 28, 2010

Agenda

- Welcome
 - Where Are We?
 - Feedback From the Previous Forum
 - Answers to Questions From First Forum
 - What Next?
 - Questions and Answer Session
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Where Are We?

- Any changes to our grade configuration will not happen until the 2011-2012 school year.
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Where Are We?

- Staff and curriculum will remain consistent whether housed at the Elementary or Middle School.
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Where Are We?

- The rationale for these proposed changes are:
 - More cost effective and efficient use of current facilities
 - Room Size
 - Greater capacity for technology applications
 - Improvement of the instructional program for upper elementary children that will result in improved student achievement through:
 - Greater interaction of students in grades 3-6.
 - Greater involvement of parents in grades 5 and 6.
 - Greater opportunity for grade 3-6 teachers to work collaboratively on curriculum, assessments and student achievement data.
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Where Are We?

- The Advisory Committee will be conducting a study over the course of the next few months and make a recommendation to the Board no later than March of 2011. The study will include:
 - Comparison of current facility use with potential options-will the options fit within the buildings.
 - Identifying the facility changes that would need to happen.
 - Read the recent research about “elemiddles” and learn about the needs of this age group.
 - Research the type of learning environment needed in order to provide a developmentally appropriate program that will both challenge and support our students in both the elementary and middle school.
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Where Are We?

- Determining the costs for each option in order to evacuate the 1936 building:
 - No change
 - Moving fourth grade to the middle school building
 - Moving third and fourth grade to middle school building
 - Moving third and fourth grade into the newer section of the elementary school
 - Moving fifth and possibly sixth grade to the elementary building
 - Build a new facility
 - Moving the alternative education program
 - Moving administrative offices (Central Office and Business Office Staff)
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Where are we?

- The original advisory committee met immediately following the Forum on March 24, and again on March 31, so that they could review the community feedback and determine the next steps.
 - Recommended expanding the committee to include all stakeholders (teachers, parents, community members, board members, and administrators)
 - Reaffirmed their commitment to proceed with the study of our grade configuration and facility usage.
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Where are we?

- The new, expanded committee met on April 26, 2010.
 - Reviewed feedback from previous forum
 - Reviewed the school maps and current building usage
 - Determined the format for tonight's meeting
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Where are we?

- The Advisory Committee has been expanded so that all stakeholders are now working together. Committee members include:

Marsha Bassett, Bd. Member, Parent
Jen Bever, Bd. Member, Parent
Marti Cleveland, Teacher
Julie Grimes, Parent
Daphne Kern, Parent
Christine Mabie, Teacher
Patty Millard, Parent
Beckie Reed, Parent
Steve Scoville, Administrator, Parent
Stephanie Stevens, PIE Pres., Parent
Diane Talo, Administrator
Cindy Vujea, Administrator

Ryan Bates, Teacher, Parent
Amy Butchbaker, Tchr, Parent
Audrey Gillig, Parent
Nancy Grizzle, Parent
Amy Lorenz, Parent
Cindy Matousek, Teacher
Eric Pessell, Parent
Mary Robinson, Tchr, Parent
Melissa Shepard, Parent
Aaron Tabor, Teacher
Shasta Waller, Tchr, Parent

Introduction of committee members.

Feedback From Previous Forum

- Top Five Issues:
 - Communication – 45
 - Money – 34
 - Separation – 30
 - Safety – 22
 - Alternative Education - 10
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Feedback From Previous Forum

□ Top 5 Issues for Facilities

- Need Technology – 60
 - Safety – 32
 - Playground – 28
 - Mixing Ages – 23
 - Lunchtime - 20
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Feedback From Previous Forum

□ Top 5 Social-Emotional Issues

- Safety (no bullying, peer pressure, encourage student expression of ideas) - 40
 - Class Size - 25
 - Age Groups/Grade Groups - 24
 - Teachers (friendly, nurturing, challenging but encouraging) - 23
 - Focus on what's best for kids (meets needs, engaging, help for all) - 22
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Feedback From Previous Forum

□ **Rumor:**

The district is doing this so that they can increase class sizes.

Fact:

Class sizes vary annually, due to enrollment fluctuation and budget factors, not grade configuration.

Feedback From Previous Forum

□ Rumor:

This is really about the district wanting a bond issue passed for future construction.

Fact:

The grade configuration proposal is about doing what is educationally best for children, in a cost effective manner. Every option will require some kind of costs, due to the age of our facilities. A bond issue was not the intent of realigning the grade levels; however, the potential need for a bond issue was discussed during committee conversations.

Feedback from Previous Forum

□ **Rumor:**

“Youngers will be with Olders”

Fact:

While younger children (3rd and 4th graders) would be in the same building with older children (7th and 8th graders), they would be housed by grade level families. The committee will look into ways to have two “schools” within one school building.

Feedback From Previous Forum

Rumor:

The teachers and community don't have any input into the decision.

Fact:

This decision has been delayed for a year so that all stakeholder groups can be involved in the research and recommendation.

Feedback from Previous Forum

□ **Rumor:**

The savings for closing the 1936 portion of the elementary school will only be \$9,000.

Fact:

The quote for the energy savings by closing the second story and holding alternative education and offices on the first floor would be approximately \$9,000. The savings would actually be much larger because we would not have to clean and maintain the unused space.

Feedback From Previous Forum

Rumor:

Alternative Education will be moved wherever they fit, without regard for the needs of their students and programs.

Fact:

Administration and the alternative education staff will work together to find a suitable location for that program, if and when they need to leave their current location.

Answers to Questions From Previous Forum

- Are the staff on board?
 - Teachers from the grade levels that may be impacted by a change in location are now part of the advisory group, rather than a separate group. I believe they are on board with the process we are following.
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Answers to Questions From Previous Forum

- Do we have a long term plan?
 - Yes, the facilities plan for the district will guide us.
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Answers to Questions From Previous Forum

- The long term plan was determined by the Strategic Planning Facilities Committee. Who was on that committee?
 - The facilities plan is on the district webpage and lists the members. You will see that it was a large and diverse group of individuals.
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Committee Members

- Mick Barney - Co Chair and Community Member
- John Marshall - Co-chair and Parent
- Carla Culbert – Parent and Teacher
- Ben Farkas - Athletic Director
- Dale Grimes – Parent and Teacher
- Steve Hook - Parent
- Brian Makowski – Parent and Teacher
- Nikki Massanari – Parent and Teacher
- Bette Matteson – Board Member, Grandparent
- Mark Nabozny - Teacher
- Thang Nguyen – Technology Director and Parent
- Troy Norris - Parent
- Eric Pessell - Community Member
- Todd Shipley – Parent and Teacher
- Brian Schupbach - Former Technology Director
- Brandi Walker – Parent
- Mike Wertman – Retired Teacher and Community Member
- Paul Blacken - Assisstant Superintendent and Parent



Answers to Questions From Previous Forum

- Is there research to support this change?
 - There is extensive research to support a K-2 program and some new research on “Elemiddles” where you are blending upper elementary and middle school students.
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Questions From Previous Forum

- ❑ Why is the 1936 school insufficient?
- ❑ Classroom size and layout

Lack of technology and the cost and difficulty of bringing that technology into this building.

Cost for renovation-old heating system, inefficient windows, etc.

Safety and supervision.

Questions From Previous Forum

- Is there space in the schools for the various options?
 - Grade 4 moved to middle school-yes
 - See slide of the middle school map
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Questions From Previous Forum

- Is there space in the schools for the various options?
 - Grade 3 and 4 moved to middle school-yes, but alternative high school would have to be relocated
 - See slide of middle school map
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Questions From Previous Forum

- Is there space in the schools for the various options?
 - Grade three and four both in the newer section of the elementary school-no
 - See slide of elementary map
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Why did things change over the course of a couple of months?

- Administrative Directive or Collaborative Decision?
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What Next?

- The committee will be working over the course of the next several months to study the following:
 - The long-range facilities plan
 - Costs of the various options
 - Research available relative to grade configuration
 - Space utilization
 - Pros and cons of the grade configuration options
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What Next?

- Subcommittees will be researching each of the action areas and making recommendations to the committee-at-large.
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What Next?

- The committee will share their findings with the community in late February or early March at a community forum and make their recommendation to the Board of Education in March. In the meantime, communication will be provided as it becomes available.
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Conclusion

- The one constant we can depend on is change. Changes in funding, enrollment, curriculum, staff...
 - The quote on the facilities plan says, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."
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Conclusion

- The question for our school district is not whether or not we will change, because change is inevitable, but how will we change and how will that change benefit our students?
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Conclusion

- 1936 was a challenging time of change and this community came together and created something that was incredible. If they did it then, we can do it now.
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Conclusion

- On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you for all of your questions, suggestions, and comments.
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Questions and Answers
