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Facilities Planning Committee Sept. 26, 2017 Meeting Summary

Call to Order

The ninth meeting of the Facilities Planning Committee was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by co-chair Bob Hesselbein.

Committee members present: Paul Braun, Heidi Casey, Kendra Cleary, Luke Francois, Luke Fuszard, Mike Gall, Jack Hemb, Bob Hesselbein, Seth Johnson, Ryan Kallies, Farhan Khatri, Alejandro Martinez, Dorothy Paler, Abbie Rodriguez, Bill Vogel, Sam Wilson.

Not present: Sara Ludtke, Mark Opitz.

Welcome

Bob Hesselbein briefly reviewed the evening's agenda. He also went over the FPC's charge and reminded members they are to provide feedback and input so the Board of Education can make a final decision about how to move forward. He reviewed the timeline for the coming months.

"When work is done, there should be no surprises," he said. "I think we will have a shared path that we will all be very happy with."

He also encouraged members to keep communicating and dispelling rumors. "Remind the community that we are considering everything and that we haven't decided anything," he said.

Director of Communications Perry Hibner updated members on the work of the communications team. He noted the summer months were spent on a branding process and unveiled the new logo that will be used on all facilities planning materials going forward. A new timeline poster board was displayed and he said identical boards would be placed in each District school. He also briefly went over a flyer that will be inserted into every poster board.

Preliminary Option & Conceptual Site Review Plan

Eppstein Uhen Architects' Jackie Gilles and Chris Michaud reviewed two elementary school options, two middle school options and a high school option to add enrollment capacity.

"There is no option that you will see that will solve everything," Gilles said. "We are looking to see how components fit together."

It was reported that consultant Mark Roffers has had conversations with officials from the City and Town of Middleton to see if his projections and timelines are still accurate. Bob Green noted the Board has concerns about the Roffers numbers and wonders if the projections are too low.

Gilles and Michaud explained that main driver is to determine how to solve capacity issues. However, it doesn't mean that other assumptions, such as equity and 21st century learning needs, won't be a part of the conversation and option considerations later.

One elementary option would add an elementary school with capacity for 525 students adjacent to Pope Farms. The other elementary option would put additions on at Park and West Middleton, while also increasing capacity by 100 students at each school.

Park would go from a 3-section to a 4-section school as six classrooms would be added along with a gymnasium. Some other renovations of the current building could also take place.

West Middleton's addition would accommodate two grade levels and also include space for two flexible learning spaces. Some existing classrooms would be renovated while also expanding the cafeteria to accommodate for additional students. Exterior work would include improving drop-off and pick-up for cars and buses.

An FPC member asked why not expand West Middleton to account for the expected growth to nearly 700 students by 2030. Michaud noted EUA could design the building to hold 800 students, for example, but want to make sure the size of the building doesn't exceed how big the Board wants an elementary school to be.

One middle school option would add classrooms and other vital spaces at Glacier Creek to make it a 12-section school with capacity for 1,200 students. The other middle school option would add a middle school adjacent to Pope Farms with capacity at 400 but with room to expand.

A larger school means more cafeteria space would be needed at Glacier Creek, while also adding a station (court) in the new field house. Additional classrooms for encore classes would also be added, Michaud said.

An FPC member asked if it would be possible to provide the same amenities in Glacier Creek that exist in Kromrey. Michaud said that wouldn't be possible without a major rebuild but said the schools would be more similar than they currently are.

Gilles and Superintendent George Mavroulis explained a new middle school at Pope Farms could start with 400 students but would be designed in a way that it could expand. He also said the initial 400 students would come from the Glacier Creek attendance areas to reduce the squeeze on that school. He noted a negative to a smaller middle school is programming would likely not be as robust.

It was noted that each elementary and middle school option would require boundary changes.

The high school option would add a second building west of MHS and CSCS while also remodeling the current MHS building in two phases. CSCS would move into the new building,

The changes would increase capacity to 2,913 students, which is a net increase of more than 800 students over the current capacity.

Michaud said the new building would be located one-quarter mile west of MHS. He said two buildings are being proposed for the site with one for private development as required by the TIF. The TIF requires 25 percent of the property must include private development, Mavroulis said. Michaud noted courses that could partner with businesses, such as culinary and STEM classes, could be housed in the new building.

If CSCS moves, DSC staff could move into that building or it could become an early learning center, Michaud said.

“These ideas aren’t set in stone,” Mavroulis said. “Now the discussions are going to create spinoffs. This is our starting point, not our ending point.”

There was a question about adding a parking ramp on the current MHS site. Findorff’s Matt Premo noted that each stall costs approximately \$25,000. There were also concerns about students walking from one building to another, although Mavroulis noted students are used to walking for lunch.

He also said the District and City of Middleton won’t get pricing on the new campus until February 2018. Members also wondered if another option could be to use the space north of the current high school to expand MHS and parking.

Engagement and Feedback Activity

Members had 5 minutes to reflect individually on the options. They then had 10 minutes to discuss in groups of 3-4 at their tables, with each member sharing their thoughts.

Members were asked to rotate randomly around the room and visit five tables, each with a sheet for pros, cons and considerations of a different option. District, EUA and Findorff representatives were available to answer questions. The information from each sheet was then shared with the full FPC.

Closing

Co-chair Luke Francois, while acknowledging a lot depends on the cost of each option, asked members to summarize the key takeaways from the presentation so he can update the Board in October. He also asked members to rank each option on a 0-5 scale, with five indicating you would champion the option and zero indicating you couldn’t support the option at all.

Voting was split on the two elementary options, while the idea of expanding Glacier Creek had more support than building another middle school. FPC members were nearly unanimous in their complete support for adding capacity at the high school level, although not sure the current option was the best way to do so.

An FPC member asked if the potential costs in advance of the next meeting. Francois also reminded the FPC to engage their key communicators to see how they feel about the options.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Tuesday's video: https://youtu.be/ufZfjKP_HT0