



MCPASD Facilities Planning Guiding Principles

Board Approved: May 8, 2017

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District Board of Education (Board) and Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) aim to develop a long-term facilities plan that supports the district's commitment to educate all students to be contributing members of a global society by *inspiring* them with a lifelong love of learning, challenging them with rigorous and *innovative* curriculum, and empowering them through *inclusion* and collaboration.

The Board and FPC agree that maintaining and improving student achievement is central to all of MCPASD's work. Therefore, the Board and FPC will be guided by its core belief that *facilities planning represents an important opportunity to enhance student achievement and learning outcomes.*

The Board and FPC are further guided by the following facilities planning principles:

School facilities should increase capacity and provide room for future needs. Therefore, the Board and FPC should consider the following factors:

- Existing building capacities, utilization rates, enrollment growth projections and student class size in space planning;
- Facilities options with common areas (e.g. cafeterias, gymnasiums, libraries, hallways, staff work space) that are sufficiently sized to accommodate future needs; and
- Sites that allow for future expansion while maintaining a balance between indoor and outdoor space.

School facilities should create flexible learning spaces in new and renovated buildings.

Therefore, the Board and FPC should consider the following factors:

- Facilities options with multipurpose spaces capable of serving a wide variety of functions, as well as student and staff needs;
- Spaces and furniture that support many different modes of instruction and can easily adapt to evolving educational needs; and

- Spaces capable of accommodating rapidly emerging technology and technological infrastructure.

School facilities should serve as a community asset. Therefore, the Board and FPC should consider the following factors:

- Facilities that serve the broader community in a variety of ways (meeting space, wellness, recreation, partnerships, adult learning, etc.);
- Equitable facilities among district schools; and
- Facilities that provide for the safety and security of students, staff and other users of district space.

School facilities should incorporate sustainability practices and provide learning opportunities for students. Therefore, the Board and FPC should consider the following factors:

- Sustainability best practices such as those included in LEED, Energy Star, Net-Zero, WELL, Green Ribbon Schools and other programs;
- The anticipated life-cycle of the buildings and potential return on investment (ROI); and
- Facilities options that support student and staff wellness.

School facilities should be financially responsible and provide value. Therefore, the Board and FPC should consider the following factors:

- The projected impact on the MCPASD tax levy, mill rate and operating budget;
- The long-term cost of construction inflation, interest rates and other costs associated with potentially phasing future referenda; and
- The costs associated with doing nothing.