



MINERAL POINT
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Elementary School Planning Committee Dec. 21, 2017 Meeting Summary

Introductions, Welcome, and Grounding Activity

Superintendent Luke Francois welcomed everyone to the committee.

Each person present paired up with someone they did not know well and interviewed one another to learn more, especially the reasons he/she were interested to serve on the committee.

Charge of the Committee

Francois stated the school board is looking for outside perspective in terms of capacity and accessibility for elementary kids. Therefore, the board approved an ad hoc committee to study the building at the elementary and make related recommendations.

The board expects the committee to produce a recommendation to the board for addressing elementary school capacity and accessibility.

The board recommends the committee's role be advisory, researching issues, and evaluating options to formulate a recommendation.

Francois said a tour of the elementary building committee is necessary for the committee to see spaces not normally seen, such as mechanical areas.

"We've talked about the elementary school a lot over the last five years, but have not done much about it," said Francois. "Do we continue to maintain an old building? Do we move 5th grade to the middle/high school building? Do we build a new building?"

He added the board will have the final say because there is a price tag attached to the committee's recommendations.

"The board didn't take anything off the table," added Francois. "They were given the opportunity, but left full flexibility to the committee to think bold and widely."

He also stressed administration will not lead this project. The group selected co-chairs Leah McDonald and Maggie Tucker.

“The solution most widely accepted will be the one the community supports,” said Francois.

Possible Timeline

The board recommends monthly progress reports with final recommendations due in May.

A potential timeline is below:

01/08/2018 BOE Meeting – ESPC Report (6:30 pm District Board Room)

01/09/2018 Tentative Tour of a New Elementary (Time and location TBA)

01/24/2018 ESPC Meeting w/ FEH-Space Needs and Facility Condition Assessment (6:30 pm Elementary Library)

02/12/2018 BOE Meeting FEH – Space Needs/Facility Condition & ESPC Report (6:30 pm District Board Room)

02/21/2018 ESPC FEH Joint Meeting – Consideration of options to be studied (6:30 pm Elementary Library)

03/12/2018 BOE Meeting (6:30 pm District Board Room)

03/20 and 03/21 ESPC and Staff/Community Design Workshop (Elementary with time TBA)

04/02/2018 ESPC Meeting – Preliminary Design Options & Cost Proposals. Draft Community Survey for Review. (Elementary Library 6:30 pm)

04/09/2018 BOE Meeting – Preliminary Design Options and Cost Proposals. Draft Community Survey for Review. (District Board Room 6:30 pm)

04/10/2018 Survey Distributed and Returned May 2

05/02/2018 ESPC Meeting – Review Survey Results (Elementary Library 6:30 pm)

05/14/2018 BOE Meeting – Review Survey Results. ESPC Final Recommendations to BOE. (6:30 pm District Board Room)

June 2018 BOE digests information and decides what to do.

July 2018 Possible referendum question drafted.

August 2018 Possible referendum planning and communication begins.

November 2018 Possible referendum.

Summer 2019 Likely occupancy for light/moderate renovation

Summer 2020 Likely occupancy for addition/new construction

Facility Conditions Report:

Elementary principal Matt Renwick said space is limited at the elementary currently with an enrollment of 358 students. He listed examples of “creative space use,” such as a special education room used to be in a locker room and the English Language Learner space used to be in a closet.

Maintenance director Roger Palzkill said the original building was built in 1965-66 with an addition added in 1992. Classrooms range from approximately 812 sq. feet to 850 sq. feet. Most modern rooms are built now at 900 sq. feet.

He also added the district is 99% done with asbestos removal. Security work has started, due in part to the Safety Committee's work earlier in 2017. He pointed out the building does not have a generator, the upper parking lot needs work, the water heater is original to the building, and rooms weren't designed for the electrical outlet usage demanded by today's students and staff.

Enrollment Update:

Francois stated enrollment has been relatively flat over the last 10 years.

The percentage of economically disadvantaged students has been growing, and the population of students with disabilities has been slightly declining. The district has been seeing a slight increase of students with English Language Learning needs.

What has really increased over the last few years are open enrollment numbers. In 2010, the district was negative six for open enrollment and in 2017 it is plus 42.

"We have some grade levels we decline open enrollment for due to space issues," said Francois.

He also added resident enrollment has been declining, but the open enrollment has helped to backfill to keep the overall enrollment relatively flat. However, the district receives less state funding for an open enrolled student vs. a resident student.

Renwick stated he would like the newly approved Strategic Plan to be layered in as appropriate to the committee's work. It has a large focus on academic independence and innovation, so what sort of spaces are needed to achieve those results?

Other Information Requested by the Committee:

- What was the original capacity of the elementary building?
- What is the open enrollment just at the elementary?
- What are the enrollment numbers from 1996-2006?
- Vetted population prediction model
- Actual capacity vs. functional capacity
- John Hattie's work
- What does modern space look like for best teaching practices?
- What do new elementary classrooms look like?
- STAR study
- Sell current land to a housing developer?
- Current legal impacts of referendums

- What year did open enrollment start in WI?
- A tour of a new elementary school was requested

Committee members:

Morgan Burris

Angela Drane

Cortney Finley

Tom Ingwell

Deb Ivey

Joni Martin

Leah McDonald

Sarah Pearce

Gail Poad

Jessie Potterton

Melissa Ryberg (absent)

Bridget Tippet

Maggie Tucker

Others present:

Luke Francois, Superintendent

Matt Renwick, Elementary Principal

Roger Palzkill, Maintenance Director

Joelle Doye, Communications Director