



## 21st Century Schools Facilities Team Minutes

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.  
Franklin Middle School Media Center

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**Chairperson:** Tony Spisak

**Present:** Tony Spisak, Mike McCusker, Gil Adams, Nick Thornton, Angela Black, David Carpenter, Jeannine Day, Helen Glandon, Al Haidous, Barbara Hastings, Kristi Hicks, Gary Martin, Carol Middel, Don Nicholson, Jon Riebe, Kim St. Peter, Ed Turner, Dwayne Walker

### 1. **Welcome – Review Minutes**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The minutes from the previous meeting were e-mailed to the team, and there were no additions or deletions from any team member.

### 2. **Update from Other Subcommittees**

The Chairperson explained that the Enrollment Team has mapped the preliminary elementary attendance boundaries. Based on the projected enrollment, ten buildings can house all of the students. Also, all of the elementary buildings have the capacity to house an all day kindergarten program. It was explained that the Board of Education will determine if any grandfathering rules will apply to current students who live in an area with boundary changes.

The Enrollment Team has also mapped the 5-6 and 7-8 boundaries based on the information provided by the Facilities Team. The configuration can house all of the students and allows for the necessary special education rooms and extra swing rooms. The team wants to keep the enrollment at the high schools as even as possible, so the high school boundaries may have to be adjusted slightly.

### **3. Possible Renovations & Construction for Remaining Facilities**

The Chairperson explained that \$4,480,000 of sinking fund dollars has been allocated to the buildings that are not rated in the top 10. If these buildings are closed, these funds will be allocated to other projects. There are several priority items that were identified during the sinking fund millage and bond studies.

Only four elementary buildings have full air conditioning, and all others have partial. All of the PTOs have indicated that they would like full air conditioning in all of the buildings. The estimated cost to fully air condition all of the buildings is around \$6 million.

Other priorities at the elementary buildings include new playground equipment, bus loops, and updates to media centers.

At the 5-6 and 7-8 buildings, priorities may include air conditioning, lockers, playground equipment at the 5-6 buildings, and converting the life skills rooms, science labs, and industrial arts rooms at the current middle school buildings into general education rooms for the 5-6 students. This conversion would not be needed immediately, as there are enough swing rooms in the proposal to handle the projected capacity at the 5-6 buildings.

It was noted that the sinking fund millage generates approximately \$2 million per year. The projects have to be timed with the receipt of the funds.

### **4. Round Table: Thoughts and Questions**

- It was noted that the Board instructed the administration to put a hold on any sinking fund projects not yet begun. There were no significant repercussions to the District.
- A question was asked whether warranty coverage expires when playground equipment is moved.
- It was asked if the sinking fund monies follow the kids when buildings are closed. It was explained that a sinking fund provides annual tax revenue, and that the projects are not predetermined, as with a bond issue. So, the funds can be repurposed as needed. The District has used the sinking fund to complete projects that the community requested. It was also pointed out that the taxable values of the property in the District are falling, which will result in less revenue than expected at the time the sinking fund was started.
- It was asked if transportation costs will increase under the new configuration. There was also a concern about the length of time that students will spend on the bus. It was explained that the true cost cannot be determined until the final boundaries are set. However, by properly setting the number of bus runs, filling the busses to capacity, evaluating start times, and fully utilizing our bus fleet, costs may not increase. The costs will be determined by the Finance Team once the final boundaries are set. The team does not anticipate significant changes in the bus ride

- time or costs, because the District has a large fleet to cover a fairly small number of square miles.
- It was noted that walking distances need to be reviewed for the 5-6 students.
  - A question was asked about protecting vacant buildings from vandalism and neglect. It was explained that all of the buildings are alarmed and have security cameras. The District will not allow the buildings to fall into disrepair.
  - It was asked if the elementary schools would have an assistant principal given that some schools could double in enrollment. It was explained that the administration will decide that, but that the District has a \$12 million hole to fill.
  - It was noted that the District is receiving less funding than it did 10 years ago. Not everyone thinks that the community, parents, and staff realize this. The District will continue to get factual information out to the community through the website, cable channel, and efforts of the Communications Team.
5. **Next Meeting – Full 21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee - November 17, 2009, 6:00 PM, William D. Ford Career-Technical Center**