

**West Branch Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes 10/8/13**

Long-Term Facilities Advisory Committee (F.A.C.) Goals:

1. Develop a Board Approved 15-Year Master Facilities Plan
2. Provide Ongoing Transparency and Stakeholder Input
3. Develop Framework & Time line Demonstrating Phased-In Projects and Related Funding Stream Options

October F.A.C. Meeting Goals:

1. Narrow and clarify District Facilities Advisory Committee's long-term vision (4-15 years)
2. Discuss essential questions and considerations for being able to define long-term vision
3. Utilize architectural designs to facilitate discussions for clarity
4. Discuss "phasing in" facilities planning process
5. Discuss 21st Century classroom designs and needs as related to District vision, goals and student learning needs

Mr. Hatfield reviewed the District's funding streams. He shared possible funding sources for future facilities improvement work. Examples of these would be General Obligation Bonds, PPEL and SILO (1 Cent Sales Tax) funding, combinations of sources, as well as cash.

Mr. Hatfield gave a brief overview of the District current indebtedness; Elementary Geothermal G.O. bonds due in 2018 and new "Practice Gym" G.O. bonds due in 2028. Mr. Hatfield shared an example of a consideration the Board might review regarding the calling of bonds early for levy management reasons and taxpayer savings on interests.

Struxture Architects reviewed first, second, and third priority goals as identified by the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) during the previous two meeting. *(Developed after a review of engineering and architectural building assessments, stakeholder input, internal and external survey information, Facilities Advisory Committee input...)*

Several essential questions and topics were asked by Struxture's:

Give four (4) good reasons why you (groups) feel football field should be saved?

Tradition

Spectator Viewing

Investment already made

No other viable options

Location

Good place to watch game

Special/unique

Best us of space

High School location is extremely windy and cold at certain times of the year.

Give four (4) good reasons why the field should be moved?

Duplication (Amenities)

Security

Traffic/parking/transportation safety

Needs updating

Efficiency / costs aspects

Hard to secure for entrance

Parking

Viable options for the space

What are we sacrificing for the sake of the district by leaving the field in its current space?

Traffic/parking/safety (bus team back and forth)

Considering this land has not been an option for growth, off the table.

Unable to take advantage of improvements @ one location only.

Other outdoor activities could be utilized in this location.

Parking

What conclusions can the F.A.C. make regarding the Middle School in this vision building exercise? (Data considered: Enrollment data, grade configurations, building adequacy information, limited elementary facilities space to accommodate MS students, students need to travel outside for major of special site considerations and knowledge that a large portion of the Middle School student body spends a portion of their learning day at the high school currently creating travel costs and time constraints.)

Reviewed options for F.A.C. conversations, long-term vision-building (preliminary drawings) and considerations.

1. Structures' presented architectural designs for a new Middle School at High School site with parking improvements.
2. Looked at additions to current Middle School with site improvements for both parking, bus drop off lanes, and parent pick up area.
3. Looked at another option with converting current high school into remodeled middle school, and new addition to the north as a new high school space.
4. Reviewed high school site plan showing site improvements for playing fields and possible new transportation building. (Additional youth practice fields; even with City's new park emerging, need will be there) Adequate parking or more parking would be important in the area of playing fields.

The F.A.C. broke into groups to discuss Middle School and related options:

Define Middle School...What Grades Levels or Philosophy?

Mr. Hatfield opening by stating he felt most parents would see 5th grade was an elementary grade level (currently at Middle School, but still using elementary curriculum) if not part of a true "Middle School House" concept in the future. (We currently use a Jr. High system and not a true Middle School philosophy due to our lower enrollment size at the middle school now.)

Mrs. Oswald and Mrs. Burger shared their thoughts with the committee regarding the "grade configuration" topic for future design and consideration. When considering competency-based education and personalized learning systems, what will a "grade level" mean in the future was briefly discussed. What is best for students developmentally, academically and socially is essential to get right. *Unless the District experiences major growth (say 100 – 200 students in next 5-10 years, it is unlikely that we will have a true middle school teaming concept) District projects a 30 – 50 student increase in next 5 – 7 years. Note: A 40+ student increase was seen between 2007 – 2012
PreK-5 & 6-12 separation, 7-12?

Keep 5th and 6th together.

Facility and philosophy use would be a key factor for grade locations.

Come up with 3 arguments for moving Middle School to the High School:

Travel (Cost & Time, Supervision)

Curriculum

Open's up space on East campus

Efficiency

Scheduling

High traffic on Foster Street as well as possible bus lane around a newly remodeled Middle School would create many site and City difficulties

Building additions to the Middle School would mean building / remodeling at all three schools therefore no efficiencies found and additional overall cost to run and manage District.

A "two-campus" system provides academic advantages and facilities efficiencies

Come up with arguments for leaving Middle School in Current Location:

Less cost to build on MS initially

Perception of younger age students exposed to older students.

Perfectly good facility

No changes needed

Costs have been realized in recent years to improve and updated air and heat roof top units

Define 21st Century Learning Activities:

Place yellow stickers identifying favorite pictures.

Place red stickers on anything you dislike.

Outcomes from Oct. FAC Meeting and Discussions:

- Vast majority of committee members voted to move Middle School to the High School site in long-term vision
- Everyone agreed that modifications would be necessary for the High School.
- Increase seating capacity with a new auditorium.
- Need some new rooms that allow for flexible space.
- Discussed thoughts of 2-story versus 1-story building addition at the high school.
- Discussed an addition north of the new gym in the area of the softball field. This would allow for a more centralized location of common and/or shared spaces for both middle and high school students.
- The focus should be on academic needs first and the two-campus concept allows for a focus on resources to better meet student learning needs in the future.
- Majority of group preferred to move 5 through 8 to the high school site. (A Middle School "House" philosophy / concept would make the most sense if 5th grade part of this long-term vision.)

Mr. Hatfield shared with the team the need to be accurate in their sharing of the facilities work as we are only at "Step A or B" in a much longer series of steps to be worked on. "Nothing is set in stone" and we will continue to analyze our emerging two-campus vision, as well as the related long-term to short-term planning developments. We also need to have more community input.

Next meeting: November 12th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Hoover Elementary Library

- Review FAC emerging long-term District facilities vision
- Structures' will return with more qualified drawings.
- Discussion of transportation facility, land, land use questions will be fielded
- Mr. Hatfield will share a "phase-in facilities planning framework" for the development of long-term and short-term goals over a 15-year period of time.

The public is always welcome to attend.