

West Branch Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting
8/27/13

Minutes Recorded by: Craig Schwerdtfeger, AIA, Architect / Principal

Several of the attendees are associated with the public library, either as the director or library board members.

Others are board members, administrative staff, etc. Attendees included: Mary Buol, Jess Burger, Mike Colbert, Laura Gongora, Carolyn Harold, Hatfield, Angie Klinkkammer, Kathy Knoop, Joe Lande, Michelle Lukavsky, Sara Oswald, Mike Owens, Richard Paulus, Melissa Russell, Deb Schreiber, Nick Shimon, Dan Stevenson, Cary Wiesner, and Jeff Wrede (Absent: Chris Bower)

Review / Overview from Mr. Hatfield: 2018 and 2028 as bond indebtedness for past bond issues. Annual debt ranges from \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year. Most of this was for adding geo- thermal improvements and new gym / weight room.

Discussed anticipated enrollment and there were some questions on how this was determined based on projections. Struxture projections took into account Johnson County projections as well as Cedar County projections because of the close proximity of West Branch to Johnson County.

Struxture Architects' presented a preliminary plan of the high school which includes a new middle school addition with other remodeled spaces. Expanded parking was included on the plan as well. No recommendations were made. The preliminary plan is one of many ways that can address facilities improvement.

Industrial Tech was an area of conversation. Some of this will need to be retained as they look at demographics and a need for that area of interest for students.

Struxture Architects' presented a preliminary plan of the elementary site and plan.

Question came up on what to do with current middle school. Is it in such bad shape that it justifies demolishing the building? Several options and ideas were presented related to the topic as the architect's plan demonstrated (or discussion only) a new view of the parking (that would support Oliphant Street parking issues) for committee considerations.

Attendees gathered in small groups to discuss priorities around this question: *What do they see as their top priorities (as of the time of this meeting) in categories of #1, # 2 & # 3.*

#1

Improve learning space

Finish new gym

Eliminate student shuttling

Classroom space enhancement to accommodate enrollment

Keeping eye on immediate needs

#2

Adequate flexible facility space

Parking and safety

High school parking reconfigure

Flexible learning environment

Preparation for growth

#3

Environment heating and cooling system

Auditorium

Traffic flow planning and parking

HVAC

All parking and drop off areas

What do we want to look at next time?

1. Look at current middle school and what can be done to this. Define what the reuse can be, either preschool, district offices, district storage, etc.
2. As we consider the future of the District, what are the pros of moving middle school students to the high school site? What are the cons?
3. Pros for building and / or reutilizing existing building spaces? (Examples: New offices or building entries related to a new 7-12 or 6-12 high school setting, new parking lots and driveway designs with future needs in mind...)
4. Quantify costs of staff, transportation, etc.
5. Define academics versus extra-curricular goals and needs
6. Considerations of City and W.B.P.L. goals needs will be ongoing throughout the District's process. (*Example: Ongoing discussions related to library needs and the District's transportation building.*)
7. Continue to define enrollment trend aspects that related to curriculum offerings as well.

Presenting a preliminary plan generated conversation and was only meant to get people thinking. The plan is in no way meant to suggest a final plan at this point.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2013