

Facilities Study Committee

MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2008 ~ 6:00-7:30 PM

Fruitport High School Media Center

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Nick Ceglarek welcomed committee members and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the facilities/technology study committee. Members were asked to introduce themselves, their affiliation with the district, and to briefly state personal expectations of the committee.

Present at the meeting were: Morgan Olson, Matthew Traxler, John Winkas, Rhonda Spyke, Mindy Freeland, Shelbi Anspach, Bill Schouman, Jeff Grossenbacher, Amy Upham, Mark Lee, Rose Stone, Connie Harig, Fred Wilks, Steve Keglovitz, Becky Sykes, Chris VanderVelde, Steve Trautner, Richard Suchecki, Steve Wilson, Kevin McWilliams, Teresa Folkmier, and Jill Zeller. Also present to help facilitate the group were Michael Kounelis, from The Skillman Corporation, and Terry Blanchard, from GMB Architects.

Members identified the following expectations:

- Provide technical expertise
- Technology upgrades (required) to move kids forward
- Determine how much you spend to “fix it up” before you get new
- Advocate for a new high school
- Educate realtors on what Fruitport has to offer in an effort to attract new families
- Perception tied to facilities; need to get people inside buildings to show what we have and what we are about
- Be competitive for students through Schools of Choice

II. **Expected Outcomes**

Nick reviewed with participants the expected outcomes of the facilities study committee stating the purpose of the group, reviewing the history of the district, and a timeline for the group to complete its work.

III. **Purpose of the Committee**

Nick stated the purpose of the Facility Committee is to study current facilities and technology needs of the district, look at all possible options to address identified needs, take into consideration external conditions (debt millage, economic conditions, enrollment data, school legislation), and provide a recommendation to the Board of Education at their November meeting. A video entitled, “Did you know?” was shown which provides a perspective on technology needs of the future.

IV. **District’s Strategic Plan**

Nick provided a brief history of the district’s strategic planning process and the development of a strategic model for improvement and growth identified in Fruitport’s Commitment to Success I ~ 2005-2008 and Fruitport’s Commitment to Success II ~ 2008-2011. He highlighted major accomplishments of F.C.S. I as well as focused themes identified in F.C.S. II, one of which is to upgrade the district’s facilities and technology.

V. **Historical Perspective**

A review of the history of the school district, dating back to fiscal year 1946-47 through the present, was presented and included bond issues, building projects, and district consolidation and expansion. Fruitport Middle School, first occupied in 1968, is the newest building in the district.

VI. Recent Bond Work

Major projects of both the 2003 bond issue and 1997 bond were highlighted using a slide show of before and after renovation pictures.

VII. Need and Timeline

Nick reviewed the additional needs of the district and why the timing is significant. A comparison of Fruitport's 2007 debt levy with other Muskegon County and neighboring county districts was reviewed as well as an enrollment history of the district over the last fourteen years. He reported a 120% growth in tax base which provides the district an opportunity to immediately address district facility and technology needs without increasing taxes.

VIII. Tasks for Next Meeting

Nick stated the committee will begin the process of identifying "needs" versus "wants" and will begin looking at "new" versus "renovation" at the next meeting, scheduled for September 9. Committee members were then asked to reflect on what information presented tonight surprised them and what challenges they believe face the committee.

Surprises identified:

- Age of our buildings
- Disparity between tax base of neighboring districts
- Growth of tax base
- Flat enrollment versus growing tax base
- Electrical and safety issues

Challenges identified:

- Showing the need and value of a better education
- Identifying what the community wants (new vs. renovation)
- Locating and prioritizing the district's biggest needs
- Reconfiguring existing buildings vs. building new facility ~ selling idea to the community, especially to older population or community members with no school age children

IX. Questions

Nick opened the floor to questions from the group.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM

Future Meeting Dates: September 9, 23, October 7, 21, and 28.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina VanderWall,
Recording Secretary