

Facilities Study Committee

MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2008 ~ 6:00-7:30 PM

Fruitport High School Media Center

Welcome and Introductions

Nick Ceglarek welcomed committee members and asked that they introduce themselves and their affiliation with the district.

Present at the meeting were: Steve Wilson, Shelbi Anspach, Betty Kinney, Becky Sykes, Chris VanderVelde, Morgan Olson, Rose Stone, Steve Trautner, Richard Suchecki, Steve VerMerris, Amy Upham, Bill Schouman, Teresa Folkmier, Matthew Traxler, John Winkas, Joe De Marco, Jeff Grossenbacher, Ben Gillette, Mark Lee, Kevin McWilliams, Jill Zeller, Craig Schultz, Rhonda Spyke, Mindy Freeland, Heidi Fairfield, and Steve Keglovitz. Also present to help Nick Ceglarek facilitate the group were Mike Kounelis and Brad Skillman, from The Skillman Corporation, and Terry Blanchard, from GMB Architects.

District Website

Nick directed the committee to the district website (fruitportschools.net) stating Facility Study Committee information, including meeting presentations, minutes, and updates, are accessible from the district's home page and will be updated as committee work progresses. He encouraged committee members to refer other community members to the website for information regarding the facilities study committee and their work.

Purpose of the Committee

Nick reviewed the facilities study committee's purpose and expected outcomes. He also reviewed presentation slides showing age of our buildings, the district's debt levy, enrollment history, and tax base growth. Nick briefly explained the School Bond Loan Fund stating once districts reach 7.0 mills, they may apply for a School Bond Loan Fund which provides additional revenues.

Facility Needs List

Committee members were provided a handout of a building by building priority needs list generated from a walk-through of existing facilities by John Winkas (Operations Director) and architects and engineers from GMB, Hooker DeJong, and The Skillman Corporation. A second list, compiled by our building administrators, was distributed and consists of building wants and needs that address student safety and building capacity issues not addressed on the original list from architects. Nick turned the meeting over to Brad Skillman who reviewed the handouts with committee members referring to the lists as beginning tools for dialogue and discussion. Listed wants/needs are a work in progress that can/will be adjusted based upon committee members assessments.

Before breaking into small groups, Nick opened the floor to questions.

Small Group Work

The committee broke into four smaller groups and was asked to consider the following while reviewing data:

- What needs do you believe should be top priority?
- Is a new building an option to be explored?
- What information will you need as we begin to tour our facilities?
- Where should we focus our efforts?

Time was allotted for group work discussion followed by feedback from each group. The groups reported the following pros and cons with regard to building a new structure versus renovation:

Pros

A new facility also captures upgrades
Will attract school of choice students
Changes age of buildings
Not throwing money into a “money pit”
Lowers operating costs
Technology upgrades/concerns addressed
Safety issues addressed

Cons

Resistance from the public – voter support
Economy
If we focus on a new building, is there enough
funds for existing buildings?
Transportation costs if reconfiguring of buildings
TIME! Educating public on why a new building
at this time

Discussion took place regarding what a ballot issue or issues might look like and the pros and cons of offering multiple ballot proposals. There was consensus of the full committee to further explore the option of building a new high school.

Tasks for Next Meeting - Facility Tours

At the request of several members, a building tour of the current high school facility will take place at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 23. We will meet in the high school media center at 6:00 PM and will begin the tour shortly thereafter. Paper and pen will be provided and committee members are encouraged to bring digital cameras to memorialize identified needs.

A request was also made to tour a new high school facility in a neighboring district. Nick will make the necessary arrangements for this to take place on Tuesday, September 30. The committee will again meet at the high school media center at 6:00 PM and will travel together via school bus.

Questions

Nick opened the floor to further questions from the group.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tina VanderWall,
Recording Secretary

Future Meeting Dates: September 23, 30, October 7, 21, and 28.