



2016 School Study Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2016

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Harvey Education Center, Board Room

Present: Tim Ayers, Ted Berryhill, Brian Bushey, Erik Cargill, Lance Delbridge, Susie Disselkoen, Jon Droscha, Liz Evans, Shelly Fanson, Josh Galloway, Matt Hall, Amy McVaugh, Patrick Meyers, Kerry Minshall, Christopher Mumby, Mitch Perrault, Mike Prelesnik, Sandy Smalley, Joe Strach, Mike Thompson, Sally Trout, Chris Waltz, Tim Williams, Chris Wright.

Absent: Jessica Curtis, Steve Duane, Laura Fenger, Emily Kress, Jerry Schaffer, Russell Whipple

Also Present: Superintendent, Ron Drzewicki, Kevin Doty, Cheryl S. Wald, Ted Moore

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were adopted without change.

Request/Clarification Forms

Chair, Chris Waltz outlined the number of request/clarification forms which had been addressed and those still outstanding.

Community Input

Chair Waltz stated the committee's work for the evening was to consider the three options identified by committee members as possible solutions to the facility issues along with technology, security and transportation needs. Once the best three options are identified, a method will be devised to gather public opinion on each proposal.

Options currently under consideration include:

Option #3: Move 5th graders to the Middle School creating a school-within-a-school.

- Option #9: Move all 4th and 5th graders to the Harvey Education Center (HEC). Elementary buildings, Steele, Alaiedon and North Aurelius, would then be used for Kindergarten through 3rd grade
- Option #1 Additions/renovations would be made to each elementary building with additions/renovation plans for specific areas at the Middle and High Schools. Administrative offices and Early Childhood Programs would remain at the HEC.

Superintendent Drzewicki urged members to look at all the options and develop big picture concepts to take to the public to determine what the community wants for its school children. Should the district move 5th graders out of the elementary buildings, enrollments at school buildings would be approximately 1,000 in grades 9-12 at the High School, 1,000 in grades 5-8 at the Middle School and about 400 students at each of the elementary buildings.

Scope of Work for Option #3

Committee members organized in small discussion groups to consider the proposal to move 5th graders to the Middle School.

When members reconvened, Ted Moore, school consultant, explained possible changes needed to accommodate 5th graders at the Middle School. These include an added gymnasium, cafeteria, reconfiguration of the bus and parking patterns, location change of the administrative offices and/or possibly a satellite administrative office to serve the 5th-6th grade wing.

The Superintendent pointed out it would be the architect's job to design the building and make the school-within-a-school concept work. Even though the two schools would be connected, it was pointed out that there would be little cost savings in staff sharing between 5-6 and 7-8 grades, especially when they would be on different time schedules.

Committee members indicated further improvements would be needed at the school in classroom areas, technology, band, choir and athletic areas as well as the addition of at least 12 classrooms to make this work.

Other schools would also receive improvements under this plan. The easiest place to add space is at the North Aurelius Elementary building, probably up to six classrooms, a new gym with the old one remodeled to serve as the cafeteria. A larger parking area is needed that would require additional land. Also, a location change for building administrative offices to make the building more secure should be considered.

At the Steele Elementary, it was agreed classes now in the basement must be moved out because it, has water issues and forces children to walk outside to gain entrance to the main building. There was also some discussion of razing the original building as classrooms are too small for today's educational needs.

Alaiedon Elementary School needs are very similar to North Aurelius except the building is land locked with little room to expand. Some 400 students are anticipated at the school with need for a new gym, larger classrooms, secure entryway and a cafeteria. There are also septic system issues to be addressed.

At the Mason High School there is need to remodel the robotics and science instruction areas which are currently too small for today's instructional needs. Added space is also needed for visual arts, band and choir. Administrative offices need to be redesigned to better secure the building. Some committee members also brought up the need for wood shop space and a multi-purpose room. Plumbing/HVAC needs must be resolved.

Scope of Work for Option #9

The ninth option calls for all 4th and 5th graders to move to the HEC with the major benefit of opening even more classrooms in the three elementary buildings that would then serve grades kindergarten through third grades. Once discussion began on the scope of work for option nine, some members of the committee questioned the reasoning behind the ninth option. Those same committee members suggested that we discuss an option or options that were previously discussed but not selected at past meetings as one of the three final configuration options.

In a straw vote, committee members agreed to eliminate the 4/5 option at the HEC (option #9) with some members suggesting continued exploration of new/old options. Committee members are attempting to identify the three most feasible options that can be taken to a sampling of school district voters. This is to determine the level of support for each one prior to making a recommendation to the Mason Board of Education.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, 2016.