

Westside Community Schools
Facilities Task Force Committee Meeting
September 11, 2014 ~ 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Dr. McCann welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the school tours, which covered schools in Bennington, Elkhorn and OPS. Want to accomplish tour follow-up and polling information at today's meeting.

Rob Zimmerman from DLR recapped the tour.

Physical Aspects

Repair building deficiencies

Building envelope, interiors, ADA compliance, plumbing, HVAC , electrical, energy efficiency, tech infrastructure, life safe, security and functionality

Function

Buildings toured on 9/10/14

Two middle schools

Grandview in Elkhorn, Alfonza Davis in OPS -- WCS similar size to Grandview (Grade 6-8 school)

Three elementaries

Pine Creek in Bennington

Saddlebrook in OPS

Sagewood in Elkhorn

Highlights of tour:

security – commonality – all had administration office at front of building – clear view to outside

camera & buzzer

security vestibule to walk through before getting to office

all doors lockable – 100% locked

security doors – lock down

lock off sections of school

panel board to tell any door that was open – audible alarm

cameras on exterior of building

hardened rooms – safe rooms through tornados – shuttered windows, hurricane glass (take impact) – storm doors on interior

design element – use of natural light – clear windows, floor to ceiling – facilitate better learning

collaborative learning space – furniture – pod layout – outdoor classrooms

classroom technology – wide range

big common spaces with separate cafeterias – gym not doubling as cafeteria

separate art and music rooms – risers built in
use of furniture – cafeteria tables turn into bench, on wheels to move around,
balls to sit on – (furniture cost up to ¼ cost of building – noted by Dr. McCann)
staff workspace – desks clustered – communication to the office area
middle school– competition size – wood floor – doors open to outside
lockers – elementary – cubbies at Elkhorn, others individual lockers
middle grade alignment – keep grades separate – pods, each grade had their own
pod, only labs shared, lunch broken out by grade; by floor levels – grade level stairs

Finance Group

Separation of loud activities from classroom activities, outside vs inside activities
Davis & Pine Creek – car & bus were separated
Liked the atrium style entrances, big display cases gave a personal homey feel,
Saddle Brook was like a department store
Pod configuration works well with our scheduling for elementary
Designed for control and low maintenance
Will this be hard to do with our small footprints, particularly with traffic
Open MS security seems less of an issue now that I've seen it.
Use of products that help with indoor air quality

Communications Group

Alfonzo Davis - Stairwells and levels for specific grade levels
Design warm and friendly, but security is over the top.
Cafeteria should be a common space, instead of the gym.
Lines of sight/window.
Good use of natural light
Three sided sinks
Locker height at Grandview
Lockers or individual cubbies help to prevent head lice
Community involvement- Saddlebrook (OPS) has a community center

Academics

Pros
pick up/drop off area
bikes encouraged – huge hook up areas
Security – through the main office
Entrances “Chicago Highways”/stairwells
Pods = Great feel/culture was good
Outdoor classrooms – each classroom have easy access
Communication/Technologies -> Walkie-Talkies
Furniture feel/Functional/Feel
Supervision over lockers
Roofs = energy efficiencies
Lunch tables = bench seating

Construction Group

Safety – bathrooms, entrances, doors, keys, shelters, holding cells

How new schools are designed – so many aspects and qualities that we just need to do. (New is New)

Sound

Flooring, wall surfaces, sound, colors, functionality

Blane McCann – Power Point presentation:

Oakdale/WMS tours next week – get dates from Bob

Need example of remodel bldg. – couple weeks out

Why Oakdale – general feeling that Oakdale is good representative of all buildings, can arrange other buildings., ADA issues

Legal review of website is about done. Sending post card to folks on committee work that is being done per Rupprecht. Town Hall, Board Meeting on Monday 9/15
Big Idea meeting explain what is being done

POLLING INFO thanks to Foundation – Blane – get survey info

Average age over 50 – few with kids

56% leaners

3 in 10 would vote yes

Voter mood has improved as they see what needs done

Responsible with money

344 responders, hoping for 400

open enrollment brings much to district

down 71 students from last year

optimum enrollment will be shared with school board

reorganize middle school – majority oppose 6th graders in mid school

Tentative support – need to do some education on upcoming bond issue (May 2015)

Looking for outside support

Viable bond issue – feel we have – kids deserve it – trying to accomplish what is best for kids

Questions

Empty Nesters – Opt In – Revenue to district not appreciated/understood.

Enrollments down to 4,000 so opt in started in 80, 90s open option thru learning community – helps keep schools open – discussion to keep neighborhood schools open -- we need the opt in kids/revenue – they bring value.

Not trying to increase student enrollment – keep stabilized. Looking at early childhood. Build reduces the amount of space needed to add in elementary buildings. Conception is we will take in more kids through “opt in” program.

Blane thanked everyone for their time and energy.

Next Facilities Task Force Meeting:

Tuesday, September 23, 2014
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. ~ ABC Building