

School Board Executive Summary



Topic: DLR Group - Functional Assessment Update

Date: March 24, 2014

Prepared by:

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- Recommended Action:**
- Information Only
 - Presentation/Discussion
 - Discussion/Action by Board of Education
 - Presentation/Action Next Meeting

Recommendation(s):

The Superintendent recommends that the District create a Facilities Task Force to review all data generated by DLR. The Task Force will return to the Board of Education with recommendations in early 2015 for BOE review and action.

Purpose:

Review of findings regarding the Functional Program Assessment of District buildings and schools.

Background:

On May 21, 2013, Westside Community Schools hired the DLR Group to conduct a comprehensive study of the District's schools and buildings. In conjunction with this study, Westside Community Schools also hired RSP & Associates to do a long-term demographics and enrollment study.

In order to chart a successful course for the future of Westside Community Schools, DLR Group investigated the District facilities to have a clear understanding of where the District is today, and where it will be in the future. That understanding is based upon three key components:

1. Enrollment
2. Facilities
3. Functional Assessment

The third component of the facility needs assessment and master plan process is certainly the most important with regard to its impact on students, staff and educational outcomes. For the Functional Assessment, DLR Group has utilized several methods of obtaining this information from the School Board, District Administration, teaching staff and support staff.

The team walked through every building and met with representatives from every grade level and every department in each building in order to understand how the buildings are being used and how the faculty and staff wish they could use the buildings. The findings from the programmatic meetings were in turn shared with the District Administration and used, along with DLR Group's expertise, to help develop space programs for each building.

What DLR learned from these meetings was the desire for renewed and transformed spaces throughout the District, as well as concentrated attention in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education
- Special Education
- English Language Learners
- Flexible Learning Spaces to implement real-world learning opportunities and / or project-based learning approaches

Building options and alternatives were developed with DLR Group Educational Planners, Designers, Engineers and District Administration including Curriculum Directors and Principals. Building options and alternatives are based on the physical and functional assessment and developed through best practices and where these options made the

most sense for the District. Options such as building additions, building replacements, grade level reconfiguration options and the consolidation of attendance areas are contained in this report and serve to stimulate conversation.

The Functional needs of the District have been identified for review and consideration by the Community and the Board of Education. They are outlined in the Functional Adequacy Program spreadsheets and Assessment Summary contained in the Report.

During the March 24, 2014 Board of Education Meeting, the DLR Group will present its findings regarding the Functional Assessment of District buildings and opinions of cost for proposed options.

Attachment:

PowerPoint Presentation