

To: Dr. Annette Freiheit

From: Ben Beery |

Date: March 3, 2022

Comm. No: 9999

Subject: Independent School District #861 – Winona Area Public Schools
Community Task Force Meeting #9
March 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Annette Freiheit, Superintendent
Nancy Denzer, Board Member
Michael Hanratty, Board Member
Jeremy Graves, Staff Member
Amanda Indra, Staff Member
Katie Pearce, Staff Member
Brenda Nelson, Staff Member
Laura Watkins, Staff Member
Julie Biggerstaff, Community Member
Laura Greseth, Community Member
Kaylee Haun, Community Member
Ted Hazelton, Community Member
Julie Heinrichs, Community Member
Allen Hillery, Community Member
Drew Krings, Community Member
David Kuklinski, Community Member
Kris Lynch, Community Member
Lindsay O'Shea, Community Member
Andy Pierce, Community Member
Christa Schul, Community Member
Luke Sims, Community Member
Karen Sullivan, Community Member
Ed Thompson, Community Member
Paul Aplikowski, Wold Architects and Engineers paplikowski@woldae.com
Austin Schendel, Wold Architects and Engineers aschendel@woldae.com
Ben Beery, Wold Architects and Engineers bbeery@woldae.com

Discussion Topics:

A. Thoughts Since Last Meeting:

1. Wold presented an overview of the discussion with the group that met on accessibility:

- a. The group reviewed what the accessibility code requires and examined what is currently included in the facility analysis regarding accessibility.
- b. The recommendation from the group was to make any exterior doors used by students, especially to access the playground, to be accessible.
 - 1) The Task Force was in agreement on this recommendation.
- c. Other comments from the Task Force:
 - 1) Some in the group questioned if the railings should be a higher priority. After discussion, the Task Force recommended moving this to a priority two so it would be included in the recommendation.
 - 2) A group asked if assisted listening could be discussed:
 - a) The District mentioned this in already in discussion as they look to replace the screens in classrooms.
 - 3) The group talked about the basement at Jefferson and Washington Kiiouscko. In the current proposals, the plan would be to move classroom space out of the basement. This would eliminate the need to add an elevator to the half of the basement that is not accessible.

B. Options Review:

- 1. Wold reviewed the option A and I. No changes from last time but there has been added information on the cost break downs and deferred maintenance.
- 2. Discussion from the group:
 - a. One group member wondered about relocating the kitchen. It was explained that because the cafeteria was moving to the addition, the kitchen would follow. The reasoning for the

cafeteria moving was to better locate in the building and free up space to bring the classroom from the basement upstairs.

b. Is the ALC over capacity? Will they have future needs?

1) Superintendent Freiheit explained the enrollment is capped for that program.

c. The group discussed the overall cost of the referendum. How much of an increase would the community support?

1) A community survey would better pinpoint the tax tolerance of the community. It is possible to break up the recommendation into phases to lower the cost.

2) The group agreed that this is best left to the Board to package a proposal to the community.

d. One group member wondered how the remaining deferred maintenance items would be funded?

1) The District has LTFM funding that could help address this.

e. Could the operating budget be stressed by these options (i.e. increased utility costs) and if so, what might be the plan to address that?

1) One group member also wondered if we could ask the tax payers to fund an increase in the operating levy to refund approximately \$1.4 million that was removed from the budget a few years ago?

3. The group was asked, "What should we sent to the Board as our proposal?"

a. The group discussed this and had the following comments:

1) One group member proposed sending Option A to the board. On Option I, they wondered what would happen to the existing buildings that are not being used?

- 2) One group member noted when this proposal is sent to the board/community there needs to be a very strong emphasis on the 21st Century learning needs and the maintenance needs.
- 3) One group member noted that he talked to several residents on the east side and felt there was no way they would support closing Washington Kiuscko. In turn, he believed the Task Force should recommend an investment in what we have in terms of buildings to serve the students both today and into the future.
- 4) One group member noted that originally, he did not support investing in the old buildings and thought they should build new. However, he now firmly believes the community would never support that and keeping the existing buildings is the right thing for the community.
- 5) One group member noted that Option I is something that could be looked at in the future if needed, but does not seem appropriate for the community today.
- 6) It was noted that Option A keeps a positive, hopeful thought around the future for growth.
- 7) It was stated that Option A has the possibility to excite people. Option I has so much change, that it would likely slow everything down.
- 8) A group member asked Director McArdle his thoughts on the old buildings. Director McArdle felt the buildings are very usable but do need an investment to work into the future. His belief is that the buildings should support the educational plan and not the other way around.

9) The group discussed that the Board will receive this proposal and work on the final details. It's possible that the exact plan will evolve as the Board works on it and the group should be comfortable with that.

10) One group member noted that option A really supports Pre-K programming well. If a goal is to capture more students, neighborhood buildings would better aide in this goal.

b. After discussion, the group performed fist to five on the proposal to eliminate option I and forward to the board Option A as a masterplan.

1) The results of fist to five were all three fingers and above thus the group reached consensus on this decision.

C. The group listed messages they want sent to the School Board regarding Option A:

1. Supports our neighborhoods
2. Invests in our community across the District
3. Invests in our children's education
4. Allows flexibility for the future
5. Addresses high priority maintenance
6. We have looked at the needs and this option addresses them
7. This plan supports our students to be college and career ready.
8. Prepares our youngest learners a successful transition into school.
9. Potential to increase enrollment and support an opportunity for growth
10. Addresses accessibility throughout the District
11. Buildings will be more engaging and attract students
12. Will enhance relationship with City, County, Universities/Colleges and school district

13. Improve practice times to allow students to be home earlier
14. The Board should give consideration to what the community will support.
15. This plan will modernize teaching and learning spaces.
16. Provides for more personalized and individualized learning.
17. Gets the students out of the basement.
18. Improves spaces the community uses most:
 - a. Paul Giel Field
 - b. Auditorium
 - c. Gyms
 - d. Pools
 - e. Locker Rooms
19. Updates industrial tech area to prepare students for career opportunities today.
20. Some concerns:
 - a. There will be some concerned that the money will be wasted.
 - b. There will be a need to get the school staff on board.

D. Next Meeting(s):

1. School Board Meeting on March 24, 2022. The task force is invited. We may ask some of you to speak about your experience to the Board.

cc: Toni McDevitt, Staff Member
Theresa Sadler, Community Member
Cindy Amberg, Community Member
Jackie Goyette, Community Member
Lucy McMartin, Community Member

TD/Promo/ISD_861/min/3.2.22