

APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

FUTURE NEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (Tuesday, November 26, 2019)

Generated by Kimm Smith on Sunday, December 1, 2019

1. MEETING OPENING (Although a quorum of Board of Education members may be present, no Board Resolutions will be approved.)

A. Welcome and Review of Previous Meeting

Judy shared tonight's meeting agenda.

- There is a FAQ document at each table with answers to some of the questions from the last meeting. Other questions will be covered tonight.
- A Conversation Cafe will be held tonight to discuss 6th grade -- facilitators at each table
- Concept Options developed by Hoffman will be shared later in the meeting

Judy reviewed our last meeting held on November 12.

- Presentation from Mike Clark from Baird. Mike shared the example that if we go for a referendum for \$80 million to finance projects and \$1 million for annual operating costs, we would not increase our current \$0.92 tax levy rate.
- Greg summarized the need by level that were shared by some of our principals -- Elementary, Middle, and High School
- We heard presentations from various departments: Special Education, School Climate, English Learners, and Fine Arts
- We heard presentations on 6th grade and ran out of time, so we are discussing this topic again tonight. Questions will be addressed through a Conversation Cafe and at future meetings.

2. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

A. Questions Answered from Previous Meeting

Why is 6th grade in the elementary schools in the AASD? What is the history?

- Prior to North being built, 9th graders were at the junior highs (grades 7, 8, 9)
- The original plan in building North was to move 9th grade to high school and 6th grade to middle schools
- What they found in studying the actual numbers and space needs, that this was not possible, so 6th graders stayed at elementary schools
- Due to space needs at Lincoln in the late 1990s, Lincoln 6th graders moved to Wilson for a couple of years

6th grade staffing?

- It's premature to discuss at this point. If the recommendation is to move 6th grade to middle schools and the Board approves the move, then we'll have a study group to look at all of the details.

Is this a reactive decision due to space needs and not one based on educational pedagogical research?

- It's a way to push forward using best practices and what we believe is best for students
- The Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) is an organization that focuses on research and best practices in serving adolescents
- AMLE includes resources and reasons why we believe this is best for our students
 - * Adolescents require educational programs that serve the unique development needs of students aged 10-15.
 - * Young adolescents undergo significant physical, emotional and psychological changes.
 - * Schools should implement programs that help adolescents succeed in all areas: academic, psychological and social-emotional well being
 - * Approximate 90% of middle schools contain grades 5-8, 6-8, or 7-8, with grades 6-8 being the dominant organizational structure
 - * Recommendations for Success:
 - ^ Interdisciplinary Team Organization
 - ^ Common Teacher Planning Time
 - ^ Flexible Scheduling
 - ^ Emphasis on developmentally appropriate experiences in curriculum with a focus on cooperative and inquiry learning which involves adolescents in their own learning
 - ^ Carefully planned student advisory programs
 - ^ Transition supports for students moving to a new grade

Human Growth and Development

- Students in grades 6-8 (ages 11-13) parallel the period of human growth between childhood and adolescence
- Increasing evidence that children mature earlier with most reaching puberty by age 11 as compared to 12-14 years old in the early 1900's.

- Though a widely diverse group developmentally, 6th graders are more like 7th & 8th graders, neither child, nor adult.

- Young adolescents share need for both structure while seeking more self autonomy and do best when grouped together with other students at the same level and going through similar developmental changes

If 6th graders move to the middle school, which elementary schools would no longer have space issues?

- All but 3 would not have issues. The three that would still have issues is Columbus (6th grade is not there now), Huntley, and Richmond - we can address all but 3 elementary schools

Do our 4 middle schools have room for 6th graders?

- Not in our current configuration - for further discussion

The Special Education speaker said the "need is growing." How have the populations of students with special needs grown? Since 2012 we have increased from 2,014 students with special education needs to 2,684.

- This growth of 670 students over 8 years represents an increase of 33%.

- In addition, our English Learners population has increased from 1,298 to 1,503 over the past 8 years. This growth of 205 students represents an increase of 16%.

If collaboration and student engagement is so important, why are we not talking about different furniture in all classrooms? East talked about how they need collaboration space, but only want to create one space?

- With approximately 1,000 classrooms in the District, the cost to make changes to all classrooms his prohibitive. Estimates we have received to transition one classroom from traditional seating to flexible furniture seating is over \$20,000.

Could we get a school-by-school ratio of EL teacher to EL student?

- Staffing ratios for EL programs are complicated by the levels of the EL student population. Schools with services for level 1 and 2 students will have higher teacher-to-student ratios than schools with only level 3 - 5 students.

If 6th graders move to the middle school, which elementary schools would no longer have space issues?

- Only Huntley, Richmond, and Columbus would continue to have space issues.

Do our four middle schools have room for 6th graders?

- Not at this time.

How will we staff 6th grade at the middle schools?

- We received several questions about staffing. However, at this time our focus is on facilities, so no discussions have been had about staffing or any other transitional topics.

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3. CONVERSATION CAFE

A. 6th Grade

Conversation Cafe

- What are the pluses of moving 6th graders from the elementary level to the middle level?

- What are the deltas/challenges of moving 6th graders from the elementary level to the middle level?

- Each table had a facilitator who will record the table participants' pluses and deltas

- After 10 minutes, participants moved to a new table

- They heard a summary from the facilitator's input from the last group and then added the new group's pluses and deltas

- Participants moved one more time for 5 minutes

- Each table's facilitator reported out on one key plus and 1 key delta

The key pluses and deltas were as follows:

+ curriculum alignment/vendors - packaged K-5 & 6-8

- space

+ increase focused in academic -- middle level -- area ELA and math at elementary -- teachers teach all

- staffing issue and space -- more than moving students over -- extra gym, art, etc

+ peer influences will push us to success -- developmentally-appropriate -- zero teaching to the top

- travel -- not in your neighborhood school anymore, etc. can't bike or walk to school

+ 3-year investment from families -- hope families would stay more involved then

- are we forgetting our other needs with the focus on this switch?

- + more opportunities for our 6th graders at middle level
- concern about kids who struggle socially and academically -- would same level of support be provided at middle like it is at the elementary?

- + curriculum better aligned
- staffing -- mapping a secondary route -- need as part of our decision-making process

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4. CONCEPT OPTIONS

A. Introduction of Concept Options

Jody from Hoffman spoke about Concept Options

- It's getting more exciting now -- all of our meetings leading up to this -- how do we actually resolve those things that we have been talking about?
- When thinking about concepts, remember the three main drivers; physical condition, program / curriculum, and enrollment / capacity.
- Ask yourself, does the concept align with our prior discussions of needs and priorities?
- Ask yourself, does the concept align with the priorities of the school district?
- Understanding that we may not be able to accomplish everything right now, ask yourself if the concept aligns with long term goals of the school district?

Jody handed out various 11x17 documents/maps and because they are so preliminary, participants were asked to leave them at the tables following the meeting.

- 3 main drivers: physical condition -- projects ongoing and how we accomplish those -- do we fix facilities we have; programming curriculum; enrollment and capacity is the biggest driver

Concept Working Matrix (blue and white document)

- Headings: Elementary/middle/high school/new school(s)/needs not addressed
- This gives you an overview of everything we would need to do as part of each concept

Elementary Concepts A-E all have to do with moving 6th grade out

Elementary Concepts F & G - have to do with keeping 6th graders where they are now

Option A. Move out 6th grade and use vacated space for needed K-5 capacity

- does not address - special ed arts, co-curricular programs, supporting programs
- does address growth capacity on the north side and other high growth areas in district

Option B. Move out 6th grade -- build a new K-5 elementary school

- all needs are addressed - elementary needs and growth area capacity needs are met

Option C. Move out 6th grade -- address middle schools

- build additions to accommodate added priority programs
- build a new 6-8 middle school on District-owned property
- elementary needs and growth area capacity needs are not met

Option D. Move out 6th grade

- build middle school additions to accommodate added priority programs
- build new K-5 elementary
- build new 6-8 middle school
- meets all needs

Option E. Move out 6th grade

- D&E are the same with the exception of new schools
- Build a new K-8 facility (house 1,400 kids) with elementary and middle school kids on different sides of the school
- or
- Build a K-8 school in an existing elementary school
- What about 2 new K-8 schools? Use an existing elementary as a new middle school?

* Berry? Possible to make that into a K-8 -- which would help reduce large population at Madison Middle -- would mean boundaries would need to be redrawn

Option F. 6th grade stays at elementary

- build a new K-6 elementary school (District-owned property)
- middle school -- just additions to accommodate new programs

Option G. 6th grade stays at elementary

- Huntley way over capacity -- not building a new school -- additional programs would be hard to do then at elementary schools
- middle school -- just additions to accommodate new programs

If the committee has other options -- yes we can look at those too -- add on to elementary schools??

Charter schools were kept out of this at this point.

- 3 of our charter schools rent space
 - * Question: rental to ownership - what is the long-term rationale for not including them?
 - * Greg will address at next week's meeting
- Elementary level charter school -- those kids are counted in capacity at middle schools -- charter to regular middle school
 - * Question: what if charter goes through 6th grade -- then they are leaving the charter early

Questions:

- With additions in elementary - do they all have available space for their needs?
 - * No they won't be accomplished everything -- some are challenging

Jody - talked about the 8x11 chart, which was handed out to committee members.

- It shared the enrollment numbers at each site if we moved 6th grade to middle schools
- It also includes a 4K central site
- Items in white are good; yellow means caution; red means there is an issue
- Richmond, Huntley, Columbus Schools still do not look good

Page 2 of the document showed numbers of a new elementary school and moving 6th grade to middle school

- new elementary school would hold 600 students
- Richmond and Columbus would still have capacity issues
- Huntley's issue would go away with a new school on the north side
- all middle schools would have issues

Page 3 of the document showed numbers of moving 6th grade to middle school; Foster 6th graders to Wilson/West; and building a new K-8 school

- still over capacity at all middle schools
- includes a new K-8 School
- includes changing Berry to a K-8 school

Page 4 of the document showed numbers of moving 6th to middle school; building a new elementary school, Foster to Wilson and Highlands to Einstein

- includes a new K-5 elementary
- includes a new middle school
- boundaries would need to be revised
- Foster 6th grade to Wilson
- Highlands 6th grade to Einstein
- Kaleidoscope and Wilson over capacity

Todd from Hoffman shared maps of our elementary schools and what their building design may look like if reconfigured after moving 6th grade out

- K-5 capacity if 6th grade moves out
- several rooms freed up - new room designations
- can now split out some rooms that were tight and shared
- relieves pressures on your common spaces -- gymnasiums, commons, music rooms, etc.
- kindergarten rooms could be larger
- hope to accommodate STEM area, special needs classrooms, and those other needs buildings may have

COLUMBUS

- doesn't have 6th grade in it currently as they are at Kaleidoscope
- no design changes showed

BADGER

- larger kindergarten rooms
- found a new spot for music room
- relocation of several other classrooms

BERRY

- STEM area near LMC

- additional spaces as needed

EDISON

- several spaces freed up
- opportunities for wellness space, additional music spaces, STEM, and special ed. spaces

FERBER (similar layout as Berry)

- STEM area new LMC
- larger kindergarten rooms
- additional spaces as needed

FOSTER (charter school)

- STEM and music areas
- opportunities for spreading out grades

APPLETON PUBLIC MONTESSORI (charter school) at Plamann building

- not touched

FRANKLIN

- STEM room, instrumental space
- expansion of kindergarten and Early Childhood spaces
- special ed. rooms

HIGHLANDS (one of our largest elementary schools)

- all rooms are being used now
- storage closets being used, so hope to relieve some pressure
- ELL Hub?
- Storage for instruments
- STEM area

HORIZONS (similar to Houdini)

- STEM area
- larger kindergarten spaces

HOUDINI (similar to Horizons)

- Combine rooms to get decent-sized kindergarten rooms
- STEM area

HUNTLEY (largest elementary)

- Large group space (STEM, TAG, etc.)
- Special ed. areas

JEFFERSON (has some Fox River Academy classrooms as well inside and in the Green Teaching Building in the park)

- Move all of Fox River back into the building?? This is being checked into as they have their own building.
- STEM area
- additional offices

JOHNSTON

- Additional room for site needs -- art, band, special ed., sensory, etc.
- STEM area

RICHMOND (small site -- not a lot of opportunity to expand -- limited)

- we did free up some space moving 6th grade out
- STEM area
- instrumental music area

LINCOLN

- STEM area
- get their stage back possibly?

MCKINLEY

- STEM area
- art area
- instrumental area

Todd shared middle school maps and how to possibly accommodate 6th graders at each, by additions.

EINSTEIN

- addition of 2 wings -- 4 classrooms upstairs and 4 downstairs -- on each side (2 stories)
- existing exterior classrooms would become interior and some classrooms would lose their windows if this happens

MADISON

- addition of 2 wings -- 6 classrooms upstairs and 6 down -- each wing
- includes a large pod for Tech. Ed. or STEM??
- additional classrooms -- whatever needed on this campus to accommodate additional students

Todd noted that the ability to add on to middle schools is not equal as each site is different -- distribution of students would be unequal

KALEIDOSCOPE

- not a lot of place to add on -- possibly behind multipurpose room -- could gain some space here -- 2 levels

WILSON

- additions are limited by track and football field
- identified an area by the back parking lot, which is not utilized very much
- 2-story addition back there (south side)

Todd talked about possible additions at our high schools.

WEST

Top 2 priorities identified: classroom atrium space and an addition in the back by tennis courts

Addition in the back would be a new facility -- performance center -- indoor athletic center -- turf area enclosed -

- 40x40 yard indoor turf facility
- Because it is a standalone facility, it would need supports (mechanical space, bathrooms, etc.).

Atrium space -- used for gathering for outdoor and indoor activities -- 2-story addition to add flexible and collaborative space

- first floor would be a gathering space and a space for concessions
- second floor would be a flexible space to be used for classrooms, etc. as needed

EAST

Top 2 priorities identified: academic space and athletic addition

Additional classroom space -- academic capacity

- add on right off of Tesla area near front -- 2-story addition -- 10 classrooms -- can be designed as a flexible space too

Athletic addition -- remodeling of existing space and maximizing space

- build out to existing tennis courts and baseball field
- maximize the ability to use the space that is there

NORTH

Top 2 priorities identified: fitness facility and tennis Court replacement

Addition of a fitness facility off of existing pool area

- with small turf areas, weight room and training facilities

Replace current tennis courts (same area as located now)

DISTRICT-OWNED PROPERTY

- out by North High, near football field
- owned by District already
- homestead is still there and owned by District
- enclosed between Lightning Drive, Edgewood Drive, Mary Martin Drive, Drake Lane, and Ashbury Drive
- New K-5th Grade Elementary School - 600 Students - 95,000 square feet
- New 6th-8th Grade Middle School - 800 Students - 152,000 square feet
- New K-8th Grade School - 1,400 Students - 221,000 square feet
- New K-8th Grade School - 800 Students - 170,000 square feet
- New K-8th Grade School(Add to ES) - 400+400 Students - 127,000 square feet

- New K-6th Grade Elementary School - 700 Students - 100,000 square feet

JANET BERRY K-8 OPTION

- a huge addition behind multi-purpose room and gymnasium -- one floor

We are currently developing the costs for all of these options.

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5. CLOSING

A. Future Meetings

- Our next meeting is on Tuesday, December 3.
- There is discussion about starting it at 6:00 PM for those committee members who could not be here tonight and then possibly starting with the rest of the group at 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM.