

School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)

November 8, 2017

4:30 – 6:00 pm

MINUTES

Attending

Paige Anderson
Marty Beck
Joanna Doerder
Kitka Galvin
Kerensa Good-Bloyd
Kimberly Hoffman
Jonathan Ikoba

Barb Jordan
Kimberly Klosak-Smith
Lana LaSalle
Chris Like
Richard Lynch
Celeste Miller
Kaye Meyers

Phil Redington
Linda Smithson
Stacey Struck
Amy Swearingen
Michele Tabares

Presenters

Chris Andrus – Dir. Operations
John Cain – GW Principal

Dallon Christensen - Dir. Finance
Jeff Michels – Estes

Robin Randall - Legat
Jeff Sandberg - Legat

Also in Attendance

Paul Castro

PRESENTATION

Learning Environments

Learn about the progress of the New Grant Wood Elementary school as well as plans for addressing the needs at the other schools

Grant Wood Principal John Cain talked showed the group the construction site of the new Grant Wood Elementary School and talked about the planning and development of the project involving community, students and staff.

Jeff Michels from Estes Construction talked about the progress of construction with the current focus on installing footings and finalizing the design specs of precast concrete walls for the school. Plan to complete punch list in July 2018 for the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

Jeff Sandberg shared with the group the district facilities assessment and estimated costs of facilities needs (including all but Grant Wood and Neil Armstrong elementary schools) and district-wide administrative future ready improvement requests.

District Finance Director Dallon Christensen shared that the district is in good financial standing but will likely need to borrow to cash flow projects.

The district administration and board of education will work through information to develop a multi-year facilities plan.

SIAC COMMITTEE

Compliments

- Like that all buildings are part of the plan. Like that the district has tried to include as many people in the process as possible. Like that it isn't top down, but very inclusive.
- Glad we got the presentation
- Nice to hear the financial information.
- Many thanks to the board for the time given to the facilities long-term plan process.

Comments/Suggestions

- We need a clear plan. Frustration with delay which becomes non-action. Athletics –low priority. Schools that have been waiting shouldn't get deferred.
- It's interesting that HS did not have anything academic – it was all sports.
- Secure entrances should be a facility priority not a principal's desire. Secure entrances should take precedence over commons, etc.
- Come up with a plan and stick to the spirit barring unforeseen emergencies.

Questions

- How realistic is it that all projects will be completed?
- Are there other ways to combine buildings (Thomas Edison and Thomas Jefferson) to create a more financially efficient space?
- What are the pros and cons of bond issues vs borrowing?
- From a design standpoint, will updates at the elementary school have a similar look? *Save money and create familiarity for the students.*
- What do the priority lists include for the facility work?
- Are furniture costs included in the estimates for the new classroom space, commons, etc.
- Why the need for more athletic additions with the new BettPlex?
- Do the existing lots have room for the necessary expansions/additions?
- *The total price on the new Grant Wood is about \$13M. Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson have about \$5M on the 3 year plan. Grant Wood and Neil Armstrong are not on the list this time or possibly again in 5 year. Why not just build a new building for these elementaries? You will be saving money in the long run and have premier buildings with new-age educational structures.*

NEXT MEETINGS

BCSD School Finance 101 - Wednesday, Feb. 21

Bettendorf High School – Commons

Learn how the district is funded, how tax money is used, about fund limitations, and our community grant support as well as the challenges we face and the opportunities we have in the Bettendorf Community School District.

Student Achievement - Wednesday, April 11

Neil Armstrong Elementary School – Commons

Be part of the discussion about the district Iowa Assessment results, learn about the variety of assessments used by the district as well as how the assessment results are used to help improve the success of students.