

Corning Painted Post

AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

FACILITIES ADVISORY TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 8, 2009 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Hugh Gregg Elementary School

MINUTES

PRESENT: M. Ginalski, J. Delorme, A. Danquah, B. Cameron, K. Murdock, J. Reilly, S. Romans, P. Webster, T. Decker, R. Kimble, T. Tunney, J. Tobia, M. Whittenhall, M. Roe, B. Pierce, M. Franklin, R. Gillespie, K. Wilson-Houck, K. Monastra, J. Meteer, V. Zingler, J. Castiglione, Kathryn Keeney

ARCHITECTS: C. Woodcock, J. Robins, Rusty Smith

ABSENT: N. Jakobson, A. Knowles-Skowvron, S. Bathrick

RECORDER: K. Dutcher

VISITORS: There were three visitors in attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Facilitator, Anthony Gyetua-Danquah. Mr. Danquah welcomed the group and reviewed the Agenda for the evening.

The December 4th meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus as written.

Mr. Ginalski reviewed the schedule of meeting dates and locations, which was revised because of the December 11 meeting cancellation due to inclement weather.

Mr. Ginalski noted that he has also been asked the question “Why facilities now?” His response to that question is that there is a commitment from the Governor to not touch building aid for the next 2 years. He also had a conversation with Congressman-elect Massa who expressed his support in helping to garner as much federal facilities aid as possible for our District.

Mr. Ginalski also discussed the idea of having three small subcommittee groups-elementary, middle and high school that would tour renovated buildings in other districts and bring back their observations to the whole committee. Mr. Cameron volunteered to participate in all three groups to take photos.

Mr. Charles Woodcock from Hunt Engineers reviewed his notes, which were provided to the group, relative to a meeting he had with Ann Collins, Principal, and the staff at Hugh Gregg Elementary School. Some highlights included current enrollment numbers, main office, health office, faculty/staff room, classroom, special education, art and music and library issues. He also discussed general building and site issues.

Jeff Robins, from Hunt Engineers, briefly reviewed the site plan and floor plan of Hugh Gregg Elementary School prior to the group tour. Following the tour, the group reconvened to discuss the positive and negatives of the building:

Positives

- Kindergarten classrooms adequate size
- General condition of buildings good
- Front entry has best security and energy efficiency

RIGOR + RELEVANCE + RELATIONSHIPS = EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

165 Charles Street ■ Painted Post, NY 14870
(607)936-3704 ■ www.corningareaschools.com

- Adequate library
- School pride
- Neighborhood school

Negatives

- Physical site
- Lack of storage
- Safety concerns
- Inadequate small group instruction space/related arts spaces
- Lack of adequate teacher work areas
- Wall separation issues (temporary walls become permanent)
- Inadequate/unsafe traffic patterns
- Inadequate bathroom/toilet facilities

Mr. Charles Woodcock and Mr. Jeff Robbins from Hunt Engineers, reviewed the building floor plans of Hugh Gregg Elementary School, which showed the current floor plan, what a building plan would look like in order to just meet the state standards, and what was needed for current educational needs and beyond.

Mr. Danquah reviewed the demographer's Executive Summary in preparation for an exercise which required the group to break into four sub-groups to develop their list of "Big Ideas", "Possible Implications" and "Next Steps" based on information received in the demographer's report. The groups then paired down to two groups and took the main theme of each group and incorporated it into a single theme.

Group I

"Big Idea"

- Number of buildings = less students/less buildings

"Possible Implications"

- Redistricting backlash
- Configuration of grade levels/bus routes = cost effectiveness

"Next Steps"

- Which buildings
- Establish a philosophy of redistricting

Group II

"Big Idea"

- 70% of homes don't have kids in our schools

"Possible Implications"

- Plan will be a tough sell
- Need to maximize state aid

"Next Steps"

- Communication/Education
- Where are pockets of students within attendance areas.

The group discussed at length that communication and education to stakeholders will be a key component. Bill Cameron, Public Relations Coordinator, for the District noted that there are many different ways to reach voters and a plan will be put into place to reach those stakeholders.

Mrs. Zingler felt it was important to educate stakeholders on the special services such as ESL, AIS, Special Education, etc. the District is required to provide and how they impact facilities.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 15, 2009 at Carder and Severn Elementary School. The meeting will begin at Carder School with a tour and immediately go to Severn for the tour and further committee work.