

FACILITIES ADVISORY TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING  
Thursday, February 26, 2009 – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Northside Blodgett Middle 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, B. Pierce, M. Roe, K. Houck, M. Franklin, J. Meteer, S. Bathrick, V. Zingler, J. Castiglione, R. Gosden R. McMaster, J. Robbins, R. Smith, C. Woodcock

**ABSENT:** R. Gillespie, N. Jakobson, A. Knowles, K. Monastra, K. Keeney

**RECORDER:** K. Dutcher

**VISITORS:** There were several visitors in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Facilitator, Mr. Anthony Danquah.

The group proceeded immediately with a tour of the building led by Principal Sue Powers and Assistant Principal Melissa Swan.

Mr. Anthony Danquah reviewed the agenda and minutes from the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, which were approved by consensus. He also reviewed the revised meeting schedule noting changes in location for the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting which will be held at East High School and the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting which will be held at the Bus Garage.

Mr. Charles Woodcock reviewed the Educational Program Meeting Report of Northside Blodgett Middle School. Mr. Woodcock met with the Assistant Principal and staff relative to the needs of the building and each program area.

Mr. Bill Cameron reviewed the Facilities Community Survey results received to date. He explained how the data was accumulated and disseminated to reflect trends relative to the response received.

At last week's meeting, Mr. Mike Ginalski provided the group with possible facilities alternatives: Group A- renovate two existing elementary buildings into Middle Schools; Group B- one Middle School using existing High School; Group C- grade reconfiguration (5/6 & 7/8); Group D- renovate the existing middle schools. He led the group in discussing the results of last week's group activities.

Mr. Mike Ginalski asked the group if there were any other model or models that the Committee felt that they should consider; there were none. He asked the Committee to reach a consensus with regard to which model or models to take off the table.

***By consensus the Committee agreed that renovating the existing Middle Schools in its current grade configuration would not work.***

The Committee then broke out into groups, each group assigned to one of three remaining models: He asked the groups to discuss and report back to the Committee regarding what they felt are the best and worst attributes of the model they were assigned.

## **Group A-renovate two existing elementary buildings into Middle Schools**

- **Classroom Instructional Program**
  - Could be better if renovation/addition brought classrooms to standards
    - Science, Music, Family & Consumer Science, Technology
  - Keeping 6-8 configuration would continue as status quo
    - Current programs would continue
    - Could keep MYP together
- **Funding Support/Cost**
  - The Building Aid Units (BAU) do not generate a Maximum Cost Allowance (MCA) to allow this to be done without a significant local cost at small schools
  - Using a large existing elementary school
    - Example: Carder/Severn has many site and transportation issues
      - Bonding is 20 years
  - Would likely have to be done in 1 single project (possibly difficult to phase?)
- **Community Support**
  - Unlikely if there is a large local share
  - Alternate use for CFA and NSB schools
  - Potentially moves students from their neighborhood schools
  - Depends on what two elementary schools selected
    - Limited choices-Kent Phillips and Frank Pierce
- **Classroom Size**
  - Delays the middle school solution
    - Need to do an elementary project first-need to expand capacity at other elementary schools in order to move out elementary students
- **Space for Instructional Support/Offices**
  - Would have to be created at most, if not all, current sites
- **Athletic Facilities**
  - Depends on what elementary schools used
    - Sites at Winfield, Carder, Severn, Gregg worse than current
    - Site at Smith is limited
    - Site at Lindley-Presho is remote and water and sewer make it not viable
- **Equity**
  - Could be achieved
- **School Closing/Reuse/Community & Neighborhood Impact**
  - Alternate use for CFA and NSB schools
  - Would move students (potentially) out of city-more remote in some cases
    - Example: Northside Blodgett----->Frank Pierce
- **Non-Instructional Support**
  - Cafeteria could be improved
- **Transportation**
  - Site dependent
  - Could increase significantly to Frank Pierce
  - Traffic patterns will be difficult, but they already are
  - Would need revamping of system

## **Group B-one Middle School using existing High School**

### **Positives**

High School in best condition (cost)  
Adequate space  
Consistency  
Equity  
Maximum Special Education  
Rehearsal-practice space

### **Negatives**

Size?

- **Funding Support/Cost**

**Positives**

Cost allowance= \$  
(Financial Consultant indicated plan has merit)

**Negatives**

- **Community Support**

**Positives**

With proper presentation (configured process)  
One move  
Unify Community

**Negatives**

Too many students (?)  
Distance from West

- **Classroom Size**

**Positives**

Meet 900 sq. ft. goal (least renovation)

**Negatives**

- **Space For Instructional Support/Offices**

**Positives**

Adequate

**Negatives**

- **Athletic Facilities**

**Positives**

No bussing (in-house), non-aid transportation  
Maintain number of teams

**Negatives**

- **Equity**

- NO issues-everyone changes (1 building)

- **School Closing/Reuse/Community & Neighborhood Impact**

- MUST have “idea” for use of CFA and NSB buildings

- **Other**

- More parking available, no student drivers

- **Transportation**

**Positives**

Reduce transfer station  
Not have to bus athletes  
Simplify transportation plan

**Negatives**

- **Cafeteria**

**Positives**

Increase size/renovate

**Negatives**

**Group C- grade reconfiguration (5/6 & 7/8)**

***Consensus reached that East and West High Schools would become grades 7-12 schools (with additions to buildings)***

**Positives**

- Equity of programs
- Most cost effective
- Immediately addresses middle school issue
  - facility/site/programs
- Provides most Building Aid Units (BAU) so more can be done in Phase I

- Ease of implementation
- Site potential
- Flexible for future uses
- MYP split ?
- Autonomy of 7-8 vs. 9-12 at site
- Teaching certifications

### **Negatives**

- MYP split ?
- Autonomy of 7-8 vs. 9-12 at site
- Number of students on site
- Result in Kent Phillips closing so number on site at East is same
- 7th grade and 12th grade on same site....separation

### ***Consensus was not reached on the configuration of grades 5/6***

- Use current middle schools, two liked this idea
- Use current elementary schools, no one liked this idea
- Five in group were undecided

During the process check, the entire team expressed satisfaction with the meeting.

Mr. Anthony Danquah announced that the next meeting will be at East High School at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.