

Corning Painted Post

AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

FACILITIES ADVISORY TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 6, 2008 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Frank Pierce Early Childhood Center

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, A. Knowles-Skowvron, K. Monastra, J. Meteer, S. Bathrick, J. Castiglione, K. Keeney

ARCHITECTS: C. Woodcock, J. Robins, R. Gosden, R. Smith

ABSENT: V. Zingler, N. Jakobson

RECORDER: K. Dutcher

VISITORS: There were two visitors in attendance at the meeting

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.

Mr. Woodcock from Hunt Engineers reviewed his notes, which were provided to the group, relative to a meeting he had with Jennifer Batzing, Principal, and the staff at Frank Pierce Early Childhood Center. Some highlights included current enrollment numbers, current educational programs, future curriculum, classroom, special education, library, and Family Worker needs and so forth. He also discussed general building issues and site issues, as well as additional needs.

The Committee separated into two groups to tour the Frank Pierce Early Childhood Facility. One group led by Jennifer Batzing and the other by Director of Facilities Ken Murdock. The Committee reconvened and discussed the condition of the building. It was noted that many people in the community may not be aware of the actual condition of our buildings and at the same time staff and community may have accepted the status quo

The Committee discussed the possibility of visiting other districts that have been through major building renovations or new construction. The Committee agreed, by consensus, to have the Superintendent research and make contact with districts who have new or renovated facilities in order to arrange for tours of those facilities.

The October 30th meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a minor correction to the date of the demographer's report, which will be given on December 4; not December 6.

Mr. Danquah summarized the two previous meetings (October 9th and 30th), reflecting on the charge of the Board of Education, history of past facilities projects, and the planning and process timeline.

Mr. Danquah initiated a team activity, asking for identification of what the Team believed may be "sacred cows" in the community relative to facilities. The discussion also included other perceived challenges.

“Sacred Cows”:

- Don't combine two high schools/Don't combine two middle schools
- Don't close neighborhood schools/Don't close historic buildings
- Don't abandon buildings/Utilize closed buildings
- Relationship with Corning Inc.

Perceived Challenges:

- “Good enough for me” concept
- Immediate cost and extended costs
- Just fix the middle schools-others are just fine
- Need to fix facilities to attract employers to the area
- Don't close **ANY** buildings
- Kent Phillips can't be closed/should only be an elementary school
- Ideal school size
- Transportation time/distance
- Tax increase/costs
- Socio-economic stigma - “diversity” is not wanted in some neighborhood schools
- How can businesses be engaged as supporters
- Redistricting/Attendance boundaries
- Memories and feelings over Option II
- Don't change the current grade configuration
- Inequity in facilities, class size, etc.
- Local Government expectations of school district
- Nothing will happen – it's always “failed” before
- Feeling of discouragement/apathy
- The problem is too big and the needs are too great
- The timing is “wrong” because of the economy/People on fixed incomes won't support plan

The Committee had discussions relative to the discouragement and apathy in the buildings and community and the need to come up with a plan for changing the climate. There is a need to change focus from the physical appearance of building to what do children deserve and need and focus on what is happening inside the buildings.

The Committee also discussed the necessity to prioritize facilities needs and to develop objectives and action plans.

Mr. Danquah asked the Committee, what do they think we should do?

- We shouldn't try to solve the problem all at once/Begin with an end in mind
- Focus on the middle schools
- Plan must be PreK-12
 - Prioritize and complete in stages
- Go through the process to completion of a vote
- Reduce the number of buildings
- Start with programs
- Revisit former plans
- More instructional space in high schools
- Must define the “why” of the plan/Need to educate people about plan
- Need for information from demographer, financial consultants, grade configuration
- Need to educate community about the changes in education (including stories and real examples)
- Swing space/maybe middle schools are 2nd state of planning process

The Committee discussed the opportunity to revisit prior facilities plans. They felt the Committee of 200 Plan had good elements. It was noted that the elementary portion of that plan was nearly all aidable but the cost of the two new schools was nearly \$90M each. It was also noted that the plan developed in 1981 for 1-high school, 1-grade 7 and 8, 4-K through 6 schools and 4-K through 3 buildings had good elements as well.

Mr. Danquah provided the Committee with a handout entitled *Educational Trends Shaping School Planning and Design: 2007*, published by the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities. He asked the Committee to read and discuss briefly.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm, Thursday, November 20, 2008 at Kent Phillips Elementary School.