

**FACILITIES
TOWN HALL MEETING
Southeast Steuben County Library
October 28, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator, Michael Maxwell, at 6:30 p.m. Approximately 8 community residents, many members of the Facilities Advisory Team Committee, 12 District Administrators and 5 Board Members were in attendance.

Mr. Maxwell welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to solicit and gather input regarding facilities.

Mr. Maxwell introduced Superintendent, Michael Ginalski who noted that this is an effort to hear from the community regarding their thoughts and feelings relative to facilities; there are no pre-conceived plans; their input will be a valuable resource in moving forward in the development of a facilities plan.

Input from the community:

- One community member noted that in his travels to different cities in the State he noticed that one thing many old cities have in common is the fact that their old school buildings are located in the heart of the city and have been shut down and abandoned; giving the surrounding area a run-down appearance. He does not want to see that happen in our area.
- It is less expensive to maintain and renovate than shut down and build new.
- Disastrous to close 2 middle schools and build new. Horrible use of land. However, he agreed with Option 2 with regard to the reutilization of CFA and NBMS rather than just abandoning the buildings. Plan must include long-term view of retaining those buildings (CFA/NBMS) as viable.
- Are we looking at energy efficiency?
- Is a demographic study being done and will it include information relative to where students live in relation to where they are being bused?
- How can we consider a plan the way the economy is currently and if it remains the same, will we consider a plan at all?
- Parent who moved from an international school commented that her children notice the difference in the facilities at Corning-Painted Post. She feels students should have input and their opinions would be a good resource in moving forward with a plan.
- The book (State aid information) can't drive the agenda. Education has to drive the facilities plan.
- Does the District own the property near Kent Phillips Elementary School? If so, this property is in very sad condition-is this an indication of how the District will maintain its closed facilities?

- Is merging with other districts being considered?
- Redistricting should be an integral part of facilities plan.
- How do you know the space needs if you don't figure redistrict needs first?
- Concern that if buildings are closed and renovations are being considered that the District would obviously hire the lowest bidder and the work would not be performed up to standards. It would be better to just tear down and start over.
- If gutting NBMS or CFA is considered what would we do with the students-swing space, double sessions?
- Parents are choosing where to send their children depending on what school offers the most. More equity is needed.

The Superintendent noted that safety and handicapped accessibility is an issue in the buildings, as well as storage and office space, number of classrooms in buildings (many teachers working on carts or conducting business in rooms other than classrooms).

The Superintendent noted that technology is also a very big issue and a key consideration as the District moves forward with a facilities plan. Joe Reilly, Director of Technology, spoke to some of the challenges the District currently faces (i.e.: electricity and space).

The District's Director of Athletics, Tim Decker, spoke to the inequity of playing/practice fields.

Many teachers and administrators spoke to the challenges faced every day in the buildings but giving our students a quality education is most important.

Mr. Maxwell summarized the meeting by noting that we live in a great community and the District has great teachers who provide the best education possible to our students.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, November 12 at the Corning Town Hall in South Corning.