

FACILITIES ADVISORY TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 30, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Lindley-Presho 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, N. Jakobson, A. Knowles-Skowvron, K. Monastra, J. Meter, S. Bathrick, V. Zingler, J. Castiglione, K. Keeney

RECORDER: K. Dutcher

There were several 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 outlined the Agenda for the evening.

Mr. Danquah noted the first order of business will be the tour of the building. Following the tour the group will come together and provide a list of needs. Betsy Fogelsonger, Principal at Lindley-Presho Elementary School led the tour.

List of facility concerns at Lindley-Presho generated by the group:

- Drinkable water (drinking water is currently trucked in)
- Larger gym
- Separate music room
- Private area/appropriate space for support services
- Safety/outside lighting
- Need for storage space
- Small group instruction space
- Classroom sizes to meet needs of children
- Current portable classrooms
- Additional space for resource room/AIS
- Need for ventilation
- Larger kitchen space
- Building location/isolation from rest of District
- Travel time for staff (shared services). This effects building scheduling in multiple buildings.
- Parking, bus traffic, drop off and bus turnaround
- Distance to bus garage (80% of students are bussed)

List of Building Strengths:

- Ample acreage
- Community hub
- Small class sizes
- Proud staff dedicated to community and students
- Pride in community

The group asked Mrs. Fogelsonger what she sees from a facilities perspective in her building. She noted that she would like to see two sections per grade level which would require a larger school.

The previous meeting's minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Mr. Ginalski reviewed the Facilities Planning Process and Timeline up to the planned final vote in December, 2009. He noted that we are currently in Phase 2 which is the Project Input stage of the timeline.

Mr. Ginalski reviewed the proposed meeting dates for the remainder of the year. By consensus of the group, the meeting on Saturday, January 24 will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Corning Free Academy Middle School. It was also noted that April 2 date at East High School is the same time frame as the East High play.

Mr. Danquah reviewed "Milestones in Education" that have impacted education and facilities needs over the past 55 years.

- 1954 - 61 separate school districts were formed into one with the newest and most recent facilities constructed in the 1960's.
- 1972 – Title IX went into effect which states that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation, and be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”
- 1973 – Section 54, Rehabilitation Act focused on nondiscrimination. While largely geared toward providing job opportunities and training to disabled adults, the Act also addressed the failure of the public schools to educate disabled students.
- 1975 – IDEA Special Education, Public Law 94-142 (Education of all Handicapped Children Act), now coded as IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), stated that in order to receive federal funds, states must develop and implement policies that assure a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities.
- 1984/1985 – NYSED Changes Regulations – Graduation Requirements change
- 1990 – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Discrimination prohibited on the bases of disability in employment, State and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications.
- 1996- NYSED – New York State Credit Requirements change
- 2001 – No Child Left Behind, was the most sweeping reform of federal education policy in a generation. The legislation, was to improve America's public schools.

BREAK (8:05-8:10)

The large group broke into four smaller groups to generate a list of educational needs/impact addressed by their assigned educational milestone, in relation to space usage, accessibility, programs, safety and group concerns.

Group I – Title IX (1972)

Space Usage

- Legislation moved faster than new building construction
- Field/gym space (2 teams per space)
- Home Economics/Shop space
- Math/Science number of students (more required)
- Increase in OT/PT

Group Concerns

- State and federal Regulations (mandates) – no funding

Group II – Section 504, Rehabilitation Act (1973)

Space Usage

- Size of classrooms
- Number of Classrooms
- Related Services
- Adapting Regular Education Classrooms

Accessibility

- Ramps
- Handicap restrooms
- Doorways-Automatic doors
- Furnishings
- Transporting
- Elevators

Programs

- Related Services
- BOCES
- Continuum Services in each building (equity)
- Specialized class size (6:1:1)
- Sensory Rooms

Safety

- Ramps
- Curbs
- Transportation
- Hall size- wheelchair access
- E-vac issues

Group Concerns

- Extreme issue/concern across the board

Group III – NYSED Changes in Regulations (1984/1985)

Space Usage

- Obvious need for additional classroom space, specific to science (need for labs), computer labs, arts, foreign language

Accessibility

- Scheduling to be inclusive to meet students with special needs
- Ramps, elevators for handicapped students, parents, staff

Programs

- Need for additional teachers/ staff
- Room utilization
- Appropriateness of classrooms (i.e. music on the stage w/ no chairs)
- Equity for districts with multiple buildings

Safety

- Science lab safety requirements
- Computer labs-electricity needs, room temperatures

Group Concerns

- “Social” society changes (i.e. 600 students at CFA in 1950 is not the same as 600 students at CFA today)
- Students went home for lunch in past generations
- “Free and reduced lunch” significantly changed cafeteria needs

Group IV – No Child Left Behind (2001)

Space Usage

- Need for AIS Services – rooms/space-Grades K-12
- Need for storage for tests, data, reports
- Reduction of dropouts leads to more students in Grades 10-12
- Test modifications make up provisions for required tests, room space needed to implement
- NWEA testing to help meet NCLP, more computer lab space
- Research-based reading program in elementary-adequate room size to implement program, storage for materials
- Room space to set up Grades 4 and 8 science testing
- Support staff requirements
- LOTE requirements, staff and instructional space

Programs

- Testing
- AIS
- Research-based reading/math

Mr. Danquah reviewed the outcomes of the evening and asked for input relative to the timing of the tours that will take place in each building, as well as another other areas they would like to see addressed. It was agreed that the tours would take place first but it would be best if broken down into two or three groups.

Mr. Decker suggested that getting additional student input prior to the meeting regarding each building might be helpful.

Mr. Murdock asked if the group felt it was important to see the whole building or just a representation of issues?

Mr. Ginalski noted that the Demographer’s information will be provided at the December 6 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm, Thursday, November 6, 2008 at Frank Pierce Early Childhood Center.