

School Building Committee

Middle School

Minutes, 10/27/09

In attendance: Terri Tsagaris, Hans Larsen, Chris Ketchen, KC Kato, John Moran, Rob Shupe, Josh Frank, Bella Wong, Jack Haley, Dave Cannistraro, Geoff Witheford

The meeting began with introductions of the committee. Terri Tsagaris explained the purpose of the committee, the make-up of the committee as provided by the MSBA regulations, and the goals of the committee.

Bella Wong discussed the Statement of Interest to be filed with the MSBA for the 2005-2007 renovation, and also for the potential project to address enrollment concerns. Hans Larsen indicated that perhaps we should also include those infrastructure items that were not addressed during the 2005-2007 renovation because the project was scaled back. Jack Haley concurred that this seems a good idea. This will be discussed further by Bella, SC and BOS.

KC Kato made a presentation on the background of the middle school, including the educational program, the 6th houses, the 7th clusters, and the 8th grade "open enrollment," class size guidelines and the philosophy of the program at the middle school. She also explained the SpEd program, SpEd programs recently brought in-house, potential behavioral program to be brought in-house, and the ELL program. Bella and Josh also commented on the importance of the house and cluster system, adjacencies of classrooms for houses, and the importance of the middle school's program on the development of middle school students.

The middle school is built to accommodate 1100 students. KC explained that currently all spaces are in use, some classes are over guideline, and that accommodations are being made to support the existing enrollment. The enrollment projections of October 1, 2009 indicate that additional spaces will be needed by FY2011, and that in FY2014, enrollment will reach a peak of 1224. The spaces needed to meet the class size guideline of 22 is as follows:

FY2011: enrollment of 1120; 2 regular classrooms, 2 science room and 2 offices;

FY2012: enrollment of 1183; 2 regular classrooms, 1 elective room, 2 SpEd rooms;

FY2013: enrollment of 1,195; 2 regular classrooms, 2 elective room, 1 SpEd room

FY2014: enrollment of 1,224; no additional spaces needed because spaced added earlier will absorb the additional enrollment.

KC and Bella cautioned that the enrollment projections represent a decrease from the previous several years, and are concerned that this may be an anomaly. These numbers will have to be monitored very closely.

A preliminary feasibility study was performed in the summer of 2009 which assumed that Central Administration would be relocated, and the space reconfigured for classrooms. In addition, other existing spaces would be converted. Also, three additions were considered, as well as modulars.

Many good questions were asked by the group, and KC and I will be reviewing and getting back to everyone. In the meantime, the group will review all of the information they received today. We are working on getting everyone a copy of the preliminary feasibility study that was done, reviewing some historical enrollment questions and enrollment numbers at the elementary schools, and a master calendar.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 am, Great Hall