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STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT NO. 2

February 3, 2020

Williamsport Area School District
District Wide Facility Study
CRA Project No. 3340

On the above date a meeting was held at the Administrative offices of the Williamsport Area School District for the purpose of reviewing the district wide facility study. The below represents the writers understanding of the pertinent issues and items of discussion at the Design Conference.

Guiding Principles

1. A draft of the Guiding Principles was presented to the Steering Committee for review and comment.

FACILITY ENVIRONMENT

- Our schools will be welcoming, modern, bright, comfortable and motivating environments that inspire students, staff and community pride.

COST

- Our schools will use taxpayer dollars efficiently in the planning and development of projects, contained by the financial restraints of our community.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Our schools will offer flexible, safe, and innovative 21st century learning environments that foster effective learning, creativity for all students and are inclusive of all abilities and cultures.
- Our schools will cultivate enrichment of students through the arts, athletics, career and technical education (CTE), and science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) opportunities.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

- Our schools will incorporate the latest technology to advance our students' education and prepare them for a successful future as productive, global citizens.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Our schools will increase safety and security measure for students and staff as a recognized high priority for the school community.

CAPACITY

- Our schools will deliver an equitable and consistent educational experience through optimal class sizes and building configurations across all grade levels.

COMMUNITY

- Our schools will be accessible to the community and invite involvement that encourages family and neighborhood connections.

2. Comments from committee members regarding revisions to the Guiding Principles are as follows
   a. Incorporate sustainability/energy efficiency.

b. Incorporate culture/regional history.

3. It was noted the Steering Committee was to approve the Guiding Principles for recommendation to be adopted by the Board. There was no opposition to approval of the guiding principles as presented with incorporation of the comments.
4. A question was raised if the Guiding Principles should be prioritized in order of importance. The group discussed this and decided it would aid in the evaluation of options at the conclusion of the study. WASD will set-up a web-based survey to accomplish ranking/prioritizing the guiding principles.

21st Century Educational Spaces

1. An overview was given on how Architectural design of schools has evolved over the year to adapt to how educational program and delivery has evolved.
    a. A variety of spaces are needed to serve a variety of educational needs (size, configuration, type, location, etc.).
    b. Spaces need to be more flexible to adapt to future changes in education.
    c. Furniture is becoming more important in the design.

Visual Listening Exercise

1. A group exercise was held where images of various educational spaces were pinned on the wall. Each Steering Committee member posted yellow dots on images that did not appeal to them, and blue dots on images that did appeal to them. Refer to the end of these minutes for the images and results of this exercise.
2. A discussion was held on various images. The following pertinent items were noted:

    Likes

    a. 21st Century "Classroom" – envisioned as conducive to learning and is more flexible then existing learning spaces.
    b. Learning stairs – provides flexible, collaborative element that evokes a more informal learning environment reminiscent of prior environments that were nostalgic to some committee members.
    c. Open/glazed lobbies – beautiful space
    d. STEM/Shop classroom
    e. Natural lighting

    Dislikes

    a. Typical classroom setting – not collaborative, not an attractive space, and not adaptable/applicable to every grade level.
    b. Open/glazed lobbies – expensive and not mindful of the taxpayer dollars.
    c. Students working in corridors – cramped and confined space that is not appropriate for learning, cannot be supervised easily.
    d. Outdoor learning areas – cannot be utilized year-round, produces scheduling and ownership issues.

Building Capacities & Enrollment

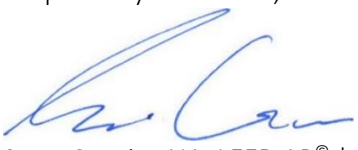
1. An overview of each schools' capacity and enrollment was conducted.
2. For calculation of capacity per the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Elementary schools receive capacity for general classrooms only. Secondary schools receive capacity for general classrooms, science labs, Art & Music spaces, CTE, Gymnasiums, and other associated spaces.

3. The district has recommended guidelines for primary school classrooms sizes that are below PDE capacities. These were shown in the capacity analysis.
4. Each building's utilization rate (ratio of current student enrollment to existing building capacity) was reviewed.
5. It was discussed that good planning numbers for building utilization are 85% at the Elementary Schools and 90% at the Secondary Schools. The utilization rates of Jackson Primary and Lycoming Valley Intermediate were above these planning numbers.
6. It was noted the current room usage is still under review of the administration and the building capacities may be adjusted as the study progresses.

The next Steering Committee Meeting was agreed to be held at Stevens Primary School to allow committee members to tour the building and view existing conditions first-hand prior to the Steering Committee meeting.

The preceding constitutes the authors understanding of the pertinent items discussed at the meeting. Any meeting attendees who take exception to any statement in this report shall notify the writer, within seven (7) days from the date of receipt of this report for modification and re-issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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