

Planning Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Summary

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 20, 2018

LOCATION: Sheridan School District Office, 435 S. Bridge St., Sheridan

TIME: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

In Attendance

Committee Members Present

Michael Griffith
Dean Rech
Barbara Running
Matt Ross

Staff and Consultants

Steven Sugg, Superintendent, Sheridan School District
Robert Collins, Technical Consultant, DAY CPM
Allison Brown, Facilitator, JLA Public Involvement

Audience / Members of the Public

None present

Overview

- This meeting focused on clarifying information on the facilities improvements list, solidifying guiding principles, and distributing best practice documents to the committee.
- The next meeting will be a tour of the High School, although a date has not been decided (likely be in mid-December).

Welcome & Agenda Review

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement, welcomed the committee and reviewed the agenda. Committee members and consultant team shared their plans for the holiday weekend.

Facilities Improvements List (2012): clarification and discussion

Steve Sugg, Sheridan School District superintendent, reviewed an updated version of the 2012 Facility Improvements List, sharing which items had been completed and assigning a priority to the tasks still left to be done. Steve clarified that no task received a 'high' priority assignment, and these ratings were based on his own feelings and observations, in conversation with Bill Rasar (who handles maintenance). Some key points included:

- The softball, baseball and football fields all need water, and improving the watering system would reduce work
- Lockers were not completed for the High School, and they are showing wear. Latches will break, some are dented.
 - There was question on whether the parts could be replaced, but Steve felt it would likely be cheaper to replace the entire block of lockers.
 - There was also a doubt about how useful lockers are for students.
- The parking lot received upgrades this summer, but there is still more to do.
- The 'Old Gym' at the High School needs upgrades.
 - One committee member asked if the steel beams could be removed, improving the space for use by sports teams, choir, band and drama. This prompted a discussion on the possibility of seismic work on the gym, and Bob Collins, DAY CPM, noted that this could be very expensive.
 - It was noted that grants are given for seismic upgrades, and this might be a way to help fund those changes. There has been work done to look into the cost and possibility of upgrading the gym, and Bob will look into this.
- The art room at the High School needs upgrades. There are doubts about the foundation, and it has no windows and no water connection. It is being wired for kilns, but it not very useful right now.
- The modular rooms are very old, and there was a brief discussion on the possibility of replacing these with a new wing of the High School.
- Air conditioning was never installed, but there was some doubt in the committee on the usefulness of air conditioning.
- The cafeteria at the High School had been slated to replace and reduce the windows, but this turned out to be a very expensive undertaking.
- The gym at FCS also needs work. Steve noted that if any task were to take a high priority, it would likely be this one. There is a need to address the locker rooms and the floor.
- Steve noted that although football fields at FCS were noted on the 2012 list, there isn't enough space on the property for this.
- The science lab vent is currently not being used at FCS, and therefore is a low priority.

- One committee member asked about the possibility of installing a new bell system (not currently on the list of 2012 improvements). Bob responded that this would be a huge undertaking and require lots of wiring work. Bob estimated the cost to be in the range of \$100,000.
 - One person commented that the school district might explore a high tech or Wi-Fi option.
 - It was noted that any communication system needs to be able to work in an emergency, and therefore Wi-Fi might not always be accessible. However, the need to improve these systems was emphasized.

Solidifying Guiding Principles

Allison led the group in a discussion on refining or condensing the guiding principles, building on the discussion done at Meeting 2. The draft principles that the group developed last time were:

- A school that feels safe and inviting, inspiring confidence in the safety of the facilities.
- Facilities that are safe, size appropriate and provide an optimal learning environment.
- Utilizing technology that appropriate for students and current.
- Preparing student for the future they choose (which may be entering the workforce, going college, staying in their Sheridan community, among others)

One committee member had a question about the results of the Parent Teacher night outreach. Allison shared that, based on the dot votes that were collected, educational tools (including classroom design, layout and tools to improve learning across different learning styles) was by far the most popular, followed by technology and safety.

The group discussed the guiding principles, and refined them to the following statements:

- **Preparing our students for their future, utilizing current and appropriate technology and equipment.**
- **Facilities and grounds that are safe, sound/fully functional, size appropriate and provide an inspiring and inviting learning environment.**

In the discussion of these statements, a few key points were raised:

- A survey of parents conducted at the school indicated that parents felt their children were safer when they were traveling to school, than when they were at school. There is a strong desire for school facilities that help to inspire confidence that students are safe when they are at school.
- There was discussion on the use of the word 'sound.' For some, this indicated that the buildings were dry, warm and solid. For others, there was a connotation that this would mean that the buildings were seismically sound, or disaster-ready. The group also felt that 'fully functional' might convey the need for buildings to be equipped with what they need for provide a quality learning environment.
 - The group decided to table the discussion of the use of sound vs. fully functional, to allow more committee members to weigh in.
- Some felt that the word 'inspiring' was key, and that the perception of a school campus/facility that is clean, up-to-date and well-maintained would add to the perception of value of the education at that school.

Next Steps

Allison made a few announcements and the group discussed the following next steps:

- All documents for the LRFP Committee are online on the Sheridan School District website. Allison and the consultant team will keep that updated.
- The next step in the process is a facility tour, and we will have a guide/worksheet to help the committee take note of possible issues. The group noted that they would like to meet in December and tour the High School. Steve said that December 18th could be a good date, and Allison will confirm this with the committee.

Allison will send the meeting summary and follow up with possible dates for the next meeting.