



Millcreek Township School District Forms Strategic Long Term Facilities Ad Hoc Committee

The Millcreek Township School District formed a Long Term Facilities Ad Hoc Committee to review all of the District's facilities and formulate a plan regarding maintaining and improving its physical assets. As plans and related data are viewed, suggestions and recommendations from the Committee will be presented to the School Board. Superintendent William Hall said, "There is no better time to discuss our Strategic Long Term Facility Plan than now. In eight years, our District will be debt free, and within that time, we must structure a plan to strengthen and advance our great District to a new level."

Earlier in the year, the District contracted the services of Stantec, Inc. to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all District buildings. Stantec, Inc. is an international professional services company that provides professional consulting services in planning, engineering, architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, surveying, environmental sciences, project management, and project economics for infrastructure and facilities projects. At the conclusion of our comprehensive building reviews, the District was presented with recommendations and projected costs to maintain its existing buildings for the next eight to ten years. These estimated costs are over \$73,000,000, with approximately \$33,000,000 required for the upkeep and maintenance of both McDowell High School and McDowell Intermediate High School.

After receiving this information and projected costs, the District decided to form a Strategic Long Term Facilities Ad Hoc Committee. This Committee is comprised of three members from our community, two current Board members, and three District administrators. Among the Committee's tasks will be to review, in detail, the Stantec Facility Assessment Report, the District's

It is hard to believe that eight years have passed since the discussion started about construction/renovation options for McDowell High School. Since that time, and according to Stantec's report, these aging building are still in need of significant upgrades. There are a plethora of opinions, questions, and concerns throughout our District regarding the subject of McDowell High School, older

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Five-Year Strategic Maintenance Plan, and to prioritize a list of projects and recommendations necessary to bring our school buildings up to state-of-the-art educational facilities. The District cannot continue with the philosophy of simply maintaining aging buildings.

This will be a daunting task, as there will be many difficult decisions that will have to be made across the District, including:

- Where will the District get \$73,000,000?
- Should the District commit to \$33,000,000 in up keeping MIHS and McDowell High School?
- What should the District do with our other aging buildings that are becoming difficult to maintain?
- What should this District look like in eight to ten years?

buildings, renovation vs. construction, etc. This is not just about McDowell; it is about our entire District. We are fortunate to be able to conduct regular maintenance on all of our buildings, but just like a homeowner, facilities age and eventually need to be updated or replaced.

It is the District's goal to provide regular and ongoing reports from the Ad Hoc Committee that will assist us during the decision-making process. Currently, there is a link on our homepage for communication, and at some point, there will be opportunities for public input on these critical issues. For now, the Committee will meet monthly with a specific agenda and meeting minutes posted on our website www.mtsd.org. Click on the Community drop down menu and choose Long Term Facilities Plan.