



**To:** Dr. Annette Freiheit

**From:** Tyler Ertl | TE

**Date:** January 17, 2022

**Comm. No:** 9999

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**Subject:** Independent School District #861 - Winona Area Public Schools  
Community Task Force Meeting #5  
January 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

Cindy Amberg, Community Member  
Julie Biggerstaff, Community Member  
Nancy Denzer, Board Member  
Annette Freiheit, Superintendent  
Laura Greseth, Community Member  
Michael Hanratty, Board Member  
Kaylee Haun, Community Member  
Ted Hazelton, Community Member  
Julie Jeinrichs, Community Member  
Allen Hillery, Community Member  
Amanda Indra, Community Member  
Drew Kings, Community Member  
David Kuklinski, Community Member  
Kris Lynch, Community Member  
Lucy McMartin, Community Member  
Jennifer Mulyck, Community Member  
Lindsay O'Shea, Community Member  
Andy Pierce, Community Member  
Christa Schul, Community Member  
Karen Sullivan, Community Member  
Ed Thompson, Community Member  
Jeremy Graves, Staff Member  
Katie Pearce, Staff Member  
Paul Aplikowski, Wold Architects and Engineers  
Tyler Ertl, Wold Architects and Engineers

**Discussion Topics:**

- A. Thoughts since last meeting
  1. Tour reflections:
    - a. The building displays flexibility to support 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning.
    - b. Kindergarten rooms were well suited for their purpose.
    - c. Operable partitions provide flexibility, but do not perform well acoustically.
  2. A question was asked about sources or articles connecting the built environment to student's mental health. Wold noted that they can work on gathering some sources and information, but in their experience the building can certainly help with student engagement. There are some buildings in the surrounding area that provide wrap around care that could be a resource as well.
- B. Wold reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
- C. The group split into small groups and reviewed the Needs Statements that were developed at the previous meeting. Wold has reworded/condensed some that could be grouped together or conveyed similar sentiments, but the group was encouraged to edit as needed. The group then reported out their thoughts.
  1. Repairs:
    - a. Edit the statement about funding to say "The current state funding source for facility maintenance allows us to spend about \$1,000,000 a year on maintenance related projects as well as day to day operations. This funding alone is not viable to keep up with all our maintenance needs. It is also tied to enrollment and may possibly decline in the future."
    - b. Add the qualifier of "Some systems are 90+ years old, the middle school is 20 years old, and all require significant maintenance."
  2. Reconfiguring
    - a. The group discussed the term reconfiguring and what that refers to. A suggestion was made that it be relabeled as Repurposing, but a distinction should be made between upgrades and reconfiguring programs. The group decided to relabel as District Organization.
    - b. The group talked about the role that gyms play in reconfiguring.
    - c. The idea of prioritizing school needs over community needs was discussed, but the group thought that the community should still be involved in these statements.
    - d. Add, "The District should optimize operational cost of facilities to create efficient and effective education."
    - e. Add, "We need to prioritize reconfiguring needs with a focus on educational needs."
    - f. Add, "We need to think big and for the future."
  3. Public Perception:
    - a. The group would like to add to the first statement to read, "The Community needs to understand that engaging the community in our programming benefits our students."
    - b. Add, "Buildings should be perceived as welcoming and easily accessible to all community members, especially those with identified disabilities."
    - c. Add, "Classes that include more career immersion opportunities with our local business partnerships and other institutions."
    - d. Add, "The community needs to better understand our buildings are not meeting all of our needs."



- e. Add, "The community needs to understand school finances are not sufficient for facilities."
  - f. The group discussed increasing marketing efforts, but noted that the District has been doing a good job lately getting the word out.
4. Accessibility:
- a. The group added the statement: "Equitable access means students should not impact instructional time due to facility layout."
5. Upgrades:
- a. Revise the category to read as "Program Needs and Upgrades".
  - b. Add, "Specialist spaces are outdated and inequitable. Examples are basement specialists, auditoriums, locker rooms, etc."
  - c. Add, "There is a need to expand athletic and activity spaces to provide equitable access to all students and community members in order to meet health and wellness requirements."
  - d. Add, "We need to advance the CTE spaces to prepare students for careers in our community". The group weighed whether this statement should be part of Upgrades or 21st Century Learning. After further discussion, these two categories should be combined, as any upgrades made will be of 21st Century standards.
6. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning (to be combined with Upgrades):
- a. Add, "Pre-K should be part of a continuous experience in our district."
    - 1) "Alignment of pre-k with elementary programs."
  - b. Add, "Programs should be accessible to all students".
  - c. The group discussed a statement that says Pre-K should be offered at all buildings. Some felt that this was too specific and, if the District is reconfigured might not fit in as well. It is also important for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and first grade to be at the same building.
  - d. The group discussed that the definition of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning exactly means to this District. This will be further defined as part of the strategic plan work.
  - e. One potential solution to help this would be creating multi-age mixed classrooms to meet individual and social needs.
- D. Wold shared some images of improvements in the Kolter wing along with other places in the community in an effort to display how older buildings can be upgraded to meet today's needs. There were also some diagrams shared of ways WK could be updated in this light to include flex spaces:
- 1. The group asked if upgrades could be made to the building facade, not just the interior. Wold noted that things can be updated, but this would all need to be approved by the HPC.
  - 2. The group would like to see an estimate of the WK example upgrades to help provide a scale if this strategy were to be applied to all buildings in the District.
  - 3. Wold noted that whatever space is displaced by creating these flex spaces would need to be added as an addition to keep the building capacity the same as it is currently.
- E. Key Messages:
- 1. Made good progress on advancing need statements.
  - 2. Conceptual drawings were viewed to demonstrate what could be done to update buildings.
  - 3. Reassuring that needs statements were crossing multiple categories.



F. Next Meeting(s):

1. January 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
2. February 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
3. February 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

cc: Jackie Goyette, Community Member  
Toni McDevitt, Staff member  
Theresa Sadler, Community Member  
Luke Sims, Community Member  
Brenda Nelson, Staff Member  
Laura Watkins, Staff Member  
Ben Beery, Wold

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