

**Yellow Springs Schools: School Facilities Task Force**  
**August 6, 2019 6-8 PM**

**Participants**

Kat, Lori, Susan, Abby, Chris, Terri

**Operating Rules We Follow**

- Keep the best interest of the students and teachers of Yellow Springs Schools AND the best interest of the Yellow Springs community in mind.
  - Best for today and for the long term.
- Welcome everyone's ideas.
  - Listen to find the value in what others are saying.
- Participate actively, and honestly share your perspective.
- Disagree without being disagreeable.
- Use headlines.
- Logistics: arrive on time, cell phones off, come prepared.
- Actively engage the community in making decisions
- Actively work toward building trust in the community
- Create clarity - clear problem list and clear solution options
- Address both campuses

**Evaluation of FH Recommendations**

We continued our discussion of the topics in the FH list of recommendations.

Fire protection

- Important, not critical because it is not increasing the risk we have today.
- If building anything new renovation in any part of kitchen area, include fire protection.
- It maps to health and safety

Plumbing

- It's old and requires a lot of maintenance and does cause problems today.
- Maps to health and safety and maintenance

HVAC

- Poor air circulation
- Energy efficiency (inefficient!)
- Too hot, too cold. Not manageable in many classrooms
- Many complaints from staff and students especially for the gym. Cooling is the issue.
- Maps to health and YS Values

Electrical

- Insufficient outlets in classrooms
- Is the power issue due to old panels or to YS power source?
- Recommend starting the change to LED lights, not necessarily replacing all lights at once. Since LEDs use less power, this will increase available power for other uses.
- Safety/emergency alarm needed
- Maps to health and safety, maintenance, 21<sup>st</sup> C learning, and YS values (energy efficiency)

Technology

- This section primarily addresses tech infrastructure rather than buying computers for individual work. It includes servers, fiber and Wi-Fi, printers, and other shared kinds of technology.

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- We need an accurate understanding of the bandwidth needed to support classroom and student work (including video), office work, and safety. Not sure the bandwidth recommended by FH is actually needed.
- We need to understand where it is important to have redundancy and back up.
- Communications is very important. Today parents are often unable to reach the schools and receive frequent all call text messages saying the phones are down.
- We note that this is something that may require explanation for people who are not familiar with all of the ways that technology is essential today.
- Maps to health and safety, 21<sup>st</sup> C learning, YS values (preparing students for life, college, and work)

### Security

- Terri has already addressed some of the items in this section.
  - Data backup and fiber unsecured on roof
  - Every staff member will have a badge to scan into the doors
  - Thomas is investigating the cost of additional cameras
- Terri would like a broad conversation on comprehensive security needs – physical security in schools and board office, data, parent access, balancing community values with security needs.
  - Examples of challenges include high school students sitting outside on picnic tables, no fence around Mills Lawn School, and how parents and other visitors sign in.
- We noted the need for explanation of the importance of this when talking with the public.
- This maps to health and safety and to YS values (safe kids)

### Drives and Parking

- The drop off needs to be redesigned in conjunction with a redesigned entrance
- Need to have safe walking, bicycling, and driving access to the front of the school
- This maps to health & safety and maintenance

### Walks and Access

- Needs to be part of the redesigned entrance
- This maps to health & safety and maintenance

### Site safety and security

- These are small, specific recommendations
- Maps to health & safety and maintenance

### Site drainage

- We noted that what is listed in the FH report just addresses the drainage problems at the front entrance. We want to have drainage in all parts of the school addressed.
- Maps to health & safety and maintenance

We identified several concerns that were not included in the FH report that the task force believes are important.

Tornado and severe weather shelter – The basement is insufficient for the number of students, faculty, and staff. The school does have a plan with assigned spaces for all and they do have regular practices. However, this is not an ideal situation.

Music room, library, other non-functional classrooms – The music room in particular is not functional and not accessible. There are other classrooms that are not well designed for the intended purpose

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(performance space, chemistry lab, computer lab, gym). We want to ensure the functionality of all classrooms as much as possible.

Cafeteria and kitchen – Capacity and throughput are not sufficient for the number of students. The quality of food is not consistent with Yellow Springs values of organic, fresh, and local. Note that Terri is working to improve food service today. The schools used to be able to make food, and Terri would like to understand what changed. She also is interested in knowing how many students do purchase lunch daily.

Confidential office space – Principal Hastert had identified the need for confidential office space for specialists such as school psychologist. There are different ways to address this.

Front entrance – We need a more functional front entrance that also supports the security needs of the school. This overlaps with several of the categories identified by FH: drives and parking, walks and access, site drainage, and security.

### **Wrap-Up Discussion**

- We want to invite the public and the public access video person to participate in the school visits in September.
- We need to pay attention to what is visible (easy to see) as well as what is not visible (such as plumbing or cabling) when we do the visits.
- We need to identify what is working as well as what is not working.

### **Current Meeting dates:**

1. **August 28** – complete review of Fanning Howey spreadsheets for Mills Lawn School
2. **September 4** – campus tour
3. **September 18** – campus tour

I recommend we add the following meeting dates:

October 2 – task force meeting to prepare for public meetings

October 3-27 public meetings

October 30 – task force meeting to discuss what we heard and learned; begin identifying recommendations to the board

Potential November dates are 6, 13, and 20. Thanksgiving is November 28.