

Teacher Questions Middle and High School April 17, 2019

Note that I had two faculty members who stayed just long enough to describe the problems they are facing in their classrooms.

Jody Chick – Special Ed, multiple handicap

Lorrie Sparrow-Knapp – performance and theater

Eli Hurwitz - library

Brian Mayer – band and orchestra

Brandon Lowry – chemistry and physics

John Day – social studies

Kate Lohmayer – middle and high school PE and health

Rebecca Eastman – 7th and 8th grade science

What works in your school buildings? How do the buildings help you teach and students learn?

- Shelves hold the library books
- Can work in classroom – sufficient space, desks, wifi, etc.
- Space ship - rehearsal space is great – no echo
 - It includes an overhead doc camera and projector that are vital
 - Almost enough room for storage,
 - Separate office
- Chemical storage is fine.
- Outdoor venting placed in corner – not working
- Lab benches are fine
- Number is good
- Floor in gym
- Classroom space that can be opened and that is working
- Collaborate and co-teach
- Got my own desks
- Lots of natural light, good tables and good storage
- Big classroom

What doesn't work in the buildings? What hinders your ability to teach or students' ability to learn?

Jody – MH classroom

Overall – not well designed for the students and staff who use the classroom

- 3 kids with wheelchairs and the room is not accessible – have to change diapers and cath. The families have lifts, and we don't have one – the kids are getting bigger. Need a large enough bathroom with a Hoyer lift, changing table big enough for an adult. In the bathroom, need raised seats and safety restraints to hold the student upright while on the toilet. (Some children are not physically able to hold themselves upright when on the toilet.) currently in a trailer.
- Do have washer and dryer in there, which is helpful
- She needs functional classroom with washer and dryer and more shelving that will let kids in wheelchairs access.
- Also need regular classroom
- Therapy room
- Ideally have a sensory room. Bellbrook middle school has a great room – lights, beanbag chairs, etc. maybe shower in bathroom.
- All therapists are currently in the same room – not enough room
- Need space for vocational teaching to be able to teach life skills

Lorrie – performance and theater

- We need flexible perf space – use the foundry today
- Don't need huge space – it should reflect our community audience 150-200 people
- Small black box would be ideal
- Configurable seating that could be used for multiple activities.
- Extend the maker space to include soft skill space for activities such as sewing, etc.
- Climate controlled storage for music, costumes, etc.
- Paint deck

Kate – PE and health

- Locker rooms are atrocious
 - Privacy lacking, can't really shower
 - Plumbing does not work
 - Termite infestation
 - Brian said they have not used showers since he was there – early 2000s
- No AC or air handling in the gym
- Spring and summer Graduation oppressive
- Poor storage
- Overall lack of usability and safety and cleanliness in the gym space
- Gym and performance space – does not work as performance
 - Not at all designed for performance
- Shared storage problematic
- Classroom lack of natural light
- Movable wall good, but we move it more than it was designed for
 - Doesn't work all the time

Brian – band and orchestra

- HVAC control is not good – some blowers, window units that are too cool
- Poor security
- Need more storage – have lot of equipment with specific storage requirements
- No office equipment like copying
- Need reliable and controllable temperature and humidity control.
 - Without it, we end up with very costly instrument repairs
- Has voles and ants in his room.
- Room set up is unchangeable – cause on poured concrete

Brandon – chemistry and physics

- Room is way too small. Have 28 kids with 23 desks.
- So kids have to sit at lab benches which is unsafe
- Storage problem
- Chem and physics equipment used to be in too separate rooms, now in a single room – with insufficient storage
- Safety issue with too many people and desks and lab equipment
- HVAC – totally messed up. Ceiling vents based on outside temp, heating based on inside. – can be 60 degrees in room and AC still running full bore.
- Has rats in the ceiling
- Room across from his has bats that pea in the roof
- Hood not accessible – should be a demonstration unit, not at all able to do this because it is in the corner
- No options for changing the layout

Eli – library

- The library is very loud at lunch

- Tough to have meetings at lunch

Reb – middle school science

- speak for middle school team – the trailers, HVAC and bathrooms are atrocious. Have to flush twice
- Rooms too small and crowded
- Power strip issues
- Spongy floors – structural problems
- Sounds like herd of elephants when someone is walking through the halls
- Do not have space to co teach and co-facilitate – no rooms are big enough.

John – social studies

- Does not require special equipment needs for social studies. The room is functional
- Just HVAC and power problems
- Does have bugs – stink bugs and wasps

General comments agreed to by participants:

- HVAC is really a problem school wide
- We have mold and leaks
- Electric is weird – Way too few outlets, many were added in a low budget way that appears very unsafe
- Lockers totally insufficient
- Too little space for café – space too small, too slow to get through line

What would you like to change in the buildings? What changes would make this a better school?

- Really need a vision for the schools
 - Do we want outdoor spaces?
 - Flexibility for inside and outside
 - Become more energy efficient. This is really important
 - Renovate where possible
 - Get rid of the trailer, Trailer has to go
 - Must address security!!
 - Doors that do not latch
 - Can't hear PA in orchestra classroom –
 - No phone contact his orchestra room
 - Safety must be addressed
 - Electric must be addressed
 - Could move around to bigger rooms, remove a wall to change the configuration while keeping the lab equipment
 - Tornado shelter big enough to hold the student body.
 - Gym is overbooked –
 - Tough for orchestra to perform in gym in basketball season
 - Acoustics are horrible in the gym
 - Have a quiet place recording studio quality or Student radio station
 - Exhibition space – tough to get community upstairs for some of the classes.
 - Presentation space.
 - Could add sound panels to address some of this.
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- If we have a separate fitness space – we need window to be able to monitor window and gym at same time.
 - Roof access is problematic – on third floor – bats come in, heat goes out.

Each person: What is your biggest wish for change in the buildings?

- We need vision for the school first before we invest in facilities
 - What is our plan and vision?
 - For special ed – pull out or inclusion?
 - Outdoor learning – is this important
 - Do we need reading intervention room and math intervention room?
 - Is performance important? If yes, we need a space. Hugely important for community as well as school
 - If we want to have 3 sections of each grade – need to have enough classrooms.
- Chemistry and physics need a large enough room to accommodate number of students doing lab work safely
- The external panels are so disgusting – just paint them a bright color
- More flexible room for music with proper HVAC
- For school in general – much more energy efficient
- For school in general - better safety measures
- Wish we could have a k-12 facility – two instructors are in both schools every week
 - Move all kids to here.
- Do not want to lose staff pay in favor of facilities

Eli and Brian – Mills Lawn Concerns

- Termites
- Library at ML is a walk through space – not well designed space
- In mobile unit for band
 - Have 40 students at one time twice a week – OSHA issue because of the sound levels
 - Door threshold is falling apart, door rusting away, doors don't fit, ramp dicey
 - Security is issue – doors are locked in school, so need a key to enter for bathroom
 - Poor sound proofing
 - No storage space in the annex, Instrument storage is in the library – easy to steal
- When librarian is not there the kids eat in the library and leave food.
- Poor janitorial services
- Wasting money by having music annex half time in ML, also half time in HS