

**Yellow Springs Schools Facilities Task Force
Community Presentation Notes: Yellow Springs Senior Center**

February 4, 2020 / 3-4 pm / Yellow Springs Senior Center Great Room

Primary Presenter: Kat Walter

Attendees:

Kate Anderson, Dan Carrigan, Lillian Slaughter, Ken Dahms, Fran LaSalle, Macy Reynolds, Kenneth Huber, Vicky Williamson, Lin Wood, Corinne Pelzl, Susan Miller, Abigail Cobb

Notes:

- Concern was voiced about how much we still owe on outstanding levies. Not just new money asked for, but what we are currently paying, and what we still owe. Any discussion of money or levies, and anything in the newspaper about new levies needs to include what we're already paying and what we owe.
- What if the School Board rejects the Task Force recommendations?
- What's all this about increased security? The only security problem in the last several years was the so-called Krier affair, in which some girls at the high school suffered a breach of their security. How do you build trust after something like that?
- How can we be graduating seniors if these are "non-functional spaces"?
- Are we going to have cafeterias now where food is prepared on-site?
- What do we actually need for technology? With broad band and wi-fi do we need wires and cables?
- Yellow Springs is growing older. Will the number of families with school age children remain stable over the next 10 years? The next 50 years?
- There are pros and cons to all these proposals, but until a price tag is attached, these proposals don't have much meaning.
- Is the district depending on out-of-district children (open enrollment students)? If we didn't have them, we wouldn't have a space problem.

- Are renovations and building new likely to be similar costs?
- Does the School Board currently have a maintenance budget?
- If there is a new building, where would it be located?
- I have been involved with renovating 3 older homes. I was told there are always unknowns with older buildings. I ended up paying 25% - 30% over the original estimates. I just don't trust the process.
- I've been at the high school trying to use the technology. There are dead spots in the wi-fi all over that building.
- I don't think open enrollment really plays a part in renovating these buildings. If you need functional bathrooms, you need them for 5 students, or 25 students.
- Why don't they make a one-way road in back of Mills Lawn from the parking lot through to Elm Street, connecting Limestone and Elm? They could close it off with a gate when school is in session. They would lose a little playground space, but have a much safer drop off for kids. When we lived in Japan, all the students walked to their neighborhood school. They had a "walking school bus" and the older children walked with the younger ones, while classical music played from speakers high up on poles. It was amazing. There are so many ways of doing things, they (school leaders) just aren't thinking outside the box.