



MEETING MINUTES

PROJECT: Mercer Island School District Long-Range Facility Plan Update
PROJECT NO: 2023902.00
DATE: 02 October 2023
FILE NAME: MM006_FPC6_230911
SUBJECT: **Facility Planning Committee Meeting 6: Community Outreach Review**

MEETING DATE: 11 September 2023
TIME: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Northwood Elementary School

ATTENDEES:

Facility Planning Committee

✓ Colin Brandt	✓ Matt Hall	– Sandra Levin
✓ Debbie Burke	✓ Linhui Hao	✓ Deborah Lurie
– Sophie Cartwright	✓ Jenny Harrington	✓ Brian Mock
– Julie Ogata Ciobanu	– Janelle Honeycutt	✓ Rich Nakatsu
✓ Jessica Clawson	– Andrew Howison	– Jamie Page
– Vickie Cleator	– Robyn Kimura Hsu	– Carrie Beckner Savage
✓ Susan Conrad-Wang	✓ Wen Hu	✓ Becky Shaddle
– Jennifer Crespi	– Ralph Jorgenson	– Toby Suhm
– Dave Cutright	– Jason Kitner	✓ Kim Thomas
✓ Marcus Engelman-Ost	✓ Kate Wise Knecht	– Lee Tortorelli
✓ Dan Glowitz	✓ Diana Lein	– Asha Woerner

MISD Support Team

- ✓ Fred Rundle
- ✓ Matt Sullivan
- ✓ Tony Kuhn
- ✓ Andreeves Rosner
- ✓ Ian Henry
- ✓ Brandy Fox

Mahlum Architects

- ✓ LeRoy Landers
- ✓ David Mount

The following represents the architect's understanding of discussions held and decisions reached in the meeting. Anyone with amendments to these minutes should notify the author within five (5) days of the minutes date in order to amend as appropriate.

ITEM	DISCUSSION
1.1	Welcome and agenda presented by Fred Rundle and LeRoy Landers. Goals for the evening include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Review of preliminary community outreach presentation and feedback
1.2	Fred and LeRoy described the plan for outreach sessions and presented the preliminary outreach presentation. The one-hour informational presentation included the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Introduction & Process> Goals & Conceptual Approach> District Facility Need> 2023 Considerations> Basis of Costs> Committee Planning Work> School Consolidation Study
1.3	Committee member questions and comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Review the East Seattle School history, closure date, and type of school.> Why Lakeridge slide: reorder the reasons, emphasizing that it is a benefit to south end community.> "This committee came up with the idea of consolidation of schools" is not accurate. Two capacity options were provided for consideration by the Committee during planning discussions.> Consolidation should be a separate conversation. <i>It was noted that it is difficult to separate regarding any bond approach that includes a replacement elementary. The size of the school (capacity) needs to be accounted for when establishing the amount of the proposed bond measure.</i>> If you don't touch schools and consolidate anyway, it's going to come off differently.> When I talk with people, what is resonating is that we are in a unique position of declining enrollment where we can consolidate and rebuild without building on an occupied site. We are leveraging what we have. <i>It was noted that at the elementary level enrollment is not "declining." The graph indicates that the issue is current low enrollment that is projected to continue over the next ten years.</i>> We have time to reevaluate enrollment through the process. <i>It was noted that the amount of time is largely dependent on the timing of a bond measure and whether a replacement elementary is included in the bond proposal. If a replacement elementary is included in the preferred plan approach, an initial decision will need to be made regarding the size of the school (because this directly impacts the size of the associated capital requirements).</i>

- > Something missing from the presentation: safety aspects of Island Park because of the major arterial. This is small but not insignificant.
- > There is the perception that the decision is made. A timeline illustrating the steps associated with a bond measure and its relationship to other things will be helpful for people's reactions.
- > Parents are moving their kids from Island Park due to fear of closure.
- > There are questions from the community about remodel versus replacement. The community needs to hear the reasons.
- > Timing: the message needs to be that nothing is going to happen until the community is ready.
- > I like that we address that the reason for declining enrollment is not because the District is failing. Would it be helpful to show a graphic of surrounding districts' enrollment decline or increase?
- > There is a determination each year whether, or not, there will be open enrollment. This (open enrollment) hasn't happened for 10 years.
- > Building conditions: recent conversation with a person that doesn't believe it's because of the condition. This suggests that "condition" needs to be presented differently (i.e. show actual conditions).
- > Highlighting condition and needs is key (age of remodels, etc.).
- > It's a "we" decision.
- > Be responsible with tax dollars.
- > If we do consolidate, what do we do with the property when close a school? *It was noted that the property will be retained and the function or use will be determined at a later point in time.*
- > Thoughts on approach: Scenario A – it is helpful to note that it starts with middle school and gives more time for the elementary school consolidation process. Emphasize flexibility regarding replacing elementaries.
- > Discussions involving consolidation have hit a nerve with the community - emphasis no decision has been made.
- > From a fiscal perspective, attach numbers about what are upcoming problems with these facilities, like what happened at the middle school. What is the best investment long term? For people voting with their pocketbooks. Remind people how old these buildings are. Remind them that they can't be fully remodeled to the level of Northwood.
- > It is a different conversation now than pre-Covid. It wasn't too long ago that we were talking about overcrowding. These conversations were underway before (pre-Covid). Discuss declining enrollment that isn't normal. Try to figure out why people were/are leaving.
- > Thanks for the rehearsal. Good work translating the work that we have done. I feel heard. I trust you with my tax dollars.
- > I'm a proponent of A because when you look at the numbers and cost it's less than \$100 month difference.
- > Scenario graphic: the difference in cost per bond is compelling and should be emphasized.
- > Student representation and voice is very important, particularly regarding the middle school.

- > When talking about reasons for declining enrollment, uncouple the building from the education that happening in buildings. We are not taking from one to pay for another and not exacerbating the problem through a bond.
- > Do you have banners with QR codes to get the polls out to the community? The community needs to have accurate information; if there is a poll, there needs to be lead-in information.

1.4 Next steps in the planning process include:

- > October: Community outreach meetings (FPC members are encouraged to attend if possible)
- > November: Potential final FPC meeting to review outreach findings and final plan
- > January: Long-Range Facility Plan Update report complete

1.5 A copy of the presentation can be found on the District website, for additional information.