

Rockford Public Schools, District 205
Facilities Master Plan 2025 – 2030
Student Workshop
Meeting Minutes

College and Career Education Center
Secondary Schools
Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Dr. Ehren Jarrett opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed the students and gave a little background on the District, what the Facilities Master Plan is, and why they were asked to attend the workshop and contribute to the process for future generations. Dr. Jarrett thanked the students for volunteering to help with this process.

There were 20 students in attendance representing Auburn HS, East HS, Jefferson HS and Roosevelt HS.

The DLR Group team introduced themselves.

Keri VanSant, Architect/Project Manager/Associate
Laura Beth Cochran, Architect/Principal
Dr. Tim Shimp – Educational Learning Designer/Associate

The meeting began with an ice breaker activity. Two screens were set up on either side of a demarcation line. Each screen displayed a different word. The students were asked to go and stand on the side with the word they identify with – the word that speaks to them, brings them peace, that they are most comfortable with.

Are you pro dinosaurs or robots? *More dinosaurs*

Is your peace in talking or listening? *More listeners*

Words or actions? *100% actions*

Work hard or play hard? *99% work hard*

Do you aspire one day to be the smartest or the richest? *Split – 50/50%*

Do you want to learn from education or learn from experience? *98% experience*

Laura Beth brought the group back to their tables and shared with the group results of a Goggle search on top dream jobs and asked if any of those jobs spoke to them. Some of the students shared what their dream jobs would be.

Henry Moore was best known for bronze sculptures using geometric designs. He once said *“The secret of life is to have a task, something you devote your entire life to, something you bring everything to. And the most important thing is, it must be something you cannot possibly do.”*

Laura Beth asked the group what they thought that meant. After a brief discussion with the students, she defined motivation and passion.

Meta-Motivation – When our passions are tied to a larger frame of reference – something bigger than ourselves to help inspire and motivate.

Passion – an internal interest in something. It’s a desire to do it because you enjoy doing it. Passion is fundamentally expressed in a moment.

The students were asked to take a Post-it note and write down their motivation and passion.

Student responses included:

Setting a good example for everyone.

My meta-motivation is to create an environment our community feels safe in.

Future and money!

Drawing/Organizing – Interior Design

Entertaining/keeping others happy. Helping them out with their motivations.

Creating a world I can be comfortable in.

Breaking bad cycles and becoming better for the new generation. Doing things that are bettering me and my lifestyle.

My passion is to protect the citizens in my community by studying to be a lawyer.

My passion is playing the game of basketball. My dream job is to be an architect.

Spreading kindness. Creating, planning, starting a business.

My future – my family.

Pushing people to achieve goals. Being a welder and CDL’s.

The ability to keep people safe. My family and friends.

Service Pathway: Hands-on experience. More prep for High School/College.

Easier to have more options to switch to other academies and try them out and see what’s best for them.

My future – Outside World/Nature. The idea of making a change in the world.

Art/Nature/Video editing/Pharmacology

Helping people in need. Going to the Marines.

Strengthening our communities and making others smile. Listening to other's feelings and help them feel understood by impacting them in the best way.

My passion is soccer.

Drawing/Writing – been drawing since I was 3. Creating Worlds/Creating Cultures/Creating Languages, Factions, Kingdoms, Magic Systems.

I want to make a good enough living to support my family and myself comfortably. My passion is to be a hospital pharmacist.

CDC, Counselor

Helping people. Become a Nurse.

Growing (2)

A motivational video was shown of a young man whose passion became his dream. Students were asked what they are passionate about and what they would like to do for a job.

Pictures of classrooms from Samarian times, 15th century and 2018. Similarities of schools across the decades were discussed. Why do we need to change?

Dr. Shimp explained saturation rates of new technologies and the students were asked how long such things as electricity, iPad and TikTok took before there was 25% saturation. They were then shown the video of work being completed by robots/AI intelligence. Students were asked their thoughts on what they had watched.

Feedback included:

Scary

No human aspect

Will we have jobs?

Dr. Shimp shared with the students that 80% of all businesses will still need that human aspect.

After a break for lunch, students were put into six small groups. The first activity was to create a student persona for an RPS student who attends school now. They were then asked to discuss and graph what their typical school day at RPS looks like. How much time is spent in categories such as large group, small group, collaboration, active, creating, presenting, experiencing, inquiring, evaluating.

Students shared their student's persona and how their student spends their school day. Tim asked questions regarding how and why their days are spent the way they are.

Feedback included:

Very little presenting and creating in all groups. When asked why they thought that was, they said it was not stimulating enough in class.

Students were shown another video about Tait Towers' innovations. Laura Beth talked with the students about who they are, what they work on, and the new technologies they are creating in the entertainment industry. This included the 2023 Superbowl half-time show featuring Rihanna and all the new innovations and technologies that went in to creating the show. She talked with the students about all the different career fields that helped create the show.

Dr. Shimp led a discussion with the students on the RPS Pathways and what they could look like in the future. The students were asked to write on a Post-it note a Pathway that they think RPS should pursue in the future for the next generation.

Feedback included:

Technology	Social Media Producer
AI/Robotics	Finance (should be bigger part of curriculum)
Psychology	On-line Business training
Agriculture	ROTC (should be incorporated in all the schools)
Community jobs	Trainers/Coaches – Sports Medicine

The students were then asked to graph a day in the life of a future student, if there were no barriers of space, design, or time. What are the percentages of how you would spend your school day.

Feedback included:

- More creating
- Fewer large groups
- Need more Experiencing - internships/hands on
- More active/involvement
- Some teachers have the drive to teach – some don't have the drive

Laura Beth thanked everyone for their time and participation and asked that they take two minutes to participate in a quick video. They were prompted to introduce themselves, tell us what their dream job is, and what their passion is. They were then asked to respond to how Rockford Public Schools can help them get to where they want to go.

The meeting ended at 1:00 p.m. The students recorded their videos after the meeting ended.