

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

Steering Committee
Monday, November 13, 2023

Korey White, DLR Group opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

DLR Group Members Present:

Dr. Tim Shimp – Educational Learning Designer/Associate
Korey White, AIA, pK-12 Planning Leader/Senior Associate
Leanne Meyer-Smith – K-12 Education Leader/Principal

Committee Members Present:

Board:

Paul Carpenter
Tiana McCall

Principals/Teachers:

Adam Cengiz – Principal Special Programs CAPA & Gifted
John Schmelzer – Principal Ellis ES
Dawn Myelle-Watson – Science, Jefferson HS
Joshua Tatman – Science, Auburn HS

Students:

None

External:

Angela Hite-Carter – Former RPS 205 teacher, principal, administrator
Brent Pentenburg – YMCA

Internal:

Heather Psaltis - ED of Schools, Southeast Quadrant
Jason Pope – Director of Recruitment
Misael Nascimento – ED Bilingual and Multicultural Department
Susan Uram – Director of Education Technology
Tessa Huftalin – Director of SPED

Committee Members Absent:

Students:

Jessica Garcia – Auburn Superintendent Student Advisory Committee
Emmanuel Edwards – Roosevelt

External:

Antonio Ramirez – Alignment Rockford
Jay Sandine – Rockford Park District
Ron Clewer – Gorman & Company

Internal:

Bridget French – ED College and Career Readiness
Dawn Williamson – District Ad

Administration Present:

Michael Phillips – Chief Operating Officer
Greg Brown, Ed. D – Chief Financial Officer
Scott Jenson – Director of Design and Construction

Meeting Agenda:

Overview of Co-Labs 2 & 3 and Educator Survey
Overview of VALUES
Guiding Principles Exercise
Key Takeaways & Exit Question(s)

Ms. White started the meeting with a recap of the Steering Committee Agreements. One additional agreement was added, based on feedback from the prior meeting.

Steering Committee Agreements

- Stay engaged (Ask and respond to questions, etc.).
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Be mindful of being a dominant voice. We want to hear all voices.
- Share and make space for others to share questions and perspectives.
- One mic, one voice. Refrain from talking over one another or having a side conversation.
- Speak only from the “I” perspective.
- In the event of an absence, we commit to reading the materials from missed meetings and providing written feedback, if and where needed.

The Multi-phase process was recapped. Currently in Phase 2, while finalizing Phase 1. A lot of the phases overlap.

Process:

- Phase 1: Deeper Understanding
- Phase 2: Discover + Explore
- Phase 3: Program
- Phase 4: Conceptualize
- Phase 5: Game Plan
- Phase 6: Adoption & Implementation

Ms. White and Dr. Shimp gave a high-level summary of the Educator & Student workshops, and the Teacher Survey. Details can be found in the 11/13/23 PowerPoint Presentation on the Facilities Master Plan page on our website.

Ms. White then reviewed the takeaways from the Values Workshop that included participation from schools, facilities, administration, and community members. Key themes from the Values Workshop were:

Equity

Transportation
Sense of Belonging & Inclusion
Access to Schools & Services
Student Fulfillment

Neighborhood Connection

Role of schools in the community

Resilience & Flexibility

Emergency Planning
Building Systems optimization
Indoor Comfort & Regulation

This was a high-level overview and more will be shared in future meetings. These will be used to help develop the committee's guiding principles and strategies. DLR Group drafted Themes for a District Vision as a starting point for the Committee to use to develop a District Vision. The themes were compiled from participant input from all the workshops.

Specialty Centers

College and Career Education Center
Early Childhood Centers and/or upgrading current centers

Program and Access

Support Services Spaces in Schools
Academic Programming & Access (space – Curriculum Alignment)
Bi-lingual Services/Access
Athletic / Physical Education Spaces and Access
Arts Education
Community Spaces/Access; Parent/Family Support

Building Function & Investment

School Building Functionality (and maintaining)
Inclusive Learning Environments
Diversity/Flexibility of Spaces
Safety and Security
Equitable Investment/Decision-making

The Committee was divided into four groups to participate in an exercise called 1, 2, 4, ALL! The goal of the exercise was to help the groups develop broad Guiding Principles that could be fine-tuned by the committee later.

Draft Guiding Principles

1. To create a broad and unique learners' experience that is inspiring and flexible, which reflects the community to ensure students reach their full potential.
2. Our schools will reflect and promote inquiry and innovation within an academia-centered and welcoming environment.
3. We want a district where students can achieve their fullest potential, be able to express themselves freely, have the opportunity to collaborate, communicate creatively, allowing their passion for learning to flourish.
4. Consider how the various models we utilize (Academy, inquiry, traditional, Problem-based Learning, etc.) logistically work with the buildings we have and maximize the well-being of all stakeholders.

As each group read their draft Guiding Principle, the other committee members were writing down what they liked (words/phrases) on sticky notes, as well as "I Wonder . . ." thoughts to possibly include or exclude in the draft principle. The notes were collected and compiled by the DLR Group to help the committee refine and finalize the Guiding Principles at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 6:28 p.m.

Next meeting is Monday, December 11, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, Room 208.