Facilities Committee

2023 Narrative

Summary of Facilities Committee Findings.

The 2023 Facilities Committee was tasked with reviewing all District facilities and developing a priority list for future capital projects. The priorities would address community and instructional needs that do not typically appear in the Building Condition Survey (completed every 5 years).

**Primary Buildings**

The three primary buildings could be significantly impacted by future Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) growth. The district began UPK instruction in 2021-22 school year when funding was provided by New York State. The program currently has 54 students, but additional funding could increase that number in the coming years. If UPK becomes mandatory for 4-year-olds, and/or optional for 3-year-olds, additional space will be required. Two or three classrooms at each building could be needed within a couple of years, and if 3-year-olds are added, the need could be 4-6 rooms.

Currently, only Marilla and Wales Primary have open classrooms that could be utilized for UPK, and that space is limited to a couple of classrooms.

Options to accommodate UPK:

- New Building: One location for all UPK-4 classrooms.
- Establish one location for UPK to serve all students, district wide.
- Create a capital project that adds 3-4 additional classrooms at each primary building.
- Create UPK capacity at the Primary Schools by moving 4$^{th}$ grade to the main campus, creating three UPK-3 level buildings.

The concept of a new UPK-4, district-wide building was discussed by the committee. While this concept would have many advantages and create efficiencies, repurposing the remaining three buildings would have a significant impact on the community.

Information from the New York State Department of Education concerning UPK's future requirements will play a significant role in determining the scope district capital projects.

All the Districts primary schools share specific needs:

- Outdated classroom furniture, cabinets, bathrooms
- Lack of dedicated Art and Music space
- Lack of small instruction space, counselor, and social worker space

Space limitations are not necessarily driven by enrollment changes. How schools deliver instruction has changed, with more focus on Response to Intervention (RTI) and remedial services needing smaller group instruction spaces. All schools across New York State have needed to increase social/emotional support staff for students which also requires smaller instructional/office space. School Resource Offices also have a need for space where student issues can be resolved.

The Committee discussed the option of a dedicated building for UPK, K and 1st grade, or a new district-wide UPK-4 building at the main campus. Along with significant cost implications, this would impact the community by leaving the current primary buildings vacant/for sale. The justification for this plan would be weighing the significant renovations needed at the three primary buildings, versus the cost of a new building.

**Middle School and High School**

Middle and High Schools are not experiencing the space constraints experienced at the primary level. Of the enrollment reduction that has occurred in the last 10 years, a majority of the reduction occurred at the secondary level.

While most of the science rooms were upgraded in the most recent Capital Project, similar upgrades should be scheduled for all classrooms. Art and Music space should have specific designs for their subject areas (additional storage or sinks).

Significant time was spent by the committee to discuss fitness centers and a pool facility. Both buildings have fitness centers that are converted into classrooms. The space and equipment are extremely limited, making it difficult to teach a Physical Education unit or have a large team in a room. The limited space creates a safety concern. The Committee discussed various options but concluded that it made more sense to have one space for both buildings versus two separate fitness centers.

The existing pool in the Middle School was also discussed at length. The size of the pool prevents any competitions from being held there. If pool expansion were desired, could it be combined with a central fitness center? A pool/fitness center in a central location could be utilized by not only students but also community members as well. Could there be a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Elma, Marilla, and Wales?

**Transportation**

The transportation building is in need of many repairs/upgrades. The lifts need to be replaced, there are drainage problems, and the parking lot needs re-paving.

When looking at the long-term plans for the transportation facility, we must be aware of the recent push by New York State to convert gas/diesel buses to electric. The change to electric will have a significant on how we renovate the transportation facility:

- The additional weight of electric buses will require different, higher capacity lifts
- Charging stations will require a new parking lot layout with electrical gridwork.
- The additional weight of electric buses will require upgraded asphalt and concrete.
- If New York State continues to make this a priority with a deadline, this renovation work may get a higher priority level.

**Results**

Priority lists at all buildings were established by having individual committee members list their ranking of projects. The group results were then tabulated to create one list for each building

## Iroquois CSD - Long Range Planning 2023.

# Consensus Discovery Topics

**Facilities Committee Prioritization List.**

| Revised | Step 1: Rank Blue items 1 through 3. (1 being the highest priority.) | **Facilities Committee Member Ranking** |
|---|---|---|
| ######## | Step 2: Within each option, rank Green items accordingly. | |
| **Item #** | **Description** | |
| A | **UPK - Options** | **1** |
| 1 | Move 4th grade from all Primary Schools to the Intermediate School. Allows UPK to be added to rooms within the existing Primary Schools. | 1 |
| 2 | Move UPK through 2nd grade to New School Building on west side of Girdle Road on main campus and move 3rd and 4th grade to the Intermediate School, relocate the District Office to the new building. The three existing Primary Buildings would become vacant. | 2 |
| 3 | Create new additions at each Primary School to accommodate UPK 4-year-olds. | 3 |
| | | |
| B | **Bus Transportation Building - Options** | **2** |
| 1 | Reconstruct the existing Bus Transportation Facility to accommodate future electric bus requirements. The reconstruction will include additions to the existing facility, electrical and mechanical upgrades, and site paving reconstruction. | 2 |
| 2 | Create a New Bus Transportation Facility. The new facility will be designed to accommodate future electric bus requirements. The new facility may also include additional space for future offices on the second floor. This option will also include new parking and site circulation for new electric buses and associated electrical upgrades. | 1 |
| | | |
| C | **Natatorium and Athletic Facility - Options** | **3** |
| 1 | Reconstruct existing Middle School Pool and create a new addition including an 8-lane state of the art competition pool. | 3 |
| 2 | Reconstruct existing Middle School Pool and create a new addition including an 8-lane state of the art competition pool and wellness center with indoor elevated walking track. | 2 |
| 3 | Create a new stand-a-lone Athletic Facility that includes an 8-lane state of the art competition pool and wellness center with indoor elevated walking track. | 1 |