



YME Focus Group Meeting #1 Notes

1. Wednesday October 9, 2024

- a. Introductions – Superintendent Schneider introduced the meeting facilitators and asked each attendee to introduce themselves and give some background of themselves. See attached attendance list.
- b. Preston Euerle reviewed the Process and the Roles/Responsibility of the Focus Group.
 - i. The Focus Group will assess and define the needs of the district.
 - ii. The Focus Group will present a recommendation to the School Board.
 - iii. The School Board will present the recommended plan to the state for review and comment (4 month process)
 - iv. A Referendum date will be determined.
 - v. Discuss meeting time and location.
 1. Meeting #2 October 30th
 2. Meeting #3 November 6th
 3. Meeting #4 November 13th
 4. Meeting #5 November 20th
 5. Meeting #6 If needed
- c. Role/Responsibility of Focus Group and its members
 - i. Focus Group must be a representative sampling of the District community
 - ii. Members are to attend majority of meetings
 - iii. Focus Group meetings will be scheduled for 1 ½ - 2 hours
 - iv. Members must participate and voice questions and concerns
 - v. Consensus majority to be reached
 - vi. Support the process and selected program to community
- d. Tours of the buildings will be available at the next meeting October 30th starting at 5:00 pm
- e. Jim Wilson reviewed the Architectural Assessment and Anticipated Needs. Comments from the Focus Group include:
 - i. The facility needs have not changed since 1995.
 - ii. Career Tech Ed space has not changed since the 1970's.
 - iii. The art room is like a “dungeon” and there is no bathroom close by.
 - iv. The elementary school and areas of the high school have a musty smell. There are piping failures and leaks are often in the walls – difficult to determine and get to.
 - v. The plumbing and mechanical systems are in tough shape in all buildings.
 - vi. The track is failing and can't be used for competition.
- f. Preston Euerle Overviewed the Listening Sessions. The priorities stated at the community listening session are:
 - i. Keep kids here
 - ii. Keep staff here



- iii. Safety and security needs to be addressed
 - iv. Keep focus on community support
 - v. Identify a list of benefactors
- g. The project criteria/objectives. These are in addition to the priorities listed from the listening sessions.
- i. Community.
 - 1. How to engage the communities that no longer have a school building – Clarkfield, Echo. Is it possible to add a school back in those communities? Support will be needed to pass a referendum.
 - 2. There is a shortage of daycare facilities and homes.
 - 3. Keep and attract families.
 - ii. Educational.
 - 1. A good education is being provided and there are programs that can be enhanced or added.
 - 2. Need to think about what future education looks like.
 - 3. Are partnerships available with the community college for programs or equipment?
 - 4. It's challenging for some kids to be involved with activities because there are no activity routes currently available.
 - 5. Add childcare programs as a way to retain students / staff.
 - iii. Physical.
 - 1. Security at main and other building entrances.
 - 2. Environmental – no building shell, utility or systems failure that cause unhealthy environments. Air quality and lead levels are examples.
 - 3. Accessibility
 - a. Entrances
 - b. Bathrooms
 - c. Lab stations – science, art, etc.
 - d. Travel between areas of the building
 - e. Travel route to the cafeteria between the elementary and high school. This is also a safety concern as students go outside to get to lunch.
 - 4. Correct sizes of spaces. MDE has suggested sizes of spaces to use as benchmarks when planning. Classrooms are suggested to be 850 – 950 square feet each. The cafeteria is another space identified as too small.
 - iv. Other.
 - 1. There is a need to keep the auditorium or replace it.
 - 2. The greenhouse is needed – keep it where it is or replace it.
 - 3. Review any mold / air quality testing that has been done.
 - 4. Plan for current enrollment vs. future enrollment?
 - 5. Emergency vehicle access to football field/playground.
- h. Establish Options – Baseline Option
- i. Do Nothing – repair only what can be funded from the annual maintenance budget and defer many maintenance needs.



- ii. Maintenance – items described in the facilities analysis. This will address the main code and systems upgrades identified but will not update/renovate all areas of the two buildings.
 - iii. Maintenance and Addition – The option presented addresses the maintenance items from the facilities analysis and the potential connection between the two buildings.
 - iv. Maintenance and Addition/Replacement – different potential ideas for adding and replacing spaces were shown, including demo of spaces to be replaced by additions and/or connections to existing buildings. The concept is to keep the newest and functional spaces of the two existing buildings. MDE recommends that if the cost to renovate spaces is more than 60% of replacement costs, replacement should be proposed. This recommendation does not suggest that all spaces should be replaced.
 - v. Replace everything – replace the existing buildings in their entirety in either school owned property or a new site. MDE suggests that any new site for an enrollment the size of YME would need approximately 40-45 acres and preferably be able to connect to city services.
- i. Homework for next meeting – October 30th
 - i. Focus Group
 - 1. Think about the priorities and share them
 - 2. Review the “big picture” concepts – think about pros and cons of each
 - ii. Facilitators
 - 1. Administration to discuss current expiring levies
 - 2. Financial consultant to prepare preliminary range of tax impact
 - 3. Further refine “big picture” concepts