

# FACILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## October 27, 2021

A meeting of the Facility Advisory Committee of the School District of Jefferson was held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, in the Sullivan Elementary gym. Superintendent Urness called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m., after a tour of the school, with the following members present: Dale Gaugert, Lyndsay Knoebel Baneck, Francis Langer, Jim Pratt, Leah Thorp, Lynn Enke, Chris Schmidt, Emilie Shoop, Tonya Umbarger, and Ben Warborg. Absent: Peg Beyer, Roger Ganser, Jeff Laesch, Jen Pinnow, Merle Lange, Sherry Lange, Beth Krahn, Ryan Mundt, Susie Schuld.

**Others in Attendance:** Superintendent Charlie Urness; Laura Peachey, Director of Business Services; Tim Graffin, Buildings & Grounds Director; Nikki Krause, Sullivan Elementary School Principal; Jason Poeppel, IT Director; and Valerie Schmitt, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent along with planning partners from Findorff: Erika Freeman and Jon Winch; from Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA): Andy Lyons and Kim Frerichs; and from Robert W. Baird: Brian Brewer.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Jim Pratt, seconded by Dale Gaugert, to approve the minutes from the October 6<sup>th</sup> committee meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** Kim Frerichs from EUA presented on modern learning environments and provided examples of spaces and furniture that are versatile, flexible, and safe. The focus was on changes in the ways students learn and the ways schools can utilize spaces to cultivate learning growth.

The committee asked questions about the designs and discussed their initial thoughts. It was noted that while schools will always place value in the “Three Rs” (reading, writing and arithmetic), the “Four Cs” (communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity) are all skills taught in a modern learning environment and versatile spaces are required.

### DISTRICT FINANCIALS:

Brian Brewer from Robert W. Baird gave a presentation on district financials giving the committee an understanding of the debt capacity of the district to address the facility needs that will be identified and provide estimates of tax impacts for context while the committee discusses the scope of work to come.

Mr. Brewer explained how district funds operate and how district revenue is received including the current tax levy (\$12,710,842) and Mill Rate (\$10.47). Noted was that the School district of Jefferson has approximately 2.1 Million set aside currently for maintenance projects to offset the amount of a possible building referendum and that levy management (waiting to add new debt until the majority of previous debt is paid off) was important to make sure there is not a large burden on the community. Mr. Brewer also spoke on previous referendums and the successes and challenges involved noting that the current funding formula is designed with a need for referendums which give community members a voice.

### EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY ASSESSMENT:

Kim Frerichs from EUA gave a presentation explaining how the district’s education program aligns with the district’s physical facilities and sites and the process behind gathering that data which included building walkthroughs with administration and staff input sessions at each building. Summary of the district-wide findings identified the following facilities needs:

- Addition of flexible / collaborative learning environments including more large and small group spaces
- Enlargement of some cramped classrooms and other spaces
- Improvement in the cafeterias / commons function
- Improvement in toileting options for both students and staff
- Additional storage
- Increase in natural light
- Improved access to technology
- Continued improvement upon safety and security efforts including entry and parking areas
- Offering expanded outdoor learning opportunities
- Improvement on fitness / recreational opportunities (possibly including community access)
- Improvement in the occupational therapy / physical therapy function

Each facility was reviewed with main issues highlighted at each site. Floorplans and deficiencies at each school were shared.

#### **FAC FEEDBACK:**

The question was asked to the committee, “What do you believe are the SDoJ’s most significant educational space needs? Why?” to collect feedback on educational adequacy.

The committee broke into groups and came up with the following answers:

- Large group spaces
- Flexible small breakout spaces
- Tech spaces (shops and agriculture)
- Life skills spaces
- Flexible seating in classrooms
- Gym spaces for tournament hosting
- Youth space, 5K space
- Lighting
- Sound barriers
- Parking space
- Small classrooms at East
- STEAAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Agriculture, and Math) spaces

The committee also discussed the possibility of grade-level reconfiguration as an option while planning facilities.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

A survey to help the resource committee was given out to help us make sure the committee meetings are run as effectively as possible.

Meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.

Valerie Schmitt, Scribe