



State College Area School District

Districtwide Facilities Master Plan Steering Committee / Community Forum Panorama Village Monday, June 2, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Brown convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Jeff Straub, Principal of Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates, provided an overview of the plans for the new Park Forest Middle School, emphasizing that the substantial progress made to date was largely due to the diligent efforts of teachers, staff, and the facilities committee during the initial planning stages last fall. He noted that the current design reflected refinements rather than major changes from what was presented in September. Key topics included improvements to stormwater management, a multi-level building layout adapted to the site's grading, integrated safety and security measures, and sustainability initiatives aimed at achieving LEED Silver certification. The project is at the 60% design development phase, with plans to issue bids in late 2025 and begin construction in early 2026. Additionally, maintenance strategies and future use of existing assets were discussed as part of the long-term facilities assessment plan. Detailed plans and renderings were shared, and attendees were invited to ask questions.

Questions/Concerns:

1. **Tennis Court Reduction** – A community member expressed concern over reducing the number of tennis courts from six to two, emphasizing the impact on youth and adult programs. The district acknowledged space constraints but agreed to revisit the site layout with engineers and explore grant opportunities to support additional courts.
2. **Intramural Tennis** – Two courts will not be sufficient for this program. Is it possible to have at least three courts? The team agreed to examine whether an additional court could be added within the existing space limitations.
3. **Student Lockers** – Traditional lockers will not be included in the new building. There will be shared storage areas like cubbies and closets.
4. **Building Design and Windows** – Will natural light and windows be located on all sides of the building? While the rear design is still in progress, the district plans to maximize daylight and use computer modeling to ensure adequate light in instructional spaces.
5. **Interior Office Daylighting** – Concerns were raised about interior offices without windows. The design team is reviewing layouts to improve natural light access where possible, especially in administrative areas.
6. **Use of Skylights** – Skylights and other daylighting strategies, similar to those used in the high school, are planned for interior areas.
7. **Fairmount Facility Use** – The district is exploring how to use the Fairmount building to accommodate overflow needs, especially for support services like ESL, special education, and preschool.

8. **Transportation Facility Challenges** – The current bus garage is outdated and located in a floodplain, posing issues for future electric bus maintenance. The district is assessing options for renovation or relocation, considering sustainability and code compliance.

The meeting ended at 6:51 p.m.

Annette Winningham
Recording Secretary