School

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school.

In laying out their reasoning behind the recommendations, MGT consultants projected that student enrollment will both dip slightly and rise slightly over the next 10 years, but will not exceed a total of 7,000 students.

MGT also discussed the current capacities of schools. As of now, Piñon Hills Elementary is the only school over its official capacity at 107 percent. Whittell High School is the least used at 65 percent, with Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School following at 78 percent.

Ten-year projections into the future show five schools over capacity, including Scarselli Elementary at 103 percent, Jacks Valley Elementary at 110 percent, Minden Elementary at 117 percent, Piñon Hills Elementary at 140 percent and Carson Valley Middle School at 106 percent.

The same projections show Pau-Wa-Lu dropping to 63 percent in 10 years, and Whittell High School dropping to 43 percent.

Phase 1 of the plan includes renovating or expanding Piñon Hills, Meneley, Gardnerville and Jacks Valley elementary schools for a total cost of $16.3 million. Boundaries would be adjusted to move 50 students from Gardnerville Elementary to Minden Elementary and 100 students from Minden Elementary to Meneley Elementary.

Phase 2 would entail an estimated $23 million renovation of Douglas High School to accommodate incoming ninth-graders. Consequently, one middle school would be closed, and the other renovated for the Valley's seventh- and eighth-grade students.

In addition, one elementary school in the Valley would be converted, at a cost of about $2.9 million dollars, into a kindergarten through eighth-grade school.

"This would give parents, students and teachers more options," said MGT Senior Partner Edward Humble.

He said moving ninth-graders back to the high school was a top priority among the community, but wasn't included in phase 1 for two reasons.

"It's a lot of money," he said. "And it takes a lot of planning. You can't just move the ninth-graders tomorrow."

When it comes to deciding which middle school to close, and which elementary school to convert, Carnes said more studies are needed.

"You need a little more information to make a good solid decision about which one," he said.

The empty middle school would be used for administrative offices, professional development, alternative school and a possible career and technical education center. Assuming CVMS would be closed and Pau-Wa-Lu kept open, MGT estimated the cost of the measure at a little more than $1 million.

Phase 3 would require roughly $1.9 million to convert Whittell High School into a kindergarten to 12th-grade school, and another $1.9 million to renovate Scarselli Elementary. Assuming a 5-percent annual inflation rate, MGT's three phases would cost nearly $58 million.

District Chief Financial Officer Holly Luna estimated the district has about $30-40 million in bond proceeds, plus whatever the district receives from the future liquidation of Kingsbury Middle School.

MGT presented other, cheaper options as well.

Maintaining the current grade configuration in the Valley and adding capacity to schools as needed would cost the district $27.7 million. Another option to move sixth-graders in the Valley to the middle schools and ninth-graders to the high school would cost $37.3 million in improvements.

Trustee Sharla Hales told MGT the school board needs more details about the justification of each recommendation, and the pros and cons of each.

"If moving ninth-graders to the high school is being deferred, we need to know what's behind the recommendation and why," she said.

Board Vice President Tom Moore agreed.

"We need the pros and cons laid out so someone going down the line can see the rationale," he said.

During the meeting's public comment, only one parent from the audience spoke

"A lot of the recommendations seem too slow to solve the current problems," said parent Troy Martin.

Tuesday's meeting was a preliminary overview of the plan. School board members can accept or reject any recommendation A town hall meeting to further discuss the matter will be 5 p.m. Feb. 25 at Carson Valley Middle School.

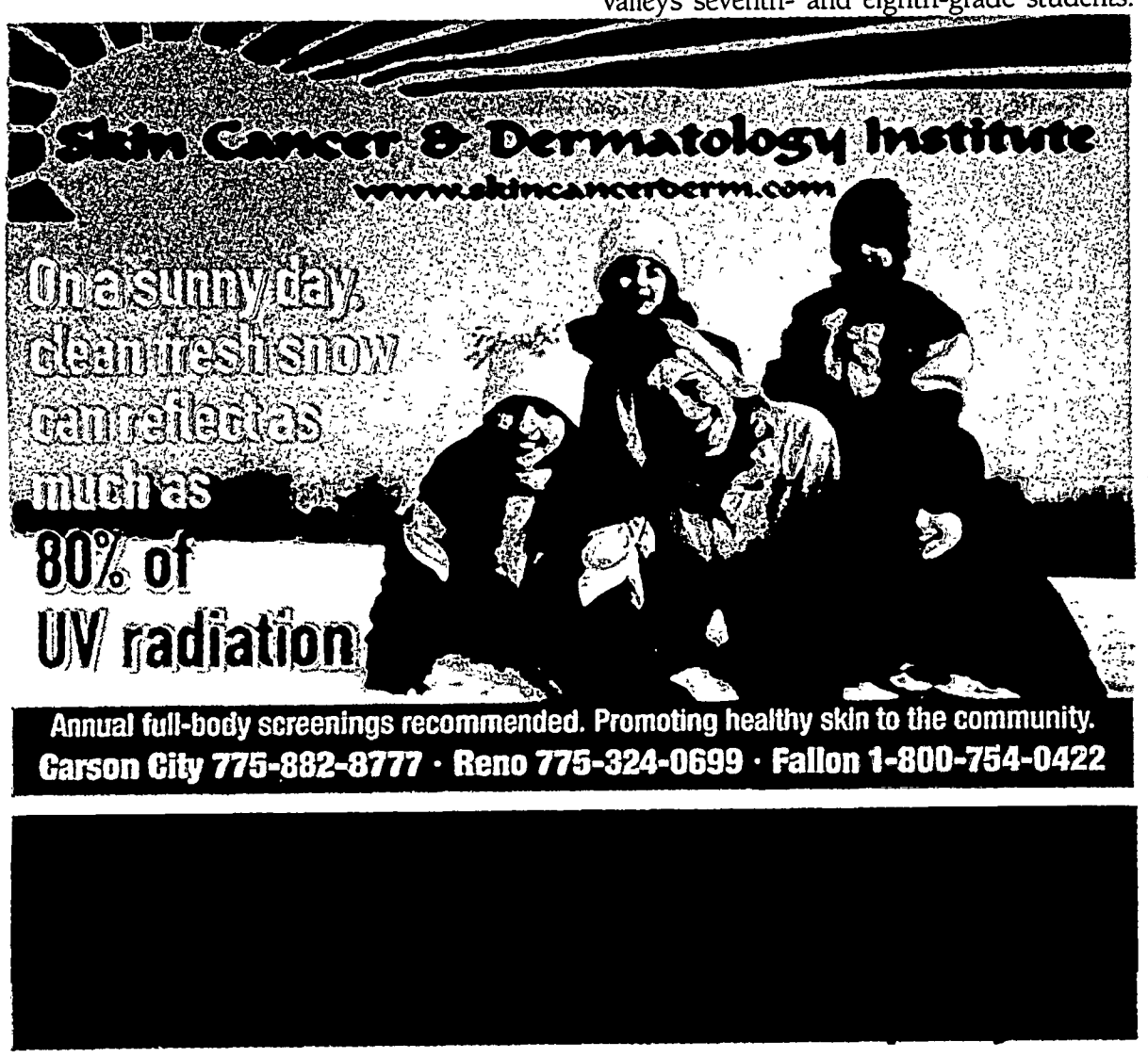
The complete facilities master plan can be viewed online at http://dcsd.k12.nv.us.

DETAILS

The new facilities master plan shows combined scores of each school's building condition, educational suitability, technology readiness and site condition. A rating of 90 or above means new or like new, 75-89 means good, 60-74 means fair, 50-59 means poor and below 50 is deemed unsatisfactory.

Minden Elementary	81
Scarselli Elementary	78
Whittell High School	75
Piñon Hills Elementary	74
Zephyr Cove Elementary	74
Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School	74
Carson Valley Middle School	64
Douglas High School	64
Meneley Elementary	60
Jacks Valley Elementary	58
Gardnerville Elementary	58

■ MGT of America has recommended three phases over the next 10 years to bring all schools, except Pau-Wa-Lu and Carson Valley middle schools to a score of 80.



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