



September 3rd, 2021

BUILDING LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS

MEETING NOTES FROM August 30th, 2021

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High School Building Leadership Team
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Elementary School Building Leadership Team
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HIGH SCHOOL

- Really would like more windows, natural light is important.
- Some classrooms have a lot of exterior wall space, but no windows – can we add?
- Co-curricular activities are great to have and would like to have space to do more. Example is the student ran restaurant, “Pit Stop”.
- Open air library is nice and that it is centrally located.
- Football stadium is unique and like that about the school, but restrooms need attention.
- Main gymnasium is liked by the community and used frequently.
- Walking around the baseline is tight and hard for visitors to get around the court.
- Not enough space in gymnasium to host wrestling tournaments, need to fit 3 mats.
- Really like the location of all the schools within the community.
- Pod system allows for departments to be together, which is nice.
- The pods used to be open, but with the walls and closed up – there is not an easy way to access the back classrooms without hallways.
- Size and shape of classrooms are all different and tend to have tight corner that unusable.
- Locker and restrooms are small and embarrassing to let visitors use, would like to see these remodeled and updated.
- Last bond included an asbestos removal and walls were replaced without addressing layout issues. Nothing really changed and/or improved functionality for classrooms.
- Higher ceilings in classrooms would be nice, there is space above to do – something to consider?
- Front entry does not explain who “we” are (exterior) and would like to see more of an identity and the pride of the district and community.
- Need a better entry to the gymnasium – front entry is not used for entry to games.
- Gathering space is very limited and gets tight before and after games.
- The main office and small and hard to use.
- The school needs a better system to lock down portions of the school/hallways for security during after-hour events. Currently, all visitors have access to areas that really should not be open to public.

- Laboratory space is small in the science pod while the biology lab does not have adequate counter space required for the program.
- Existing auditorium, band, and choir pod really needs to be redone.
- The site lines in the auditorium are pretty bad limits programs in addition to not having the proper back stage components.
- The art room, while it does have great natural lighting, is not a great layout for projects or storage.
- Art cannot hold classes during band as it is too loud.
- Auditorium does not have enough seating – currently holds around 400 and need at least 600-750 capacity.
- Storage is always an issue both teachers (office) and activities. Items are relocated back and forth between spaces as they are being used.
- Parking is an issue, not enough spaces during sporting events.
- Tennis is high participation and would really like to add a few additional courts to the complex with the option to host State.
- Wood shop and robotics pod needs a better flow and workstations.
- Shop is sectioned up and tight – not the best work flow for as heavily used as it is.
- Robotics and Shop share the same pod as “Pit Stop”, video production, and IT.
- Tech teacher has the office between and uses the Pit Stop” to access the office – need a better office space.
- Library is a major path for students to cross during passing period – need to rework the layout.
- Like to keep the openness of the library – do not section off, just rework to direct traffic.
- Noise from the commons area really spills over to the media area and gets loud.
- Need to look at acoustical treatment to commons – like the openness of the space.
- Look at reworking the unused locker areas – add breakout spaces or conference rooms.
- Review the wrestling area, can this be bigger – maybe move to auditorium pod?
- This would be good storage room if the wrestling moved as it located to both gyms.
- Auxiliary gymnasium is tight during volleyball tournaments, small on both the seating and court space.
- Lockers off of auxiliary gym are used as the football locker rooms – not big enough for players, let alone their equipment in the lockers themselves.
- Main entry (interior) to school needs to be more attractive.
- The trophy cases are great to see but then the school closes off quickly after that.
- Would like to see more display areas for student work, want to show off their work – maybe add to the commons area?
- Walls were added between the auditorium and commons due to noise and traffic flow.
- Staff would really like to see a new fine arts space/classroom.
- The science pod needs to be cut into three classrooms.
- Wall dividing the Special Education and another classroom is really only a thin book case – there is no noise control between the two rooms.
- More outdoor space for students to use and/or outdoor classrooms.
- Bigger teacher lounge or a better layout for lounge and workroom – it is tight.
- Need to make the nurses office as part of the main office as there is not a dedicated nurse only for the high school and rely on staff to check-in on students using the office.

- Electrical issues need addressed – more outlets and controls, breakers always flip.
- Look toward future and use of new technology when assessing new/better electrical needs.
- More student collaboration areas – teachers would like to expand on project-based learning opportunities.
- Do not want to see any trendy design ideas, need to understand a good solid space plan conducive for teaching/learning – something that will age well and not need remodeling for a while.
- Install an overhead door at “Pit stop” to allow better access in/out. Currently enter and exit through a small hall that also houses electrical panels – not ideal.
- AV program (Swather Sports Network) is a great program and would like to have the opportunity to grow that program more and give them a bigger production space.
- Do not want “flex” space or desks, only better breakout areas for collaboration – would like to see the additional space to classrooms so teachers do not have to send students to other areas of the school to complete work (ex. Library).
- FACS room is not being utilized, but this may change.
- Do not have a FACS teacher currently and do not want to lose the program.
- Plan for a new FACS rooms with the culinary trade in mind for future program.
- Business teacher uses part of the existing kitchen now.
- Yearbook is only one class a day, this room does not get used much. English teacher also teaches yearbook and would be happy with adding space in one classroom to function for both curriculums.
- Not concerned about adding any shop classes – students go to Newton and the program works really well.
- FBLA course include: Business, engineering, health/medical, education and human service courses.
- The community uses the school(s) as much as they can. Commons, gymnasium, and auditorium get used regularly.
- The Rec. department takes care of the courts and fields – they do use the kitchen for classes or activities.
- Because there is a lot of community involvement, we can propose a community center to allow others in and use (can always remove from bond).????
- A whole new gymnasium would be a great addition (probably a pipe dream) but would really like to have two new locker rooms as it would be beneficial.
- Four new tennis courts would allow Hesston to host State meets
- Visiting lockers are not great and hard to enough space to fit players.
- Longevity and low maintenance are the most important,
- Simply, it would be nice to have space to grow into.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- “The school colors are RED” – Don’t forget that! BTW – Burgundy isn’t RED!
- Simple layout with two major hallways which is easy to navigate and like that about the school.
- Some classrooms have a sink and though it is not necessary, it is nice to have.

- It is always nice to have more space and storage, but the current classroom size is fairly reasonable.
- Like the entrance (updated in previous bond) and how it directs visitors through the main office before entering the school.
- Upgrade lighting to LED and add windows for more natural lighting.
- Gymnasium is centrally located which is nice; however, parents and visitors enter through the south entry.
- South entry to gymnasium is unattractive and not designed for a gathering space – does not meet ADA requirements.
- Bleachers are located across the gym from entry, individuals tend to gather before crossing which can get rather congested.
- Enjoy the 7th and 8th grade lockers located in the commons area as staff like to interact with students during passing period.
- Classrooms need to be updated – cabinets, carpets, lighting, ceiling, windows, etc.
- There is two interior classrooms and band room do not have windows/natural lighting.
- Would like to see more of a cohesive paint/finish scheme throughout the facility.
- 5th grade classrooms tend to leak with heavy rain fall.
- Portion of the ceiling in commons area has a history of leaking.
- While the band teacher does not mind being located under the stage, there is concern for the lack of expansion for larger classes, practice rooms, and storage.
- Hallways are not big enough to have lockers on both sides, it gets very tight.
- If looking at any future expansion, it would be nice to have additional classrooms.
- 6th grade does not have a “quiet space” for study sessions.
- Art room needs to be updated with more room and storage for student projects.
- More collaboration space other than the library as it is not always available for this use.
- The open classrooms near the bus barn are nice to have but it is a distance away.
- Having one common space per grade would be best for functionality.
- 6th grade lockers are set-up rather nice and has a nice open space.
- Playground is not great, could use updating.
- Would like to have the classroom technology more integrated with the room. (TV, electrical boxes, projectors, power cords, etc.)
- Blinds that are integrated with the windows are broken.
- Sound baffles in the commons space as it can get loud for the classrooms located off the commons and auditorium.
- Having an overall color scheme that is more of the black and grays, no trendy colors.
- Hesston is RED not burgundy!
- Additional parking at the front and provide a better drop-off zone for traffic flow.
- Adding a front entry cover would be good to get students, parents, teachers, visitors out of the elements.
- Do not like the tile in the commons space, it is hard to keep clean along with the restrooms – do not like the mosaic tile or color.
- Need either bigger or more restrooms as they are small (staff restrooms would be nice to have too).
- Girls' locker room showers (gang) do not work.

- Most classrooms have a tackboard (not easy to use) that they would like to see removed or fur over to integrate the tech system (TV, projector, etc.)
- Eliminate the black box column that houses the clock, phone, and intercom system.
- Library is dark and needs new furniture – the footprint is nice but needs updated and the flow of traffic through the library is not great.
- Do not have a volleyball net system in gymnasium – a new gym would be better to add these items.
- The sounds system in the gymnasium is not great and hard to hear anything (intercom and/or A/V system).
- Most of the performances are held at the high school but the stage in the gymnasium could be updated.
- Stage is unattractive and the curtain is in need a replacement.
- Need new bleachers in the gymnasium (high school is bad too)
- Outdoor learning spaces with covered areas is important.
- Prefer to have round tables for the commons area rather than the bench seating.
- New HVAC system is very important.
- New auditorium with new fine arts rooms would be nice to add.
- Two new classrooms to the south end and new restrooms.
- Storage is always an issue.
- Band room (storm shelter) is not ADA accessible.
- Would like to have more storm safe rooms if possible – band room is great to have, but something more convenient and closer for students to access.
- Add more drives to the back parking to allow for better exiting after sports or gatherings.
- Currently do not have a way to lock down certain hallways during after-hour activities or community use.
- Community uses the gymnasium and few of the classrooms for youth groups.
- Exterior does not have uniform color and/or the wrong paint colors.
- Class size is usually 65-70 which is about 20-25 students per classroom.
- Fine arts classes are limited to 25 students, but can be pushed to 30 max.
- Band is around a 35-45 student limit per classroom size.
- Need to add some office space for a few teachers that are having to share, currently.
- Special Needs classrooms – would be nice to have larger, more quiet spaces as they are located right off the gymnasium.
- Overall, would like to visually show more school pride (logo, colors, mission statement, etc.)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Computer labs have been moved to the commons area “pods”.
- Common areas are used regularly in addition to study areas – indoor recess, enrollment, community space (rec. department), group activities, waiting space before school starts, etc.
- Volume level can be an issue, cannot get too loud.
- Kindergarten does not have a pod, but it would be nice to have their own – they currently go to the 1st/2nd grade area.

- Kindergarten (upper) cabinets are not sized appropriately (not deep enough) and need to be replaced.
- Front office needs to be remodeled for safety and visibility.
- Front desk cannot see directly to front doors without a mirror system in addition to not being able to see through the glass block.
- Drainage issues north and south of the building as the downspouts tend leak and/or sheets off into the parking lot and playground, cause a dangerous and slippery walk during inclement weather.
- Playground is new (and really proud of it) but the drainage is bad.
- Walking path does not drain and would like to use as much as possible.
- Additional power outlets would be great school wide.
- Need more restrooms/stalls and sinks – plumbing needs be reviewed.
- There are enough fixtures in the restrooms; however, they are never all working at once.
- They would like to see more wash stations as it is difficult to get all students through the line.
- Improve on learning spaces, Kindergarten common spaces (Storm Shelter?) small group spaces, outdoor covered spaces. Etc.
- Current storm shelter is not accessible as the lift was never completed in last bond.
- No water or restrooms in the basement, does not meet shelter requirements.
- Do not currently have a Pre-K program and not necessarily a priority.
- Add a pedestrian crossing – across Amos Street. There is a system in place and both students and parents are aware of waiting for assistance to cross; however, it is still challenging and difficult to control without a dedicated attendant.
- New carpeting throughout the school.
- Ceiling tends to leak in certain areas (problem areas have been recorded).
- Expansion joint was not completed properly between existing and new classrooms causing an improper floor transition.
- District did investigate to fix expansion joint issues; costly and inconvenient to complete work while in session. Both slabs require new ties to level out joint.
- Existing structure used to be center portion with additions to both sides of the hall. Library shows most sign of leveling issues.
- Gymnasium is in good shape but starting to show signs of wear – could use attention if there is a chance to do so.
- Would like to bring the latchkey program out of the basement and host in a new Kindergarten pod which also have restroom access.
- If the new pod was built - it would serve as their commons, testing rooms, etc.
- Adding tech for the library space could be beneficial and possibly have a STEM program.
- Can we add another set of lighting controls on the opposite end of the media center?
- Outside of the computers in the pod areas, the lab is currently in a converted conference room – the space is limited.
- Outdoor (covered) learning spaces.
- Labs and research workstations for small group activities spaces is important.
- New clock, intercom, call system could use an update (district wide) – gymnasium sound system is an issue to hear announcements.

- Community and Recreational Department us the cafeteria, art room, and common areas.
- All exterior doors need to be evaluated as the latches do not work well which is a safety issue.
- East “pod” has become a secondary drop off space, a vestibule would be great to have with walk-off carpeting to brush off before entering school.
- Landscaping would need to be reworked and allow for an ADA accessible entrance – sidewalk is too steep.
- Along with an addition of a vestibule, have a canopy to help get out of the elements.
- 1st and 2nd grade drop-off at east entry and Kindergarten, 3rd, and 4th grade is dropped off at main entry. If a family has children in either group, all students are dropped off in the youngest child’s zone.

END OF MEETING NOTES