**Custodian Questions all schools April 23, 2019**

Participants

Karen Florence, daytime at MLS

Steve Wilson, MLS, used to be at high school

Note that I spoke to each of them individually

**What are the strengths? What makes it a good school?**

* Block foundation
* Good foundation to build on or repair
* No cracks in the foundation
* The structure of the building – this building holds up.
* Cinder block is so well made.

**What are the weaknesses of the Mills Lawn buildings? What doesn’t work?**

* Water leaks
* Window problems
* Small building
* No storage for anything
* Stage is really a storage area for village theater props that we have to move around
* Older windows are very drafty
* Some broken and it is hard to replace because of their age - no longer make windows like that
* No screens for windows – when we open the windows, we get bugs
* Doors are old metal doors and the thresholds have disintegrated. Big gaps under the doors. Snakes come in.
* Roof leaks a lot – lots of ceiling tiles have water spots and we have to change them out
* Hard to find the leaks because the water travels in the ceiling
* Modular – has been there for 20 years when it was planned for 5 years. The doors and windows are rotted. The whole modular is in bad shape.
* Plumbing is scary. All of the plumbing is underground. Have to trench to find the problem.
* Pipes have frozen – no insulation on them – have done repairs and caulking, not sure how long that will last.
* Bathrooms are not bad. We have heaters in the winter so warm in winter.
  + Have bad windows. Some bathrooms have screens in them. Not all
* Flooring seems to be OK – we change it out as it fits in budget. That is nice.
  + Have carpet squares in classrooms where you can take out and replace
* No insulation beyond the cinder block – if we just had double pane windows and no gaps, it would do a lot.
* It is an old building, that is key – down the oldest wing the rooms used to be scorching hot; in the last five years the rooms are now cold.
* YS has been notorious that the water system has been so bad, better now with the new water plant. But our pipes are chock full of lime – not getting the water to the boilers in the classrooms
* Windows are not only old and not efficient; they are old glass that is not safe if it breaks.
* Putty around the windows sis so old that when you wash the windows, it is like milk running down.
* Summer time- when running the buffer or scrubber machine – it knocks the breaker out. – electric is at capacity. Teachers using individual AC in the old classrooms which contributes.
* AC in the new section is pretty good. Gym on down is newer. Middle build no AC, newest build has AC
* Hallways are made of asbestos on the flooring tile. Getting old and brittle. If we put a wood veneer on top, it would help, make it safe.
  + Newer flooring you don’t have to strip and wax – this would pay for itself.
  + Today have to strip and wax. It also makes the floor slippery and kids can fall. Newer floors are not as slippery
* Carpets are holding up pretty good, but will eventually need to be replaced.
* Lighting pretty good, have a bulb replacement schedule. Have replaced some old bulbs with energy efficient bulbs
* Bathrooms – kids will be kids – esp. the kindergartner bathrooms – the kids pee all over the place
* Most of the sinks in the bathrooms are old, perhaps need to be remodeled some
* The newer bathrooms are worse than the old ones cause the kids pee on the registers
* Modular – that thing is old. Having problems with AC right now – not sure it will even work this year. Heating is OK
* Playground inspected by heath department twice a year and Craig will fix whatever is necessary. Have had a few items taken down for safety. Ex: big monkey bar set
* Doors are getting old – might have asbestos in some of the covering
* Kitchen area has not been updated. If not for the lime buildup, the steam table would not hold water. Wall and equipment are really outdated.
* Damage to pipes and plumbing over the years from the hard water is significant.

**What would you like to change in the buildings? What changes would make this a better school?**

* Replace all the doors and windows. This would be a big thing.
* Newer part of the fifth and sixth grade is pretty new and OK, the old wing is what needs to be replaced.
* Get screens for all windows.
* Build a new music area – real classrooms
  + Build new storage in this area
  + Meeting rooms – for PBL, for testing,
  + More useful space
  + Have girl scout meetings in classrooms today – wish we had meeting room.
* Hallways covered with new veneer
* Have central AC to replace the individual AC units
* Bathroom partially gutted and cleaned up better
* MUST replace windows – they are unsafe
* Some rooms a candle can be blown out when the window is blowing
* They are just so bad
* Do have animals – comes with the territory. Flies, potato bugs, little yellow bees, hornets, not so much bats. Snakes, skunks, raccoons and possums out back at night.