

Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District
Innovation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 30, 2018
Fair Haven Union High School
ARSU Conference Room
5:30 PM

Approved Minutes

Call to Order: Amy Munger called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Jason Rasco made a motion to approve the agenda, this was seconded by Josh Hardt and Linda Peltier.

Introductions: Superintendent: Brooke Olsen Farrell made introduction and the committee members introduced themselves; Peter Clarke, Consultant, Amy Munger, Gerry Volpe, Cheryl Scarzello, Linda Peltier, Bonnie Lenihan, (Minute Taker), Angela Charron, Peter Stone, Josh Hardt, Jason Rasco, Rick Wilson, Chris Cole and Casey O'Meara.

Committee Charge: Superintendent: Brooke identified the charge of this steering committee. A major focus is to develop and plan to expand opportunities for all students. It also would include being fiscally responsible in addressing the many years of deferred maintenance and to look at the design principles moving forward as we determine a unified middle school and what design structure we want for this and how do we want to address the needs of the high school and elementary schools. We need to consider existing buildings and how they might look moving forward. How are they to be addressed?
Consolidation of 7 & 8th graders within the district to save money for the taxpayers but also to increase opportunities for all students and bring equity for all.

Committee Organization/Leadership: Superintendent:
Peter Clarke handed out "The Work Ahead and the Timeline; he discussed the idea of design elements and gave examples of the scope of the work and identified what he meant by design principles (many ways to fix issues and gain efficiencies). Consolidation of 7 & 8th graders within the district would be one way to save money for the taxpayers.

Project Overview: Consultant

a. Exploratory Planning Process

- i. The Work Ahead; Peter noted that there are certain projects (deferred maintenance) at the high school that cannot wait for a bond vote or the completion of a design project that could last into 2020 or 2021. There is at least \$1,000,000.00 in deferred maintenance that needs to be addressed now or very soon. Chris Cole has begun addressing some of the more pressing items already. This work needs to be done to bring the building up to code.

Discussion ensued about how much money would be needed to achieve the outcomes and not push taxpayers over the edge. Minimally the bond vote being considered without huge impact to taxpayers is about \$30,000,000.00. Thirty million does not get as much as one might think, as many of the things needed to bring building to code would not be noticeable as many of the things needed are part of the infrastructure upgrades. There are several committees that need to be developed: A Middle/High School Committee, an Elementary School Committee and a 3rd Committee that will look at Emergency Efficiency, ADA Compliance, Building Committees. All of these committees will be working simultaneously and thoughtfully to develop design plans and lead to the request to put a bond vote out to taxpayers.

The goal would be to have one vote that encompasses the deferred maintenance and the scope of the work to consider a combined middle school. Once there is a combined Middle School the Elementary and High Schools are impacted, more space available, and teams will be needing to discuss what upgrades can be made to bring equity of resources and how do we want to design programs for future.

We would propose a bond vote in May of 2019. In order to accomplish the goals of this project and to be ready to move forward we would need to finish the design specifications by December 2018.

Important for this Steering Committee to Balance getting the project done with garnering public support; trust your instincts if you feel this is moving too fast.

Peter Clarke led the committee in a brainstorming of what the Scope and Project Goals might include?

1. Design a Middle School-6, 7 & 8, or just 7 & 8; consider Developmental Appropriateness and matching learning goals. Explore district options, existing buildings or adding to HS through significant renovations, building a new Middle School Program on site of an existing school.
2. Building Renovations that are needed not only at FHUHS but other buildings in the District if we are restructuring/moving to a combined Middle School.
3. Consider New Items that we don't currently have; i.e. an Auditorium at the high school, consider and ensure equity across all school core facilities. This doesn't mean every school requires an Auditorium, other needs would need to be prioritized.
4. Pre-K Program District Wide/ Creating Community potential collaboration with Castleton University or Others within our Community.
5. Community Use; How do we make our schools more community friendly?
6. Bring our schools into the 21st Century.
7. Find a way to maintain or grow our student population; make our schools highly sought after places to be and attend. We don't want our students transferring out for opportunities that we can provide. Hopefully the scope of the new work will attract more students to our district.
8. Plan for "attrition" of staff; many staff in district are coming of retirement age; incentives for such? Look at re-allocating resources. Staff should be prepared to discuss their endorsements, some hold multiple endorsements; consider making yourselves more marketable.

Design Principles to consider:

1. What will make us unique- Special Marketing.
2. We want "Healthy Schools".
3. We want a State of the Art School that attracts young people; we want a school system that makes our community proud at all levels.
4. We want schools that embrace our community values.
5. We want to be sure that our planned programs/renovations are well thought out and developmentally appropriate.
6. We want Schools that are Safe and Secure.
7. We want Schools that encourage Community Use (full service schools); if designed correctly we can have our schools available not only to students, could look like Evening Adult Classes, etc.
8. As we move students there will be new spaces identified; we need to consider design elements Pre K-Grade 12. We want our schools to be the Epicenter of our community, a school system where taxpayers are vested in our system.
9. Equity for all, Orwell has significant upgrades for their cafeteria and gymnasium.
10. Consider a Green Model - Energy Efficient.
11. We want to be a system that attracts and keeps quality Educators.

How do we want to communicate the scope of this work to the larger community?

We want to explain the following:

1. At a cost point that will be valued by the community.
2. We are creating operational efficiencies in terms of program delivery.
3. Redirect Existing Resources toward creating greater educational opportunities.
4. Discussion of Bond Vote - Balance out the Investment vs. the Life of the Bond. A bond vote allows us to share the burden over the years.
5. We want to sell the idea that this is a True Investment in the Communities future.
6. Be prepared to address parental concerns about ensuring programs that are developmentally appropriate, especially if it is the recommendation to move the Middle School to the FHUHS campus.
7. Renovations need to create a sense of autonomy, a sense of place. Kids need where they are. We consider a common shared spaces.
8. Economically it might make sense to consider the high school as the place to locate the District Combined Middle School, but direction on this will come from the committee and then a recommendation to the SVMUUSD Board.
9. Consider the fact that sometimes Renovations are more costly than building new.

Next a brainstorming idea of how we could potentially make this planning process more inclusive:

- Coffee Hours/Planning meetings with parents and other community members.
- Place surveys in local businesses; shows community we are interested in their input.
- Tours of schools to show existing needs.
- Important to rotate meetings of this committee to all communities within the SU.
- Email Surveys.
- Invite other Stakeholders.
- Present at Community Centers/Senior Citizen Centers, Legions, etc.
- Chamber of Commerce Invites.
- Look at Burlington's website as they are in the midst of planning for a \$70,000,000.00 budget.
- Media Messaging.
- Balance the needs of the school (sense of urgency but not panic), while also sharing all the great things about our school and the plans to make them model schools that students and staff want to be at.
- Building Principals' were encouraged to talk to their staff about these committees asking those that are interested to join in the scope of the work/planning.

ii. Current Materials Review; Per Peter speak with and Direct your architects to price out and consider quality materials; he gave the example there are schools in need of new roofs, you don't want to have to replace the roof in another 10 years. We should be considering quality materials that match the life of the bond or exceed it. Per Chris Cole we need to purchase quality materials, HVAC Systems, Roofs, etc.

iii. Subcommittee Structure/Function

- Middle School/High School Committee - scheduled to meet on November 8th at 3:45 in the FHUHS Library. This committee is being facilitated by Casey O'Meara Director of Curriculum and Assessment.
- Elementary School Committee -scheduled to meet November 14th at 3:45 at FHGS - this committee is being facilitated by Kris Benway, Director of Special Services.

b) Project Goals/Project Scope – Discussion Note: The committee will endeavor to create a draft set of project goals and project scope to be approved at our next meeting.

c) Design Principles – Preliminary Discussion Note: Focus Question: What educational, fiscal, environmental, developmental, community, aesthetic principles do you think should guide/shape this project's overall design?

d) Community Outreach: Strategies for creating an inclusive planning/design process – Discussion/Brainstorming.

e) Project Timeline – Preliminary Discussion

Community Input: No one in attendance.

Adjourn: Peter Stone made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 p.m., this was seconded by Linda Peltier.

Next Slate Valley Innovation Committee Mtg. – Nov. 6, 2018 – FHUHS ARSU Conf. Room- 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Lenihan