

BOARD NOTES
October 12, 2015

The special meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, October 12, 2015 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Phil King, and Dr. Paul White present. William Romstadt was absent.

Rich Shail, President, reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

There was a motion by Groves to adopt the agenda, seconded by Al Williamson and approved 4-0-1

DISCUSSION

Dr. White began his presentation for the Board he prepared for the Community Forums.

Dr. White asked the Board to think about a Q & A session following the forum.

Tonight is about looking at how to take NPUSC from the “Culture of Excellence” that has been built in the last 10 to 15 years and how to take it farther especially from the facilities standpoint and take it into the 21st century.

Dr. White would like instant feedback using text responses starting with the high school forum, however, cell phones do not always work at the high school. May experiment with a clicker system.

We are at a fantastic place as a system. State of Indiana ratings have been above average for a good number of years.

We recently earned an AP award for being in the top tiered schools in the state.

We offer fantastic learning opportunities for a rural district that are almost unmatched in the state.

Fantastic balance of very strong extra-curricular and co-curricular programs with many competing at state levels yearly.

Question is do we stay there and rest on that or do we move ahead and reinvest in ourselves so we can take ourselves farther.

NPUSC has invested in taking technology into the 21st Century. NPUSC has become a One to One district with fantastic learning opportunities for our students as well as incorporating technological Literacy at the K – 5 levels.

We provide very safe schools and learning environment. However, information will be provided to prove we can do better in that area.

The Corporation has grown. New Prairie has become an attractive, and most sought after place to learn.

How do we advance this “Culture of Excellence” and keep it going as well as continuing the growth.

Our facilities, in particular the High School, need updating to bring the corporation into the 21st Century learning environment to maximize the learning potential and “Culture of Excellence”.

Looking to improve safety protocols and entrances that are provided to students.
Updates to ensure the safest learning environment possible for students.

Definite updates needed for the high school:

Built in the late sixties, had some updates in the nineties, it is largely the same facility as the graduating class of 1972.

Elementary schools need to grow existing spaces to accommodate the growth we have experienced.

Opportunity to invest in fine arts, technology and extra and co-curricular capabilities.

An exhaustive facilities assessment has been done in the last 18 months with all facilities in the system. The assessment was presented to the Board last spring. The Technical Review Committee has been meeting extensively since the summer of 2014. The major findings will be presented.

Facility assessment experts have physically been through every facility and talked with all staff, as well as conducted extensive surveys.

Need number one is the renovation of the high school. Infrastructure needs cannot wait.

- High School infrastructure is outdated and not energy efficient.
- Leaking roofs (only ½ of west side was repaired) buckets in hallways. Problem cannot wait. As a result of the roof issues there are damaged ceilings, and stained carpets.
- Heating and Cooling outdated. Spending 100-150,000 a year on energy because of inefficiency.
- Safety Concerns: Not ADA compliant in some places particularly in the Auditorium. Location of Administrative Offices is a huge concern since acquiring the old Jr. High as part of the high school.
- Bathrooms need to be renovated.
- HS needs to be reconfigured to best support 21st Century learning and the many programs implemented.
- The visual presentation of High School Bus pick-up and drop-off shows the inadequacy of the bus and car congested flow. Buses are double stacked upon loading after school which should never be done for safety reasons.
- The High school plumbing system is too small for the water capacity that flows through it causing backup into the school and sink holes outside. Replacement and expansion is necessary.
- Heating system is from the 90's. The high school has one boiler that is not usable and the other has issues. We are highly inefficient. There is a highly efficient solution to heat our facility. Our old system requires parts that are no longer readily available.
- Water pipe concerns are the corrosion and rusting of old pipes.
- Original water softener is from 1968 and needs \$9,000 in repairs currently. Suggest replacement.

- Ceiling damage and carpet damage need extensive replacement throughout the facility.
- Masonry repair are needed.
- New corridor finishes in the hallway need refinished.
- Three sets of restrooms need to be remodeled to be ADA compliant.
- New lighting is necessary for high efficiency

Combined heating & Electrical savings if renovated is approximately \$100,000 annually. The elementary upgrades of the same should add up to \$50,000 annual savings. Al Williamson asked about the return on the investment. Kelley Kitchen state it is 10 – 12 years depending on what systems we go with and what we replace at one time.

Current Layout of HS major concerns and reconfiguration:

- From a safety stand point Administrative offices are located on the far west end of the building. If something were to happen on the east end of the building it would take an administrator over three minutes and 30 seconds walking .4 miles.
 - Reconfigure to centralize Administrative and Guidance offices to the middle of the building
 - New centralized corridor to efficiently connect east and west ends of the building
 - Create a “Hall of Excellence” upon entrance in the new centralized hall to the school to celebrate all school community achievement
 - Disjointed in terms of subjects and departments. Just moving classrooms is not the answer. Rooms need to be created specifically for the 21st Century programs. Core academics, Career Technology and College Readiness courses need to be in their own areas to allow for joint support.
 - Single way narrow hallways need to be two way not one.
- Cafeteria Expansion
 - Currently scheduled at the high school 4 lunches are scheduled to accommodate students beginning at 9:50 a.m.
 - Students are currently sitting in hallways eating because there is not space for them to eat in the cafeteria because it is of maximum capacity. This was built for a smaller student numbers. Again, we have experienced growth and will continue to grow.
- Library
 - It is original and in need of growth for the 21st Century learning needs.

It is suggested to connect the Cafeteria and Library as referred to as 21st Century Learning Commons. This would become the hub of the school. A kind of Barnes and Noble learning perspective. This design creates:

- Expanded open square footage to support growth
- Flexible seating
- Collaborative work areas
- Connectivity & access
- Technology to enhance the traditional
- Charging stations

Performing Arts/New Auditorium – Option 1
 Serious issues:

- Currently the seating is well under student body capacity. The Auditorium was built to accommodate 595 which at the time was more than enrollment. The building was designed for a smaller school situation at that time. We are now over 900 and growing.
- Parents must now be seated in the cafeteria to view programs on a screen because we cannot seat them in auditorium.
- Water damage to ceilings and floors.
- ADA concerns are that the stage is not Handicap Accessible. Students in wheelchairs are being lifted by other students to the stage.
- Ceilings are a serious concern in the auditorium.
- Stage damage repairs are also a necessity
- Performing Arts classrooms are built for 40 -50 students. The program has grown to over 80 students.
- Unusable Band Practice Room is used for storage which has ceilings in disrepair.

Option 1 is to build a new Auditorium with seating for up to 1,200 to accommodate our growth.

Remodel existing auditorium for Band and Choir Classrooms and offer new support spaces.

Performing Arts - Option 2

Option 2 is to renovate existing auditorium with marginal seating expansion – which still results in student space needed.

Dr. White asked about making his personal opinion known?

Rich Shail stated he does not know of any reason why he shouldn't.

Dr. White stated he lives in this district, has students in the schools. He has been in many schools and feels with the infrastructure in the state it is in he feels it is time to reinvest and give back to the students of the 21st century. The band and choir have been to state competitions for many years.

Natatorium Concerns:

The swim program is huge here at NPUSC. The new conference we are in has put us in competition with large schools that we cannot accommodate.

- The Pool is losing 18,000 gallons of water per day at the present time.
- Liner replacement is necessary.
- HVAC, Filtration and Envelope
- Spectator Seating
- Lighting
- Timing and Scoring
- Locker Room Renovation

Athletic Infrastructure Improvements

- Football team does not have locker room space. They meet in a shed. The visiting team do not have lockers at all.
- Concession Stand needs remodeling
- Bathrooms updated for handicap accessibility
- Bus parking for Baseball and softball fields

Rich Shail questioned paving the drive back to the football field.

Kelley Kitchen stated that it was one of the things that was not considered part of the renovations because of the high cost of paving the road.

New Prairie Middle School

Site Improvements needed for the middle school are:

- Improve lighting for greater energy efficiency
- Gym space is minimal for the greater interest in the arts in the middle school. A Gymitorium would create a multi-purpose Gymnasium and performing arts space. Build onto the back of the school.
- New Carpet replacement. Kelley Kitchen explained the outside elements that have helped create the deterioration of the carpet in the school. May discuss a hard surface in the hallways versus the carpet.

Elementary Schools

Our elementary schools are beautiful on the exterior. These schools are 20 years old. Circulation and student movement are a safety concern. Two of the three schools do not have a secure entry. There is not a stop gap from the office.

Olive

- Bottle neck as far a bus traffic. Propose moving the Bus drive to the backside of the school, moving the playground to another area thus separating the bus traffic from the general pickup/drop-off area of parents.
- Exterior lighting needed for added safety and efficiency
- Secure entry – move office area where someone entering must first enter the building through the office.
- Classroom expansions because of capacity needs. Rooms configured for 24 students. Most classroom are at 26 to 30. Improve long term capacity.
- Expand restrooms and locker rooms.
- Roof replace

Prairie View

- Bus Canopy needed
- Exterior lighting needed for added safety and efficiency
- Secure entry – move office area where someone entering must first enter the building through the office. Same need as Olive
- Roof replacement
- Replace boilers

Rolling Prairie

This building is older and needs some exterior updates and repairs.

- Sidewalk repairs
- Secure Entry needs reconfiguring
- Student Restroom additions are necessary – not enough of them. There are over 400 students at Rolling and 3 baths at this school at various sizes
- Reconstruct the Health Clinic
- Expand the cafeteria which was constructed for a small capacity.

Dr. White reviewed the comparison of building a new high school compared to the cost of the renovations listed above.

Total cost of a new high school is \$126,300,000

Dr. White reviewed in detail on his PowerPoint the costs for all renovations listed. The total for renovations using Option 1 for the Auditorium rebuild including the soft costs, Design builder budget and finance costs is 41,927,220. The Option 2 Auditorium remodel with all costs included is 35,563,340.

Rich Shail suggested the definition of Design Build be presented at the forums with the benefit of using this process versus any other.

The taxpayer per month impact is estimated high with the worst case scenario in mind. St. Joe County will be a few cents higher. The numbers are based on conservative estimates & conservative rates.

Carrie Cannon suggested having student senate or National Honor Society offer child care during the forums.

Dr. White stated he will take this his presentation on the road to inform as many people as he can.

Rich Shail suggested handouts on request. Post the presentation after the Forums have been completed.