

## Facilities Plan - Community Meeting Notes

Central High School - Monday, January 26, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### I. I can support the following points of the report

- A genuine effort for a long-term plan
- Advanced curriculum and technology for all students
- Building new schools
- Closing of some schools (reduction is needed to right-size the district)
- Community involvement
- Conscientious method was used to make recommendations
- Decisions need to be made NOW! Public made aware and stick to decisions made.
- Demolition of old, hazardous buildings
- Exploring alternative financial means beyond millage/taxes
- Focus on conformity/equity across all schools
- Grade configurations
- Greater handicap accessibility
- Improved maintenance of buildings
- Locate schools where elementary students live & neighborhoods are stable
- More security personnel at school buildings
- Need to stop the decrease of students
- Ninth grade utilizing a school within a school concept
- Organizational structure
- Other uses for closed buildings
- Reducing costs
- Refurbishing historical buildings (rather than tear down)
- Remaining schools will become "green" schools
- Renovate facilities (high quality, state-of-the-art)
- Sharing the safety of school buildings (hazardous areas)
- Special programs need permanent homes (they have greater potential for growth)
- Thoroughness of the report

### II. I disagree with the following points of the plan

- Academic report of schools
- Closing half of the school system
- Closing schools that offer programs based on proximity/accessibility to Cultural Center
- Commercial values should not outweigh other factors when closing buildings
- Concerned about proposed locations of high schools
- Effort in working toward keeping neighborhood schools
- Focus on standardized physical/curb appeal of buildings
- GenNET not appropriate at elementary school level
- Grade configurations: Pre-K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- Half "walking schools" and other half "bussing schools"
- Immediate and preventative maintenance program is needed
- Keeping old schools open
- Lack of attention to students/families wanting to attend schools not in own neighborhood
- Lack of attention/consideration of current Pre-K programs
- Lack of discussion on building new "high tech" schools (blue prints, etc.)
- Maximum middle school number is too high
- Maximum numbers for schools too high for efficient learning
- Middle school and high school students being combined

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### II. I disagree with the following points of the plan *(continued)*

- Moving and closing schools/programs that are highly successful
- Moving away from community school concept to centralized school concept
- No busing
- No definite plans for what will be done with closed buildings
- No input from employees on the selection of committee & union representatives
- No input from students in the process from the beginning
- No plan to embrace students to help them into their schools
- Not enough consideration of current/future academic success of students
- Not having an actual report from THA Architects to review
- Plan was designed based only on physical conditions
- Proper placement of 9th grade students (MS or HS)
- Proposed finances
- Proposed school closures (pg. 30)
- Reasonable commitment of time wasn't defined (process to educate & inform community)
- Report not made more accessible to community (not all have internet access)
- Role of alternative education/SOC site
- Short notice to respond to report
- Walking distance (1.25 miles)

### III. I need the following support information provided when the school consolidation plan is presented

- Basis for grade configurations (clarification needed)
- Budget information including audit and annual reports (lost?!)
- Concerns for students, especially elementary aged, walking in unsafe neighborhoods
- Develop plan to transition students without effecting learning (involve community)
- Develop plans to stop losing students
- Discussion of Brownfield creation
- Economic forecasts
- Explain why arts/vocational programs are cut first
- How far will students have to walk to their school
- Long range plan to maintain buildings (interior and exterior)
- More in-depth information
- More time to consider the plan
- Plans to address the special needs (mental, physical, etc.) of our students & families
- Promise for advanced academics & technology for students (state-of-the-art schools)
- Promise to rebuild or renovate Central High School
- Reliable transportation with accurate bussing information
- Research of other school districts' successes/failures with consolidation
- School safety - major consideration
- Share population figures within the City of Flint
- Specific criteria used for selection of school closings
- Staffing grids (student-to-teacher ratios)
- Student population projections (broken down by grade level for each school)
- What is the long-term / short-term vision for the Flint School system

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### III. I need the following support information provided when the school consolidation plan is presented (*continued*)

- What is the plan for students who are "too old" (over 18 yrs of age) for the high school
- What will happen to neighborhoods where schools are closed
- What will happen to the closed buildings
- When will committee meet with students to receive their input
- Where will programs and teachers go
- Will the district partner with community & college institutions for future growth

## Facilities Plan - Community Meeting Notes

Northern High School - Tuesday, January 27, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### I. I can support the following points of the report

- Agree with all parts of the plan because it is what is best for the kids - no disagreements
- Cost savings
- Equitable learning environment & quality education opportunities for all students
- Grade configurations: Pre-K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- Improving quality of transportation
- Need new, state-of-the-art schools
- Neighborhood schools concept
- Some buildings need to be closed (downsizing is necessary)

### II. I disagree with the following points of the plan

- By closing 14 schools with the goal of having one Pre-K in each school; what about the other federally funds programs such as Head Start? You will need to have 4 Head Starts in each building to accommodate the current enrollment (28 Head Start / 23 Pre-K)
- Closing schools in heavily populated areas
- Closings shouldn't be based on where students are bussed
- Concerns with the preparation of the school closings
- Distance students have to walk to school
- Elimination of Doyle Ryder gifted programs
- Gifted and talented programs need to be encouraged and supported throughout the district especially at the elementary schools -- not eliminated
- Grade configurations
- How will you accommodate students from closing schools
- Maintaining exterior and grounds of school properties
- Middle school students do not need to be with high school students
- Not enough time to review the report
- Number of schools to be closed -- NEED TO CLOSE MORE!
- Reliable student address information (since closures are based heavily on this information)
- The list of schools selected to be closed

### III. I need the following support information provided when the school consolidation plan is presented

- Board has to do what is right for the district and it's children regardless of the political ramifications
- Can parents transport their children to the school of their choice
- Can teachers transfer with their students
- Clarify pgs. 30 & 31 (don't seem to agree with each other -- see Dort / Pierce)
- Clarify the in-depth the reasons for closing buildings
- Commitment to true alternative school for elementary, middle and high
- Disposition of vacant buildings needs greater clarity
- Draft of comprehensive restructuring plan
- Ensure student population doesn't produce over crowding
- Evidence that elementary school location configurations are sufficient to support student population in Northwest area
- How many Head Start classrooms versus Pre-K classrooms will be in the buildings
- Need better public & human relations to get public on the district's side
- Need to address security in larger enrolled buildings

## Facilities Plan - Community Meeting Notes

Northern High School - Tuesday, January 27, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### III. I need the following support information provided when the school consolidation plan is presented (*continued*)

- Need to continue with a Citizens Committee to go through building process
- New map of the school district (showing school locations and names)
- Overall Strategic Plan for the district including the following:
  - a.) Staffing
  - b.) Administrative levels
  - c.) Academic goals
  - d.) Timeline (one move!)
  - e.) Cost/budget savings
  - f.) Plans for teacher contract
  - g.) Final announcement
- Plan for regular outside building inspections for proper maintenance
- Present a plan that will provide stability
- Present school boundaries to public early
- Present simplified fact sheet, side-by-side info with pro's & con's, of the new revamping of the schools
- Share ratings of the buildings provided by the architects with the public
- Source of research to support grade configuration rationale
- Timeline
- What are the long-range financial plans
- What is the plan to diminish the constant transitioning of students from school to school
- What portion of the budget is going toward reconfiguration
- Where is the Strategic Plan that goes with the Facilities Plan
- Will students in neighborhood schools be able to finish their education at the original elementary, middle or high school after the new configuration begins

## Facilities Plan - Community Meeting Notes

Southwestern Academy - Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### I. I can support the following points of the report

- Adjusting classrooms & building space in accordance with enrollment
- All buildings should comply with Disabilities Act
- Application only schools
- Build or leave schools where there is the most population
- Building schools in the neighborhood
- Closing the schools recommended including the closure of two high schools
- Community use of facilities for activities
- Continuous maintenance of buildings
- Disposition of closed buildings
- Equitable & equality across the district: appearance, lunchrooms, resources, technology, uniforms
- Funding with millage increase last resort
- Funds to maintain buildings (energy efficient)
- Giving us an opportunity to see different options
- Grade configuration: Pre-K-5, 6-8, 9-12 (with emphasis on 9th grade)
- Green buildings
- Have to do it now to make district viable
- Improved curb appeal
- Keeping elementary schools in the community where students live
- Limit school enrollment size to 400 students
- Need for new schools
- Neighborhood schools concept
- New construction and upgrades (given current condition of buildings)
- Reduction in the number of school buildings
- Renovations and additions
- Safe environments
- Sale of facilities
- Students stay in same school for 1 year even if they move
- Support for students transitioning to the next stage of education (5th to 6th; 8th to 9th)
- The research that has been done

### II. I disagree with the following points of the plan

- Addition plans: what to do if building additions are not possible
- Are we closing enough schools (room for growth or reduction)
- Building capacities being too large for all schools
- Closing buildings and building new
- Closing high schools: want greater stability
- Closing SWA as an application based school
- Closing with the hopes to sell; a flaw in plan if not sold (need plan for closed buildings)
- Don't want all the schools on the North end of Flint
- Funding: bond / millage
- Grade configurations for special needs children: Pre-K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- Inadequate attention to safety of environment for children (i.e., police reports, etc.)
- Keeping older buildings open because they are large facilities
- List of elementary school closures
- Need to close more than the recommended schools
- New builds

## Facilities Plan - Community Meeting Notes

Southwestern Academy - Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### II. I disagree with the following points of the plan *(continued)*

- New schools may not be a morale change with staff
- No proposal for repair and maintenance of the buildings
- Plan doesn't take into consideration of the Charter Schools in the area
- Reopening closed buildings in poor condition
- Report doesn't reflect class size ratio to student capacity
- Schools selected to stay open; all do not have bathrooms in their classrooms
- Schools selected to stay open; some are not in the safest environments
- Sixth graders are not ready for middle school (keep in elementary)
- Some neighborhoods seem to be outside the radius indicated by the circles on the map
- The closing of elementary schools on the East, South and West sides of Flint
- The timeline for closing schools is too long (just make a decision)
- Transportation: To dangerous for kids to walk 3-4 blocks to school

### III. I need the following support information provided when the school consolidation plan is presented

- Accountability of the Flint Board of Education
- Advance warning/prior knowledge of what schools are closing
- Are proposals/plans flexible to accommodate changes as needed
- Be more proactive vs. reactive (regular feedback to community by FBE & administration) to squash
- Consideration for all special needs students
- Define equalized value and how much money will come from equalized value?
- Did committee consider future population growth
- Did committee consider real estate values, etc.
- Five year plan for future: how to get students/families to come to the Flint Community Schools
- High school graduation rate
- How to change our image
- How to handle mobility rate, transportation costs
- How were buildings determined dangerous (define dangerous, list violations, etc.)
- How will we compete with charters?
- Incentives to maintain student population
- Is plan set in stone or will it be changed again?
- Itemized list of actual costs
- Long-range plans for teachers/staff so they will know where they will be in the next 4-6 years
- Long-range Strategic Plan
- Make decision before school ends and inform all parties
- Make decisions NOW and do it!
- Multiple Pre-K classrooms per building (teacher/student collaboration)
- Plan to update facilities assessments on bi-annual basis
- Plans for addressing safety issues (in buildings and neighborhoods): increase security
- Plans for handling transportation issues due to larger boundaries
- Plans for students that move: they should be allowed to stay at their current school
- Plans for updating teaching materials
- Plans of funding (surplus or deficit)
- Reassurance of child safety (while transported & in school)
- Specific repair/maintenance proposal

## Facilities Plan - Community Meeting Notes

Southwestern Academy - Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### III. I need the following support information provided when the school consolidation plan is presented (*continued*)

- Specific timeline of implementation (schedule of events)
- Specific types of bonds (financing)
- Specifics needed on funding for renovations, demolitions, new builds, etc.
- State why school was selected for closure; not overall method used
- Support from City Leaders
- Support services for teachers to control classroom behaviors (i.e. disruptive behaviors)
- What are the plans to motivate teachers/staff
- Where are Freeman School children going to attend school?

## Facilities Plan - Community Meeting Notes

Northwestern High School - Thursday, January 29, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### I. I can support the following points of the report

- All decisions should be made by consensus
- All facilities should be equitable (Pgs. 8, 9, 20)
- Alternative funds for construction other than millage/tax levy (Pg. 39)
- Building new facilities
- Central High School listed as worst facility--unsafe (Pg. 18)
- Closing schools is necessary
- Closing two high schools
- Demolition/selling vacant structures (Pg. 4)
- Disposition of closed buildings
- Each school should be upgraded to an efficient/beautiful facility for every child in the FCS (Pg. 16)
- Eliminating the perception of "problem" schools/neighborhoods
- Grade configuration recommendations: Pre-K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- Green buildings
- Having a nice facility for all students
- Improved technology
- Limit elementary school enrollment to less than 500 students
- Maintenance component needs to be improved
- Maintenance dept. having a better purchasing system
- Making all the schools safe and equitable
- Need to adjust classroom and building space in accordance with enrollment
- Neighborhood schools concept to reduce bussing costs
- Points to remember (Pg. 5)
- Special schools/programs (Pg. 23)
- The main priority will be on the welfare of the children & families (Pgs. 2, 16)
- Timely demolition of closed buildings

### II. I disagree with the following points of the plan

- Cannot support another "new" Cody School
- Cannot support another millage request; funds not allocated properly
- Education/facilities should be equitable across the district (i.e. I.B. program at all schools)
- Getting tenants for closed buildings should be low priority; get rid of them/demolish
- Grade configurations (Pg. 23)
- Historical significance
- I.B. program needs elementary component
- Ninth grade shouldn't be in high school configuration
- Not all secondary buildings having Fine Arts/Music programs: must be addressed (Pg. 20)
- Packet is too large to digest in short span of time
- Priority given to children and families (Pgs. 2, 3, 9, 16)
- Reconcile equity with application schools
- Sixth grade shouldn't be in middle school configuration
- Special schools/programs (Pg. 23)
- Student population size (middle 800-1,000 / high 1,500-2,000)
- Walking distance & transportation stops needs to be reviewed

## Facilities Plan - Community Meeting Notes

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### III. I need the following support information provided when the school consolidation plan is presented

- Plans for improved student safety (inside and outside building)
- Tie Facilities Plan with a Strategic Plan (plan for a minimum of 5 years)
- The public needs to hear a definite timeline
- Need all community leaders involved; especially City of Flint leadership
- Give the public all the details before finalizing recommendations
- Provide logic to the public for each school closed
- Administrative budget
- Use local labor for work
- Timeline for implementation
- Research that supports class size configurations
- Input for staff & students on facilities design
- Making sure each child has computer access
- What is a quality education? Please define.
- How will the education here be competitive in the world market
- Making it a requirement to utilize the library and its resources
- Plan needs to be communicated: use radio, notes home, internet, etc.
- Cost analysis
- Implementation timeline
- Plans to address current students mental health to transition appropriately
- Hear from the "youth" point of view (for motivation & pride in school system)
- Detailed comprehensive plan on entire consolidation plans