

Notes from Chippewa Falls' Facilities Planning Committee
November 17, 2015
Meeting Three

At its August 20, 2015 meeting, the school board of the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District moved to, "approve the master facilities plan and...[to create a]...committee." The purpose of the CFAUSD Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) was to review all information that has been developed for, and approved by, the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Board related to the current conditions of its facilities. The Committee was subsequently tasked by district administration to prepare a recommendation(s) for school board consideration that will ensure district facilities will continue to support 21st century learning.

The third meeting of the FPC was held on Tuesday, November 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Southview Elementary School. The agenda for the meeting was:

- Review the Planning Process
- Update CFAUSD Finances
- New Directions in Educational Design
- Survey Review
- Aspirations
- Next Steps/Meeting Calendar

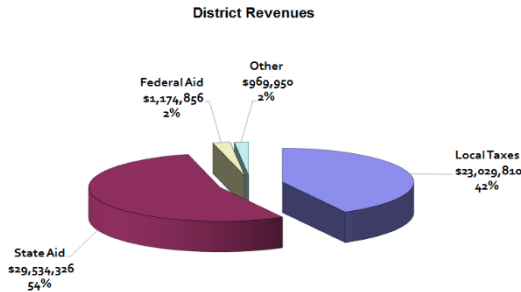
Update of CFAUSD Finances- FPC members were provided with information related to:

- How the district calculates and receives revenues; including revenue sources such as the state, federal and local governing entities as well as miscellaneous other sources
- How the district utilizes the revenues it receives (note graphic below)
- The history of district maintenance costs and
- Historical and projected levy rates for district taxpayers.

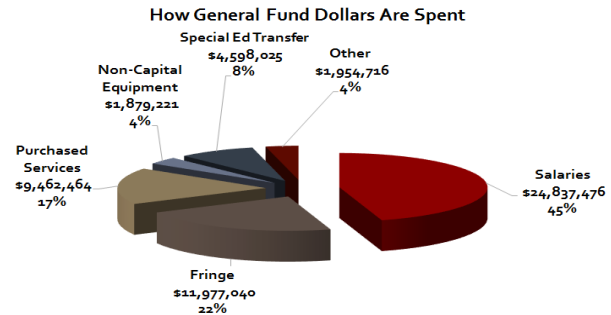
The presentation, made by District Business Manager Chad Trowbridge concluded by stating:

1. The district is currently debt free
2. The current debt capacity is up to \$256M
3. Based upon projected growth in property values, the tax levy mill rate is projected to decrease over the next five (5) years.

Sources of Revenue



Resources Are Spent



New Directions in Educational Design- Time was spent providing Committee members with the opportunity to learn how school designs have changed over the past few years; due largely to the many changes that are taking place in the teaching/learning process. Kara Rise, Educational Design Specialist from ATSR provided the FPC with an array of images that supported these changes. Images of spaces that support educational change included:

1. Spaces that are agile and flexible
 - a. Connections between spaces
 - b. Furniture that is mobile; easily reconfigured to support different learning activities
 - c. Technology enriched
 - d. Learning studios
2. Spaces that vary in size, shape and functionality
 - a. 'Cave' spaces for reflection and independent work
 - b. Small group learning areas with technology and furniture for collaboration
 - c. 'Campfires' for discussions
 - d. 'Mountaintops' for informal presentations
 - e. 'Watering Holes' for collaboration and 'group think'
 - f. 'Maker Spaces' for hands on learning and discovery
3. Schools that are 'learning tools'
 - a. Student display areas
 - b. Walls and floors that 'talk'

Survey Review- Following the 'New Directions' presentation, the FPC was provided with the results of the survey they had been asked to complete in the prior week. Twenty-two (22) members of the Committee responded to the survey. It was noted that several Committee members were inadvertently left off the mailing list and unable to respond. The results were summarized as follows:

1. About CFAUSD's Elementary Schools: When asked questions regarding the challenges facing the elementary schools, there appeared to be a general consensus that student safety is a concern (loading zone areas) and recognition that the overall air quality in the buildings does not meet acceptable standards. Those responding also appeared to be undecided related to whether or not all of the current elementary schools should continue to be used for instructional purposes. When asked what might be the most effective means to address a growing student population, constructing a new senior high school and realigning grades/schools appeared to be the solution viewed to be the most desired.
2. About CFAUSD's Secondary Schools: When asked questions regarding the challenges facing the middle school and senior high school, the general consensus appeared to be that both buildings are in need of significant improvements in air quality and overall learning environment. Neither building appears to have sufficient space to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities. The need for additional gymnasium space was almost universally acknowledged. When combining the perceived need to provide classroom space for hands-on instruction and the need for larger classrooms with more flexibility, the importance of changing classroom configurations was viewed to be significant.
3. About The Community's Understanding: When asked questions regarding the community's understanding of the needs of CFAUSD's facilities, those responding appeared to strongly believe that the community understands that the school facilities are in need of repair and betterment. Given the responses noted above, the community would likely acknowledge that poor air quality, the lack of natural lighting, the small nature of the school sites (elementary schools in particular) and safety in school parking lots are all areas that should be addressed by the district. On the other hand, there appears to be less certainty related to the community's understanding of changes that are taking place in the teaching/learning process and in the need for more space to support performing arts.

Aspirations- The Committee was next put to work to answer the following question: "...Knowing what you know now, what is the best pathway forward in addressing the District's facility needs and how can this best be communicated to the community..."? Below are the solutions that were proposed:

Consider: Combining Halmstad and Stillson and construct a new elementary school. Reconfigure our elementary schools into 4K-2. Address critical 'problems' at each elementary school. Create intermediate school(s). Move Hillcrest off of High School block and expand the senior high school. Construct a new middle school.

Consider: Constructing a new senior high school. Convert the high school into a grade 6-8 middle school. Convert the middle school into a grade 4-5 intermediate school. Address ‘problems’ in the elementary schools.

Consider: Constructing a new senior high school that provides space for the ALC program. Convert the high school into a grade 6-8 middle school. Convert the middle school into a grade 4-5 intermediate school. Address ‘problems’ in the elementary schools. Move the District office and district services (Korger-Chestnut and Pupil Service Center) into the reconfigured high school (new 6-8 middle school). Expand Hillcrest into vacated District Office.

Consider: Reconfiguring elementary schools into K-2, or K-4 and modify each building to properly accommodate age and instructional methods. Construct a new middle school or senior high school that most efficiently and effectively accommodates the changes in elementary school grade levels. (i.e. middle school may become a 5-8 program)

Consider: Address all of the ‘problems’ (both infrastructure and educational) in all of the elementary schools. ‘Gut’ the middle school and repurpose use of auditorium, pool and gym. Construct a new high school on a new school site.

Consider for community engagement:

- Provide multiple opportunities for the community to listen, learn and gain an understanding about the needs of our schools.
- Provide multiple opportunities for the community to listen, learn and gain an understanding about how instruction has changed in our schools.
- Build community capacity through education.
- Provide cost estimates associated with proposals including alternatives.
- Show what the research says and what outcomes of 21st century learning spaces are.
- Create a message and present it to many groups: overcrowding, diverse learner needs, 4 C’s.
- Provide a variety of community opportunities to learn about our schools

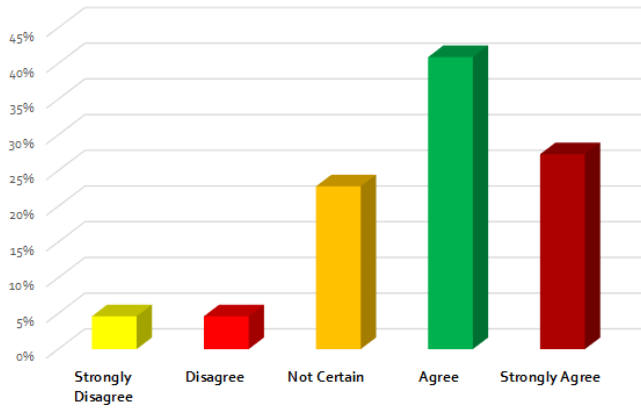
Consider Aspirations:

1. Creating space for movement, outdoor learning etc. that allow for healthier lifestyles and greater learning opportunities for students with different abilities and learning styles.
2. Have multi-use facilities with alternative school schedules.

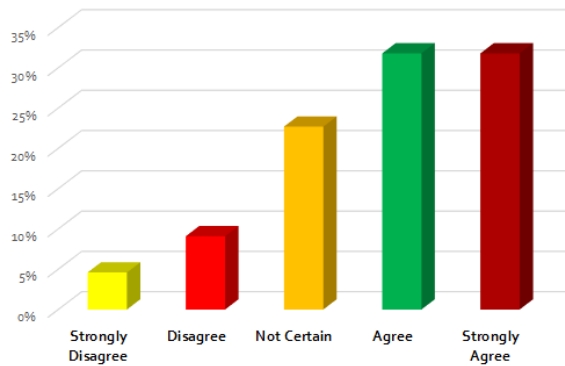
Facilitator’s Note: The responses to the questions in the survey were reviewed using graphic displays and shared with the FPC. Two survey questions were left out of the presentation. Those questions related to the continued use of the Korger-Chestnut and Pupil Service Center. Those responding to these questions fairly strongly suggested that both buildings had limited

value and consideration should be given to discontinuing their use. Below are the graphs illustrating those responses.

Korger-Chestnut is no Longer Viable



Pupil Service Center is No Longer Viable



Next Steps/Meeting Calendar- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday November, 30th beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Chippewa Falls Middle School Cafeteria. The Committee will review the aspirational options for the District’s pathway forward and begin the process of collaboration leading to a set of recommendations to the CFAUSD’s board.