

**Notes from Chippewa Falls' Facilities Planning Committee
December 14, 2015
Meeting Five**

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.

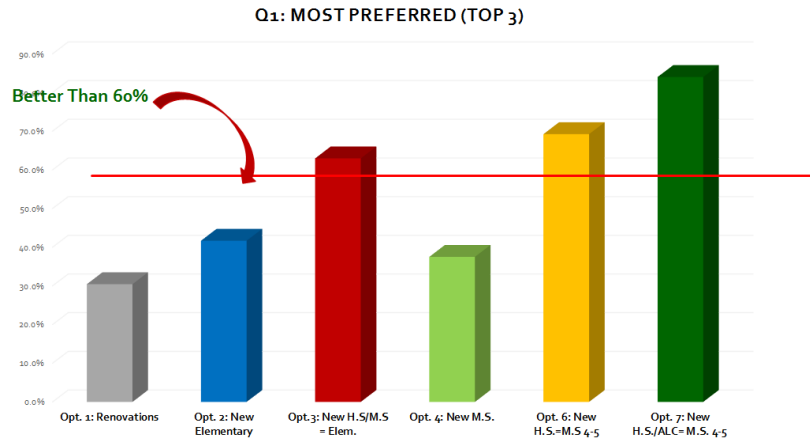
The fifth meeting of the FPC was held on Monday, December 14th beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Hillcrest Elementary School. The agenda for the meeting was:

1. Review Survey Results
2. Analyze Top Three Options
3. Select a Final Recommendation
4. Develop a List of Board 'Next Steps'

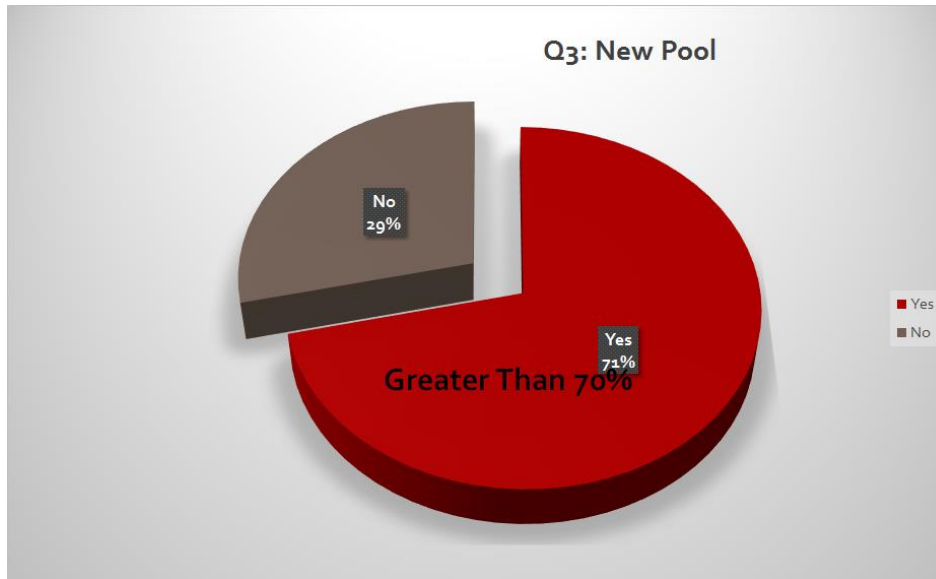
Review the Survey Results- The Planning Committee was provided with a summary of the responses to the survey given to help determine the planning priorities leading to the development of a final recommendation to the Board. Those results included 'narrowing' down options for the Committee to give further consideration. The graph below suggests that of the remaining six options, the preferred options were to:

1. **Option 3:** Construct a new senior high school, repurpose the current senior high school for grades 6-8 and repurpose the current middle school into an elementary school. This option would create sufficient space to close and/or repurpose two (2) elementary schools. (Hillcrest and Stillson were suggested.) District office and district service center would re-located into the reconfigured middle school.
2. **Option 6:** Construct a new senior high school, repurpose the current senior high school for grades 6-8 and repurpose the current middle school into an intermediate school for grades 4 and 5. This option would create sufficient space to close and/or repurpose two (2) elementary schools. (Hillcrest and were Stillson suggested.) District office and district service center would re-located into the reconfigured middle school. The ALC would remain in its current location.
3. **Option 7:** Construct a new senior high school, repurpose the current senior high school for grades 6-8 and repurpose the current middle school into an intermediate school for grades 4 and 5. This option would create sufficient space to close and/or repurpose two (2) elementary schools. (Hillcrest and were Stillson suggested.) District office and district service center would re-located into the reconfigured middle school. The ALC

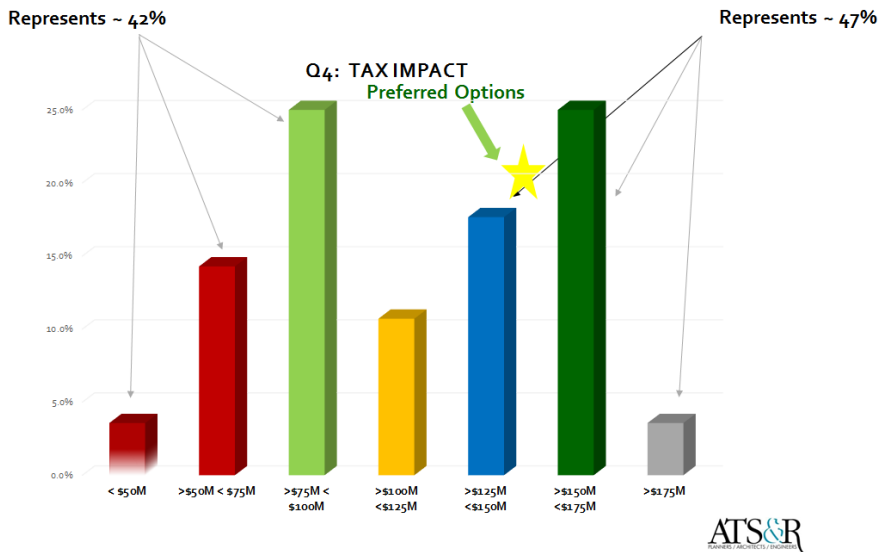
would re-locate into the new senior high school and operate as a 'school within a school.'



The survey also asked respondents their thoughts regarding the need for an additional competition level pool. The graph below indicates a very strong agreement that should a new high school be constructed; a new pool should be a part of the plan.



When considering the tax impact on the community, Committee members were evenly divided as shown in the graph below.



Analyze Top Three Options: After reviewing all of the information related to the survey responses, the FPC members were divided into three (3) groups; each group was assigned an option to give further consideration. A process of force-field analysis was used to help Committee members further evaluate each option. Below are the results of the FPC team analysis.

Option 3: The questions: How do we get from where we are to where we want to be? What are our driving factors that will move us forward? What are the blockers that will hold us back?

| Forces Driving the Initiative Forward | Forces Serving as 'Blockers' to Forward Progress |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Alleviates overcrowding ➤ Increases safety ➤ Improves learning spaces ➤ Plan 'Pays Forward' for future generations ➤ A new high school benefits every student ➤ Facilities create opportunities for expanded community use ➤ Keeps the middle school on West Hill ➤ Less driving/parking congestion ➤ Costs for facility construction aren't | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The plan will require redistricting ➤ The tax impact ➤ Not all elementary students would have access to the pool ➤ The repurposing of the middle school into an elementary school would result in a large elementary school (?) |

- getting any cheaper
- The District is currently debt free
- We only ask when we need it
- Our need is facilities not operations (i.e. Eau Claire)
- This is an opportunity for community involvement (donations)
- This is a long-term solution
- The interest rates are low right now
- These facilities would match the capabilities of our great teachers
- ‘Support Growth’ is a pillar in our strategic plan
- We will be better able to keep our students here
- Growing our schools from both directions (elementary and secondary)
- We will have space for programs that we like

Note: The FPC subcommittee responsible for developing this analysis stated that many of the positive forces identified would apply to all three (3) options.

Option 6: The questions: How do we get from where we are to where we want to be? What are our driving factors that will move us forward? What are the blockers that will hold us back?

| Forces Driving the Initiative Forward | Forces Serving as ‘Blockers’ to Forward Progress |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Everyone gets something ➤ Create a 21st century learning environment in the high school ➤ There is a momentum in the community ➤ Alleviate parking and congestion space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There will be a need to convince homes without children of the benefits ➤ Redistricting and closing of schools ➤ Potential transportation challenges ➤ There is no ALC in this plan |

Option 7: The questions: How do we get from where we are to where we want to be? What are our driving factors that will move us forward? What are the blockers that will hold us back?

| Forces Driving the Initiative Forward | Forces Serving as 'Blockers' to Forward Progress |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The ALC is a part of the new senior high school ➤ The best option for now and into the future ➤ Creating an intermediate school is the most efficient use of school facilities ➤ This plan effects the most students ➤ A better educational environment ➤ Provides for excess capacity ➤ Eliminating Stillson and Hillcrest eliminates 2 of our worst safety concerns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tax Impact ➤ There will be significant redistricting ➤ There will be an additional transition for students |

Select a Final Recommendation: Following the analysis of the three options and further Committee discussion, Committee members were provided with two (2) 'votes'; one worth 3 points and the other worth 1. FPC members were told they could use their votes on a single option, or could indicate a preference for two (2) options. The final tally of the Committee members suggested an overwhelming preference for Option 7. Option 7 received eighty-one (81) points. Option 3 received twenty-three (23) points and option 6 received five (5) points.

The Facility Planning Committee Recommends to the Board, after giving careful consideration to the current conditions of our school buildings, recognizing that changes are taking place in how our children learn and understanding that the Board has the ultimate responsibility to ensure our schools are properly maintained and adequately support the learning experiences of our children, **that the Board give consideration to the:**

"... i) construction of a new senior high school, ii) reconfiguration of the current high school to accommodate a middle school program, iii) conversion of the middle school into an intermediate school for grades 4 and 5 with the relocation of District services into this facility, iv) upgrading of elementary schools to address immediate and long-term facility needs that ensures their longevity and v) closure and/or repurposing of two (2) elementary schools to maintain District's operating efficiency..."

Develop a List of Board 'Next Steps': The Facility Planning Committee, throughout their five (5) meetings, recognized the very complex and difficult challenge facing the School Board in moving forward with any project that would require community involvement leading to a levy referendum. The final task of the Committee was to provide the Board with their best

collective thoughts on steps it might take in addressing needed changes in school facilities. Below is a set of suggestions the Board might want to consider as it moves forward.

The Board should:

- Participate in a thorough review of all that has been done
- Give support to the Committee's recommendation
- Communicate the entire process and plan to the public using a variety of means:
 - ✓ Listening sessions so the community can learn what is being proposed and get additional feedback from the community
 - ✓ Make presentations to community service groups
 - ✓ Invite the community into schools to observe during the school day
 - ✓ Create videos of the current situation in our schools and on the school grounds (safety issues)
 - ✓ Create and disseminate information brochures
- Develop an understanding within the community of:
 - ✓ How children learn today (21st Century Education)
 - ✓ The financial impact of delaying (pay it now or pay more later)
 - ✓ Tax impact of the community
 - ✓ The benefits for the entire community (including those households with no children)
- Give consideration to:
 - ✓ Staggering the debt issuance
 - ✓ Providing the community with a multi-question ballot
 - ✓ Consider multiple referendums staggered over time