



Facilities Task Force Meeting
Sept. 26, 2023

Welcome

Task force members in attendance were Chantell Bertollini, Alec Covert, Erin Schweigert, Karl Noste, Michelle Simmons, Paul Kratzig, Tyler Dockins, Robert Kratzig, Todd Torgeson, Derek Forbes, Lisa Gilchrist, Bryant Michaelson, Adrienne Somera, Joe O'Brien, Jay Yeager, Kurt Harvill, James Everett and Angie Hoyt.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance read over the minutes from the Aug. 22 and Sept. 13 meeting. No questions were asked about the minutes, and they were approved.

Group Norms

Jay Yeager reviewed the group norms.

1. Attend all meetings and be on time.
2. Listen to and show respect for the views of other members.
3. All questions are welcome.
4. Be an attentive listener and hold each other accountable.
5. Carry out assignments on schedule.
6. Extend grace and assume positive intent.
7. Always strive for win-win situation.
8. Every member is responsible for the team's progress/success.

Review Upcoming Meetings

Oct. 24 Review at 5:30 p.m.

- Review feedback gathered from the community and finalize a recommendation for the School Board.

Our Process

Lisa Gilchrist shared an overview of the remaining steps in the Facilities Task Force process. The task force will be asked in the meeting tonight to review the recommended projects and draft a recommendation to send out to the community for feedback before our next task force meeting on Oct. 24.

Review Recommended Projects

New transportation and maintenance facility - \$6.2 million

Jay spoke about the safety concerns that are present currently with buses driving through the student parking lot and he shared that there is no room for expansion without moving the facility which would also create more parking at MHS.

MHS stadium work - \$7.01 million

Bryant Michaelson spoke about the recommended projects to replace existing lighting and poles that were installed in 1987 that have a life expectancy of 27-33 years and the needed stadium

structure repairs. Bryant shared that improving the stadium would address safety concerns and improve the experience for community members of all ages who gather for events in our stadium. Bryant also spoke about the recommendation to install four new tennis courts and a synthetic turf field. Turf would allow us to use our fields year-round and reduce the field maintenance costs.

MHS performing arts center - \$2.03 million

Jay spoke about the MHS Performing Arts Center new roof and masonry repair needs. Jay shared that the roof is leaking, and the masonry mortar is crumbling in between the bricks.

New generator for MHS - \$370,000

Jay shared that this would be a generator for the main, CTE and gyms spaces at MHS to protect the buildings from freezing during inclement weather or power outages.

Additional projects identified in the study and survey

Jay shared that the district has addressed or will be addressing as part of other ongoing projects the MHS septic replacement, north gym HVAC replacement and roof repair, MP3 heating issues, and demo the District Office.

Questions:

A task force member asked if improvements are made to the MHS stadium and fields if this would offset any costs of the middle school rebuild. Jay said there will still be a need to have fields at the middle school for practice and PE activities.

A task force member asked if the tennis courts could be added at the middle school instead of MHS. The site location of the courts would later be determined.

Questions from previous tours:

A question raised after the Lynden tour was: Would it be possible to build MMS as a 5-8 grade school to alleviate crowding at IRE?

Yes, it would add approximately 160 students to MMS and increase the rebuild cost by at least \$2 million dollars and that cost estimate does not include the cost of any playground equipment, or additional restroom and collaboration spaces. Robert Kratzig spoke about the potential cross-curricular experiences this would create for both our fifth and sixth grade students. Tyler Dockins spoke about how decreasing IRE by 160 students would allow IRE to reduce the number of external buildings. Tyler also shared his prior experience working in a fifth through eighth grade school setting.

Are there systems designed for making portable buildings safer for students in a lockdown situation or newer portables that are designed better for the safety of the students in a lockdown situation?

Tyler shared that the best resource to reduce lockdown safety is eliminating entry points and each portable adds an additional entry point.

Prioritize Projects

Task force members were split into four table groups. Each table group was asked to prioritize projects with a total amount not to exceed \$83,356,924, which is 80 percent of our current bond capacity. Members were asked to include an explanation of why they chose projects as their top priority.

Recommendation:

1. Every table chose new construction of Meridian Middle School with a fifth through eighth grade model as the top priority. All task force members were in favor of supporting this project, with one question about when a new fifth through eighth grade model will take effect and what do we do with students in the meantime? A new fifth through eighth grade model would not take effect until a new middle school is built. We will use portables to continue to meet the needs at IRE.
2. MHS Generator. All task force members were in favor of support.
3. MHS Stadium lighting. All task force members were in favor of support.
4. MHS Stadium Repairs. All task force members were in favor of support.
5. Performing Arts Center Repairs. All task force members were in favor of support.

We will ask the community for feedback on adding tennis courts and upgrading the field at Meridian High School to a synthetic turf field.

A task force member asked if the tennis courts could be proposed as multi use pickle ball/tennis courts. Paul Kratzig shared that we would only suggest adding temporary lines because other lines would prevent us from hosting games on our courts.

Next meeting is at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 24.