



Facilities Task Force Community Presentation Summary Oct. 17, 2023

Welcome

Todd Torgeson welcomed everyone in attendance. Todd shared with those in attendance that Dr. Everett is in Washington, D.C. advocating for funding for our skills center and is not present at the meeting.

Presentation

Task force member Director of Public Relations Lisa Gilchrist reviewed the process the Facilities Task Force has completed up to this point.

Lisa invited task force member and parent Michelle Simmons to speak about the task force team's process. Michelle shared that the task force reviewed the study and survey developed by King Architecture. She said the company is local and well versed in local projects. She shared that the task force received bond funding information from Cory Plager with DA Davidson. She spoke about the facility tours the task force completed as part of their meetings. Michelle introduced the draft recommendation that was developed by the task force through the process.

Task force member and parent Chantell Bertollini spoke about the MHS stadium and lighting recommendations, and the safety concerns that need to be addressed. Chantell also shared why the task force recommends moving the band and choir room into the Performing Arts Center and the reasoning behind the recommendation to purchase a generator for MHS.

Task force member Director of Athletics Bryant Michaelson spoke about some additional projects that the task force would like community feedback on. Bryant read a note from task force and community member Paul Kratzig about adding four tennis courts. Bryant also shared information about potentially adding synthetic field at MHS.

Community members in attendance watched the [Facilities Task Force Recommendation - Building a New Middle School video.](#)

Task force member Meridian Middle School Principal Todd Torgeson spoke about the recommendation to build a new MMS and shared the advantages to rebuilding as well as the cost difference between rebuilding and renovating. Todd spoke about the space limitations and safety concerns with the current MMS campus.

Task force member Meridian Middle School Assistant Principal Robert Kratzig spoke about the space limitations at IRE, the projected enrollment, and the need to increase capacity. Robert shared that our bond capacity does not allow us to build another elementary school and a new middle school at the same time. Robert shared that during the task force discussions, the idea of building a new middle school as a fifth through eighth grade school developed as a potential solution to help alleviate the IRE and MMS capacity concerns.

Task force member Assistant Superintendent Kurt Harvill spoke about the overall draft recommendation and shared additional insight about each recommendation and the advantages for each. Kurt also shared details about the financial impact, and a brief overview of school bonds.

Task force member Director of Maintenance and Operations Jay Yeager spoke about the next steps and shared resources that are available for people to find additional details and/or ask questions.

Questions

The task force members answered questions from community members. The questions asked by community members will be added to the Facilities FAQ webpage (www.meridian.wednet.edu/facilities-faq/).

The following questions were asked:

- How many other schools have synthetic turf?
- Could the tennis courts be at MMS?
- Would the handling of the fifth graders moving to the middle school be determined before the bond is presented?
- What is the source of the projection data that is being used? And what is the projection year we would build to?
- Are there any additional details that can be shared about \$10.2 million in eligible state match SCAP funding?
- Why weren't the Performing Arts Center repairs addressed when MHS was built?
- If we knew repairs were needed in the Performing Arts Center and stadium at MHS, why didn't we start putting money away?
- Where does the money from sports admission fees go? Can these fees be used to contribute to facility needs?
- Are MP3 students included in the estimated 25% transfer students? What percentage of Meridian students transfer out of our district?
- When getting estimates and talking through the process was anyone other than DA Davidson and King Architecture consulted?
- Has there been a bond measure to replace MMS before or is this going to voters for the first time?
- Does the MMS rebuild cost include the cost of furniture, desk, chairs, etc.? FFE is furniture, fixtures, and equipment?
- If the escalation cost is estimated until 2027 and the enrollment projection estimate is to 2028, if we build in 2027, we would be building to capacity?
- What is the plan if this gets voted down? Can we rerun it?

Closing comments

The [community feedback survey](#) closes 8 am on Monday, Oct. 23. Task force members urged the community members present to encourage people to submit their feedback through the survey.

