

Communication Committee
Meeting Minutes June 29, 2016

Present: Julie Booty, Chair, Brad Smith, Donna Brunette, Holly Kopp

Project Update: Concept Design Details Take Shape in MTA High School Project

There is an important forum on **August 3, 2016 at the MTA Learning Commons at 6:30 pm**. The forum is an opportunity to share your thoughts with the Building Committee about the concept design and “unfunded project costs suggestions.” Click here (CAN WE LINK THE DOCUMENT HERE?) for a list of “unfunded project cost suggestions.” Major areas identified as “potential unfunded costs” include athletics, academic classrooms, and a high performance building. All costs are preliminary and not final. None of the numbers of the building project features have been approved. At present the list is simply a collection of all the “ask for” items.

On July 27 (MEETING TIME AND PLACE HERE – I COULDN’T FIND IT), prior to the August 3rd Forum, the Building Committee will meet to consider priorities for the unfunded portions of the project. The Building Committee will determine which costs are best suited for fundraising and which costs may be funded by local tax dollars. Please attend the August 3rd Forum to express your opinion. Your feedback is requested as these decision will need to be made prior to referendum.

The Athletics and PE Sub Committee stressed that all costs associated with their suggestions are planned for fundraising with exception of the additional gym space. Costs around the “high performance building” concept will have some cost savings. At the Building Committee’s June 28, 2016 meeting highlighted was the importance of understanding what the impact is on the community for any items considered to be a local cost for taxpayers.

Questions by the public at the June 28, 2016 Building Committee included (1) number of parking spaces needed for students and for large community events and how many parking spaces are paid for by the state, (2) the impact on athletics, in particular track and field, when the high school project begins, as well as questions surrounding transportation to potential other off-site venues for athletic practices and matches and (3) questions about the shared classroom model. MTA Staff have expressed a strong desire for classroom space for each teacher.

Comments from members of the Building Committee and the administration indicate that MSAD #75 is committed to continuing to provide late bus services regardless of athletic venue location for practices. Administration appreciates the questions brought by the community and is actively seeking information to answer those questions. Sub Committees of the Building Committee will also be working on the details to answers to these questions and more.

Of great interest at the Building Committee meeting was concept design 10.1 and 10.2 where details of the building are described. Conversation surrounded shared classrooms, location of science classrooms in close proximity to one another, the location of art classrooms with access to outside, with lighting consideration, and with the ability to work collaboratively while also being able to separate and maintain instructional focus.

Consideration around the location of the learning commons and the forum were topics of conversation. It was suggested the forum be located near classrooms rather than near the gym. Centrally locating public spaces (such as the gym, dining commons, and the forum) is a priority. Locating the learning commons central to instructional spaces and classrooms as well as to the pond is seen as important. Locating guidance near the nursing services is a priority.

PDT Architects met with teachers this spring but are still in need of gathering feedback from support staff including custodial staff, kitchen staff, and transportation staff as the concept design takes shape.

Next Meeting of the Communication Committee: July 28, 2016, 9 am at District Office and August 16, 2016 at 3 pm at District Office