



AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**FIRESTONE/LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
Firestone Community Kick-Off Meeting**

February 24, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m. – Firestone Cafeteria

In Attendance

D. James..... APS
P. Flesher APS
G. Taylor..... APS
M. Moore..... City of Akron
L. Petry..... Firestone Principal
M. Salopek..... GPD
J. Peterson GPD
Staff and Community (see attached Sign-In Sheet)

Distribution

D. James..... APS
P. Flesher APS
G. Taylor..... APS
K. Balchak..... APS
M. Freeman..... APS
L. Petry..... Firestone Principal
M. Marquess-Kearns..... Litchfield Principal
M. Moore..... City of Akron
L. Duncan City of Akron
B. Gantz..... RPJ
M. Salopek..... GPD
J. Peterson GPD

The following is a brief review of items discussed at the meeting.

- D. James, P. Flesher, M. Salopek and J. Peterson presented a PowerPoint slide show to introduce the staff and community to the design process.
- D. James reviewed the program agenda, goals and ground rules for the planning process for the new Firestone/Litchfield Community Learning Center.



- M. Moore reviewed the program summary and funding for the new Community Learning Center, including: Community Learning Center concept and community use spaces.
- P. Flesher reviewed potential partnerships, project status of projects completed and in construction.
- M. Salopek reviewed:
 - Typical Program of Requirements (POR).
 - Equity of spaces throughout the District.
 - East/Goodyear Community Learning Center project.
 - Project was primarily a renovation and several spaces had to remain as current and organization was more limited.
 - Buchtel/Perkins Community Learning Center project.
 - Noted site constraints due to self-swing and retaining of existing football field.
 - Noted that both projects have separate entrances for high/middle students and goals for separation of students.
 - Some areas are shared, such as: Student Dining and some Media Center and PE spaces.
 - Will review for appropriateness of shared spaces for this project.
 - Findley Community Learning Center noted as a project where certain elements of the original building were salvaged and incorporated into the new facility.
 - Reviewed the Program of Requirements (POR) planning process. Noted it is critical to have a core team assembled to attend Roll-Up Sleeves (RUS) meetings to offer specific information to assist the design team during the planning process.
 - The POR process will define the rooms and spaces and their relative size. These components will be incorporated into a graphic diagram and will be used to develop conceptual floor plans.
 - The POR Excel spreadsheet document will be the first submission to the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC).
- J. Peterson reviewed:
 - The design capacity, building size and swing options.
 - 640 middle school students.



- 1,300 high school students.
 - 100 career technical students.
 - Approximately 360,000 square feet.
 - Project includes approximately 91,000 sq. ft. of Locally Funded Initiative (LFI) for renovating the Natatorium and Activities Center, as well as a new Auditorium. The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) will co-fund approximately 268,000 sq. ft. of space based on enrollment. All additional sq. ft. is 100% paid for by the District (LFI).
 - Litchfield students will swing into Perkins in fall of 2012, when the existing Litchfield will be demolished. Goal is to build entire facility at once, then demolish the existing Firestone; however, Litchfield could be developed later, as determined through the planning process.
 - The design enrollment is based on enrollment projections for the 2014-15 school year. Should actual enrollment be experienced, facility has capacity for more students as well as ability for additions.
- The Ohio School Design Manual (OSDM) published by The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) defines project requirements to be incorporated into the facility.
 - APS has also developed certain standards to provide equity throughout the District.
 - Project-specific program needs with need to be identified for consideration.
 - Reviewed technology incorporated, including: telephone/projectors/screens/teacher's cabinet in all classrooms, sound reinforcement, data ports and full wireless coverage.
 - Reviewed site standards. Goals are to provide dedicated drop-off areas for Litchfield and Firestone, as well as better organized and efficient parking. Safety is the primary goal.
 - Noted adequate parking is requested for special events to minimize impact on neighborhood streets.
 - Reviewed other rooms and spaces including Science Labs, Music and Art, Media Center, Physical Education and Student Dining.
 - Building will address project-specific needs.
 - Building will be fully handicap accessible.
- Staff Comments/Questions



- Will dining area be shared? Possibly, but likely separate. Goal is to create one main kitchen for efficiency, but possibly separate serving and eating areas.
- Considerable discussion about renovation versus building new.
 - Noted that the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) recommends replacement of facilities that have been reviewed and determined that renovating costs exceed 2/3 the cost of replacement. The Firestone/Litchfield facility exceeds this criteria. Noted that the new building will allow for the design team to cater the facility to the programs offered at Firestone/Litchfield as well as current deficiencies in current design.
 - Also noted that there can be difficulties in updating older facilities with new mechanical systems, infrastructure, LEED requirements, etc., without creating undesirable results due to limitations of existing facilities.
- Will the existing gymnasium be retained? No, the current plan is to replace, but to provide facilities that will allow for continued attraction for tournaments to be held at Firestone.
- Will the Auditorium be retained? No, the current plan is to replace the auditorium and address specific needs for the Visual and Performing Arts programs.
- Will the natatorium be expanded? Current plan is to retain pool as current, with renovations to the pool finishes, windows, roofing, locker rooms, mechanical and electrical systems.
- Will a new stadium facility be built? The District is reviewing athletic facilities throughout the District for where improvements can be made. Noted that the OSFC does not co-fund stadiums. Improvements will be made as funding is available. Private funding is always encouraged.
- Where will the new school be built? At this point, we do not know. All that is known at this point is that the existing Firestone will remain in its current facility until a new facility is built. Litchfield will swing to Perkins and be demolished.
 - Noted that poor soil conditions were reported during the construction of the current facility. The services of a geotechnical engineer have been retained to conduct preliminary soils analysis.
- Existing trains can be disruptive to learning. Design team will review schedule for impact to sand criteria per OSFC and LEED requirements.
- Concern about shared dining spaces. Noted that review of such facilities will be addressed. Possibly a large space separated by an operable partition that could be



opened for large assemblies. Goal is for one main kitchen, but separate service and dining areas are a possibility.

- Several "Roll-Up Sleeves" meetings will be scheduled in the coming months. The goal is to complete the POR process before school concludes in June.
- Next meetings:
 - Firestone RUS and Community meetings to be scheduled through the Principal.

The preceding is GPD's interpretation of the meeting. Any changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.