



AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**FIRESTONE/LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
COMMUNITY UPDATE – PROGRAMMING/RENOVATION STUDY**

September 27, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m. – Firestone Cafeteria

In Attendance

D. James APS
 P. Flesher APS
 F. Herr APS
 K. Balchak APS
 A. Reeves-Grom APS Board Member
 L. Mansfield APS Board Member
 M. Moore City of Akron
 L. Petry Principal, Firestone
 M. Salopek GPD
 J. Peterson GPD
 Staff and Community (see attached Sign-in Sheet)

Distribution

Attendees
 L. Duncan City of Akron
 B. Gantz RPJ
 M. Marquess-Kearns Principal, Litchfield
 M. Freeman APS

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

- P. Flesher made introductions and purpose of meeting.
- D. James reviewed the meeting agenda and general information.
- J. Peterson presented a project updated which included:
 - Program of Requirements (POR) update.
 - Define all rooms and spaces necessary to meet current programs and flexibility for future.
 - Over 30 meetings conducted with staff, administrators, curriculum and community.
 - POR reflective of Firestone/Litchfield needs.
 - Program area and enrollment.



- 640 middle and 1,400 high school students.
- 364,000 square feet.
- Site information.
 - Geotechnical analysis – site is suitable for development.
 - Site survey conducted to document existing conditions.
- Project goals.
 - Provide facilities meeting the needs of the community for future generations.
 - Provide equity in the District.
 - Provide safe and secure learning environments.
- Reviewed renovation study.
 - OSFC recommendation to replace – current plan.
 - Reviewed OSFC 2/3 rule for replacement of facilities exceeding 2/3 cost of replacement.
 - Community request for renovation study.
 - Design team applied POR to existing facilities.
 - Establish reconfigurations/additions required.
 - Review physical building for upgrades necessary including building envelope, mechanical and electrical systems, technology, interior finishes, life safety, handicap accessibility, hazardous material abatement and site condition.
 - Refine renovation/addition construction cost.
 - Identify issues to consider in a reno/add project.
 - Reviewed floor and site plans for how the POR was applied to the building and the potential resultant layout and site impacts.
 - Reviewed need for additional of 48,000 sq. ft., including:
 - Program spaces not currently provided.
 - Provide sufficient quantity of classrooms and special education spaces.
 - Provide program spaces to expand current offerings.

- Inadequate/insufficient spaces including:
 - SPED, Music Theory, Life Skills, Project Lead the Way, undersized classrooms.
- Shortage of space requiring use of spaces not designed for current use.
- Excessive/inefficient space, including corridors, LRC and certain classrooms.
- Reviewed area summary.
 - Current building area: 355,000 sq. ft.
 - Oversize/non-programmable space: 39,000 sq. ft.
 - Current useable programmable space: 316,000 sq. ft.
 - Additions required to meet 364,000 sq. ft.; program: 48,000 sq. ft.
 - 403,000 sq. ft. area required to meet program due to oversize/non-programmable space.
- Construction cost summary:
 - Renovation/addition construction cost for 403,000 sq. ft. building, or approximately \$69.2M.
 - New construction for 364,000 sq. ft. of approximately \$66.1 M.
 - \$3.1 M additional construction cost for reno/add project.
- Additions also needed for:
 - Academic additions.
 - Cafeterias and kitchens are undersized.
 - Meet needs of Visual and Performing Arts programs.
 - Expand PE spaces/locker rooms/coaches areas.
- Other considerations for a renovation project include:
 - Operational impact.
 - Additions affect parking and athletic fields.
 - Lose efficiency for combined kitchens.
 - Site circulation remains largely the same.

- Larger, less efficient building to maintain and operate.
- Physical structure.
 - Challenges in meeting LEED Silver Certification due to building envelope/energy efficiency.
 - Large building footprint and configuration impacts ability to efficiently use site.
 - Low structure in academic areas. Will need very low ceilings running building infrastructure (ductwork, technology, utilities).
- Educational impact.
 - Classrooms do not meet current design standards.
 - Challenges in providing handicap accessibility.
 - Remote/isolated spaces.
- Construction impact.
 - Phased construction adds to construction cost and schedule.
- Next steps.
 - Renovation study validated current decisions to replace.
 - Submit POR to JBR/School Board.
 - Continue design process.
 - Additional meetings with staff, administrators, curriculum and community.
 - Develop site/building layout concepts.
 - Develop renderings/building appearance.
 - Develop bidding documents.
 - Construction.
 - Timeline.
 - Bidding Documents: Spring 2013.
 - Construction: Spring 2013 through Summer 2015.



- Questions
 - Are there site plans for a new building?
 - Are the Arts Programs going to get what they are asking for?
 - What is the rule regarding renovation versus build net percentage?
 - Comments by Community – former-teacher, Dr. Feesler.
 - David James Comments.
 - Firestone Graduate – 45 years – Mr. Comunale.
 - New building creates energy.
 - Look at Buchtel High School.
 - Does new construction last only 40 years?
 - This is not a historically significant building.
 - We are talking about education.
 - Classrooms are too crowded; building not well organized; hallways too crowded.
 - Barry Howdyshell; renovation is more labor intensive. The environment is important. Renovation will add jobs.
 - Does preservation of a building add more points for LEED?
 - Will design elements of the existing building be present?
 - How do parochial schools turn out the schools that they do with old facilities?
 - Barry Howdyshell; jobs should be foremost.
 - This is a state-of-the-art building; we should do the environmentally responsible thing.
 - Amy Reeves-Grom; board member with children in school.
 - Children are uncomfortable in the school.
 - Teachers are state-of-the-art.
 - As a parent, why can't we have more?
 - Local Preservation Member
 - Building new or renovation will be just a good.



- I live in a 100 year old house with air conditioning.
 - These schools are historic landmarks.
- Graduate of school
 - We loved the school when we went here.
 - We're talking about expenses – significant change in economic condition; still living with levies.
 - The numbers are from a certain orientation.
- D. James
 - We aren't spending excessively. We have closed 13 schools in this program.
- To continue to be state-of-the-art, we have to have state-of-the-art facilities.
- Tom Dillon – 4 daughters graduated from here; 4 grandchildren.
 - Existing materials are better than what we will get.
- Mr. Comunale having meeting for healthcare company.
- Next meeting: TBD.

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.