

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES January 17, 2008

Attending: David Das, Bonnie Hayes, Larry Pelletier, Kathi Cutler, Jim Miller, Pat Gautier, Roger Lajoie, Marnie Coleman, Keri Myrick, Verne Paradie, Tanya Gagne, Greg Merritt, Ben Demers, Tom Morrill, Jude Cyr, Billy Hunter. *Facilitator:* Elaine Dow

Absent: Vickie Gaylord, Bruce Bickford, Ron Potvin

Ground Rules

- Be clear about your own point of view
- Honor other points of view
- Start and end on time

Report on To Do's

- The only written data from the 2005 community sessions is the SBO survey.
- Other city loans – haven't done that yet.
- √ NEASC Accreditation Report – Summary will be reviewed at tonight's meeting

Impressions from the tour of Edward Little High School

- Dreadful – worse than I remembered it - shabby
- Obviously Jimmy-rigged – lots of band-aids that Jim's figured out
- Worse than I expected
- Depressing, dimly lit, dingy
- Smelled mold and other foul odors
- Temperatures were erratic – sometimes excessive – sometimes too cold
- Appalling
- Single-paned windows with metal frames are not energy efficiency
- Many walls are virtually not insulated
- Hard to believe that renovation can correct all the deficiencies
- Beyond its usefulness
- Lot of creative use of space but renovations won't be enough
- From a student point of view, the building isn't uplifting or energizing. No matter how great the class, if you're not comfortable, it's hard to enjoy it. Restrooms aren't the best. The comfort level is sub-par.
- Instructional time in PE is lost because of locker room placement.
- No programmatic space for certain courses.
- Cafeteria ought to be centrally located instead of at one of the further points of the building.
- We have 3 options: just renovate, build new or a little of both. The state requires that the architect consider all options.
- The building/renovation process is carefully monitored by the state using a very detailed protocol.
- We would be wise to plan for the next ten years and consider all facilities, not just the high school. Our charge is to determine K – 12 facilities needs and then set priorities.
- The corridors are wide enough according to state standards but the doors

High school facility needs (from the tour)

- Library space and resources are inadequate according to the NEASC (accreditation) report.
- Central office space crams five secretaries into a very small space

- Storage closet next to central office is now being used for technology. It get hot because there's no ventilation and sometimes the technology is affected.
- Guidance offices are small with inadequate space for record storage (SAT's, PSAT's, college applications, transcripts, etc.). Meeting space – with parents, for re-entry, etc. is incredibly limited.
- There's lots of competition for the sole guidance conference room: parent meetings, department meetings, testing, etc.
- Adult education space was retrofitted; in part by cutting out classroom space.
- Graphic arts space was divided up for art rooms and assistant principal's offices. Art rooms aren't well equipped; for example, plumbing had to be run through the ceiling (no basement underneath).
- MLTI initiative requires storage and wiring. This is a tough building to run wire for today's technology.
- Multipurpose room was divided into 5 classrooms. As a result, heating and light control isn't present in every room.
- Chorus room was carved out of multipurpose room and has poor acoustics.
- Staff meetings are held in chorus or band room.
- New bathrooms near physical education space was paid for out of capital improvement money and cost \$400,000.
- Staff has very modest lunch space in 2 parts of the building.
- On the ground level floor, two tiny bathrooms service the entire set of classrooms plus the cafeteria when it's in use.
- Current "cafeteria" originally had a dirt floor. It was not designed to be a cafeteria. There is no lunch program. It has no ventilation. Usually the space is overly hot.
- The current kitchen was a storage area.
- The locker rooms for the gymnasium are not proximal – one is not even on the same level.
- The fitness area was the auto mechanics area. That program was not maintained; couldn't find someone to teach it plus there's a good program in Lewiston that Auburn students can attend.
- Athletic equipment storage space is retro-rustic.
- A plethora of smells, most unpleasant, waft through the building.
- The graphic arts program depends on donated equipment.
- Band room floor is unstable. One of the corridor walls is also unstable and cannot be repaired without complete rebuilding.

NEASC Accreditation – A process that evaluates a high school for programs, leadership, mission and facilities. NEASC accreditation is optional – not all Maine communities choose to do it.

- NEASC is a self-study as well as an external evaluation. It sharpens staff perceptions of what is quality.
- EL's NEASC report commends the programs, leadership, mission but not the facility.
- Who evaluates the school? A committee made up of educators/people from around the state.
- NEASC continues to monitor status and looks for the school department and community to take steps to remedy the deficiencies. We have been on the warning list for 3 years. At some point, NEASC may tire of unresolved issues and insist on solutions.
- Consequences of not being accredited: Colleges rate high schools based, in part on accreditation. Businesses may hesitate to locate in this community. Families may not want to live in a community without an accredited high school.
- When we choose day care or other child-related facilities, we look for them to be accredited because we care about quality.

Demographic Information

- The city will use demographic information to project growth.

TO DO's

- Identify which Maine communities of equal size do not have accredited high schools.
- Determine the alignment between the school master plan with the city master plan
- Find out more information about the source of Auburn Student Performance on page 11 (in the very back) of the January 15th report.
- Homework: Read the December 4th report and skim the Comprehensive Plan in order to be ready for David Gailbreth's comments at our next meeting.
- Jude will run amortization schedules on \$26 million and \$35 million for 20 and 30 year loans. Elaine will check with Roz for data from 2005 sessions.