



Monona Grove School District

"Promoting Excellence for Global Opportunities"

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Long Range Facilities Planning Committee Continues Process

Monona, WI – The Long Range Facilities Planning Committee held their second meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the District Office. The committee is composed of various members of the community including board members, parents, staff, and business leaders. Two additional community members (Dave Kinsler and John Klinzing) were added to the committee respectively representing both Cottage Grove and Monona communities.

The Board and Administration have engaged CG Schmidt Construction and Eppstein Uhen Architects to serve as consultants throughout this process. Both firms have extensive knowledge about K-12 design and construction. At the Tuesday meeting, the main topics of discussion were outlining the steps of the facility planning process, the movement towards creating 21st Century Learning environments, and an overview of all district owned properties. The consultants will conduct tours to assess the conditions of the buildings and systems, and analyze the capacity and utilization of each building. Additionally, the committee began their building tours by walking through the District office and the Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School.

Bob Vajgart, of Eppstein Uhen, informed the committee about 21st Century Learning. This term applies to the many new approaches to teaching and learning in education. Classes are no longer taught to students in rows of individual desks. Learning is considered a community-wide activity where students often collaborate and need space for electronics. The term "21st century skills" is generally used to refer to certain core competencies such as collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving that advocates believe schools need to teach to help students thrive in today's world. As a result, learning spaces call for more flexible features. Many districts are utilizing flexible spaces in their facilities. "As we create a long-term facilities plan for our District, 21st Century Learning spaces will definitely be something to consider. The Monona Grove School District wants to ensure the best for our students for the next 20 years," commented Dan Olson, Superintendent.

All schools and facilities in the Monona Grove District will be toured and evaluated by the committee in the next few months to create a plan for quality and equity in facilities district-wide. For more information regarding the facility planning process, please go to www.mononagrove.org.

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