



Monona Grove School District

"Promoting Excellence for Global Opportunities"

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Long Range Facilities Planning Committee Explores Building Capacity and Utilization

Monona, WI – The Long Range Facilities Planning Committee and District Administration continued the facility planning process on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. Presentations were given on the capacity and utilization of schools, and the condition of building systems throughout the District. A tour of Cottage Grove Elementary School also was featured at the meeting. The committee explored the school and learned about the strengths and limitations of the building from Principal Dennis Griffin and District Facilities Coordinator, Mark Scullion.

Bob Vajgrt, an architect at Eppstein Uhen, presented on building capacity and utilization throughout the schools in the District. There are several ways to evaluate a school's maximum capacity, including design capacity, board of education policy, and gross building square footage. Design capacity determines the maximum population for instructional spaces based on best practice square feet per student. Another method is to follow the Board of Education policy. Finally, gross building square footage can also determine building capacity. In this technique, the existing building overall square footage is divided by the recommended square footage per student based on best practices. Bob and EUA analyzed the District schools using each of these three methods. Tuesday night's presentation focused primarily on the elementary schools. Results found Taylor Prairie and Cottage Grove Elementary Schools generally appear to be over capacity, while Winnequah Elementary School is under capacity.

Additionally, Mike Hoadley, a MEP engineer at CG Schmidt Construction, presented a Building Systems Report for each school. CG Schmidt had previously toured and evaluated each school to assess the electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and fire protection in all facilities. Despite routine care and repairs, several of the District's buildings have on-going maintenance issues. These issues are a result of the aging buildings.

The schools and facilities in the Monona Grove District will continue to be toured and evaluated by the committee in the coming months to create a plan for quality and equity in facilities district-wide. Furthermore, the Long Range Facilities Committee will present their recommendations to the Board in June. For more information regarding the facility planning process, please go to www.mononagrove.org.

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