



Monona Grove School District

"Promoting Excellence for Global Opportunities"

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Long Range Facilities Planning Committee Listens to Subcommittee Findings

Monona, WI– The Long Range Facilities Committee continued their work to assess District facilities and properties at their meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The committee toured Monona Grove High School and learned of the building strengths and limitations from Dr. Paul Brost, who has been Principal for 11 years. Monona Grove High School (MGHS) was built in 1999. The school serves a student population of about 950 students from both Monona and Cottage Grove. MGHS has a strong tradition of students challenging themselves in the classroom, on the athletic field, and on stage. While the building is modern and well maintained, some limitations of the building include inadequate size for computer lab, insufficient space for science labs and technical education, a serious lack of storage space, and a need for remodeling to address the need for additional instructional space, upgrading an out-of-date television production studio and re-configuring the store and concession area.

Two subcommittees gave presentations on their respective progress. The subcommittee on Athletics and Co-curriculars was charged with the task of assessing the condition of various facilities in the Monona Grove School District and how each facility meets the demands of both athletic and co-curricular offerings. Athletic Director, Jeff Schreiner with 16 years experience, presented the subcommittee's findings. His report outlined the number of teams and the frequency of use for each facility at the high school. Schreiner also reported MGSD's partnerships with Monona and Cottage Grove park and recreation departments since the district is dependent on shared facilities within the surrounding communities and uses facilities in both communities. They found several areas to be in need of improvements including the MGHS track and field, the sports complex at Glacial Drumlin Middle School, and re-configuration of the tennis courts at the high school. It was also noted that the outdoor physical education fields were frequently unusable due to inadequate drainage. Schreiner's

report concluded by noting that the other 13 schools in the Badger Conference have recently greatly improved their athletic and physical education facilities, and those in the MGSD are no longer competitive.

A second subcommittee focused on District-owned property and their values. They presented their assessment of the future of (a) three houses across from MGHS, (b) 11 buildable across from Glacial Drumlin School, and (c) a vacant lot on Pheasant Hill (Monona). Brandon Buell reported for the subcommittee that (a) the three houses across from MGHS are in poor condition and should be sold "as is;" (b) the 11 buildable lots across from Glacial Drumlin School should be re-surveyed and sold; and (c) the vacant lot on Pheasant Hill should also be sold. The Committee noted that any funds from the sale of properties could be used by the MGHS for other needs. The Committee also discussed some alternatives and options to the recommendations by the subcommittee regarding the properties across from Glacial Drumlin and on Pheasant Hill.

The planning process has allowed the Committee to collect a variety of information about the District and its facilities. This deliberative process allows the committee to shape their recommendations to the Board of Education. A finalized facility report prepared by Eppstein Uhen Architects and CG Schmidt Construction will be presented at the next committee meeting on May 19, 2015. The final recommendations to the Board will be presented on June 9, 2015. For more information regarding the facility planning process, please go to www.mononagrove.org

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