Steering Committee
Facilities Master Plan Meeting Summary
Cedar Rapids Community School District
March 12, 2013

NOTE: The Steering Committee was asked to provide recommendations for implementation of the identified Projects, for the Board of Education's consideration. The Committee made the following comments after the Identified Projects received a ranking and cost opinion.

1. Consider replicating certain projects across the district. Might realize economy of scale and spread the benefits across all demographics and all schools. Projects considered for replication:

   a. High Schools: learning centers or fitness centers
   b. Middle Schools: Community Hub or reorganized room use, which combines relocation of the Administration Office and safety upgrades (example: McKinley and Roosevelt)
   c. Every Elementary School:

      i. Renovation of library or resource center—develop an optimum design for the IMC Commons Resource Center to create 21st century learning centers. This would allow a versatile space to accommodate future learning styles. Isolated entrance and restrooms are required so the area can be used after school. Limit access to the rest of the building during off-hours.
      ii. Cafeteria upgrades- if used for learning and community use.

2. Don't want to waste money on schools that are too old.

3. We looked for opportunities in the inner city to consolidate elementary schools into new buildings—accomplish this before new schools are considered in the more remote areas of Cedar Rapids.

4. Looked for projects with a higher score, examples: Projects 58 and 19. Noticed that some projects which appear to be similar in title have a dramatic difference in scoring; might consider a scoring reconciliation, if required.

5. If there really are similar projects which scored very differently, it would not be fair to proceed with one and not the other. Consider another step in the process for score normalization, if required. (Noted that some projects while named the same, have different scope.)

6. Do all elementary schools have a computer lab? If so, why wouldn't we renovate all of them, if it's one of the projects selected for duplication?

7. Cafeteria at the high school level—some schools have already received renovations with SILO dollars—consider equity across the district, upgrade cafeterias throughout the district. Make sure the room accommodates more than just lunch. (study hall, before/after school, wi-fi access, consider maintenance)

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8. 23 projects rated 10 or higher. Cost range was extreme. What can we do to attract new students? If the budget does not allow the construction of new buildings, maybe we need to consider renovating spaces which will impact the most students.   Maximize dollars—how can we save?

9. Consider the trends in education—old buildings fit the previous generation well, but noticed that a lot of the projects talked about flexibility.

10. Need to meet the needs of the community, but we need to be focused on the school day---from the time the bell rings in the morning until the bell rings at the end of the day, must make sure that we're meeting all of those needs.

11. There were a lot of projects that had a different name, but they were the same concept. Consider taking the best projects, and duplicating across the district. If a project is good for these three, shouldn't we at least take a look at doing the same thing in the other schools?

12. We don't want to pour money into old buildings.

13. We talked about consistency across the board, and if we do it for one, we need to do it for others. I would caution a little with that thinking because the needs of the students are not consistent throughout the district—some places have more disparity, more need.   Some schools need upgrades sooner than others.

14. *Replication* does not mean *exactly the same*. You're going to have to adjust for buildings and need, but to the extent that we can replicate, it's less money, spreads the wealth.

15. Proceed with projects that impact the most students, that promote learning in safe schools.

16. What can we do and build that will attract students to the district? And how can we position this initiative so that it attracts students, instead of having the discussion about *limited resources* and *we need to shut schools down*?

17. People move to communities based on the outer appearance, like frosting on a cake. We have a superior 'cake' (education deliverable), but we need work on our 'frosting' in order to attract families. Where will the Rockwell engineers send their kids?

18. We focused on replication. Examples: Fitness Center, lunch rooms, flex space. Talked about integrating/connecting the schools to the concept of building a healthier community.

19. Safety is a significant issue.

20. Access and security should be addressed. School hour access versus after school access is an issue.

21. Focus on technology.

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22. Strategically locate fitness centers throughout the community which meet student and neighborhood needs. Consider placing multi-purpose centers at strategic locations as anchors in different parts of the community.

23. Need to look at consolidating buildings in core areas. Don't want to put money in certain facilities.

24. Consider best practices from other school districts across the country who are overcoming financial barriers and shrinking boundaries due to shifts in population—best practices for maintenance and new facilities.

25. Do we have a history of allocating a certain percentage of funds towards certain categories- trend data which could guide future decisions? This may highlight areas that might need more investment. When communities don't dedicate the appropriate amount of dollars for maintenance on a regular basis, replacement of new buildings is required more frequently.

26. The 2008 disaster allowed the community to think about how sustainable we are and how investments are being made, in a way that long term maintenance and operation doesn't become a burden.

27. How do we increase the pot? (funds) We're almost going at this backwards. I'd rather have a conversation about how we increase that pot. Most people are supportive of the things that they're trying to do at the schools. Most of the time the community has stepped up to the need. If you can make a case on what you can do to attract students and stabilize these core neighborhoods, I think you can make a case to increase the pot.

This documents our understanding of the items discussed. Please contact our office before April 4, 2013 with any omissions or discrepancies.

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