Leadership Meeting on Facilities with Incite Design
July 27, 2016

Perry County School District 32’s leadership team met Wednesday, July 27 with Incite Design to further discuss the company's initial findings from its comprehensive facility and program review.

Brian Foxworthy and Aaron Harte from Incite led this conversation with district administrators and directors, and Board President Kathy Carron. Incite also presented an overview of these findings at the July 13 Board of Education meeting.

Superintendent Andy Comstock said that the limitations of current facilities at District 32 are leading the District to “survive, not thrive.” He added that, yes, good stewardship of these resources, and the staff’s amazing ability to adapt, have allowed the District to cope with growing facilities maintenance and space concerns, but it’s impacted what we’re able to provide students.

“Yes, it’s worked, but it’s not what’s best for kids,” Comstock said.

The situation facing the district was summed up by Dr. Linda Buerck: “Our educational facilities are, and have been for some time, driving our instructional programs.”

The conversation on Wednesday was broad, as we discussed what the District leadership envisioned for the next 50 years. Below are highlights from the discussion, along with a recommendation for a “Phase 1” outline, and specific decisions about immediate needs. The group used historic facilities and grounds information, Incite’s research, and results of surveys about facilities and programming (staff and facility committee surveys of 2015-16).

- Figuring an average of 175 students per grade level, Incite’s comprehensive examination of our campus shows that we are “Short” 2.5 GRADE LEVELS of space for our K-8 programs.

- Incite recommends focusing first on the need for additional program space at the elementary, and then addressing similar issues at the middle school level.

- Foxworthy notes that, due to similar populations in each building (PES, PCMS, and PHS), a shift in populations from one building to another (as in 1993-4) will not address any of our overcrowding problems. An additional facility will be needed to address the need for additional student spaces at District 32.

- Staff and facilities committee surveys indicated the preference for adding a PK-Grade 2 building on the current campus, and restructuring the grade configuration to:
• Lower Elementary — Pre-K to Grade 2
• Upper Elementary — Grades 3-5
• Middle School — Grades 6-8
• High School — Grades 9-12

**Incite’s research supports this plan.**

• FEMA contacted Assistant Superintendent Jeanie White ref. the District’s applications for FEMA shelters. She was asked to prioritize our two applications (Elementary and Middle School shelters), and the District has identified Elementary as the priority. The District should know within a few weeks if either of our applications have been chosen for a FEMA grant.

• With much guidance from Glenn Berkbigrler, Director of Building and Grounds, the team selected the most probable site for a new lower elementary, which could be connected to the current PES building when it becomes the Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5). This would be the area where the Early Childhood Center and the “bonfire field” are located.

  SO... a likely Phase 1 would be to use the FEMA grant to construct the safe room portion of a new PK-2 Lower Elementary facility on the site of the current EC/Bonfire Field, with a connector to the current PES building to allow the Upper Elementary students in Grades 3-5 to get to the safe room within the 5 minutes required by FEMA.

• The next focus would be the Middle School with goals of:
  • Providing ample space for all middle school programs to be under one roof (currently in three buildings)
  • Ensuring that infrastructure is brought up to current standards
  • Improving safety and security of the facilities

  With these goals, Brian Foxworthy indicated that the best long-term plan might be to construct a new facility that connects the PCMS gym/cafeteria with the PCMS Annex (which now houses 8th grade on two floors), and removing the pods. This could be part of Phase 1 or be a Phase 2, and could possibly use a second FEMA safe room grant. (The District’s application is valid for two years.)

**Immediate action items:**

  • Currently under way:
    ▪ Parking lot/traffic flow at middle school
- First grade pod roof at PES
- A/C at PHS Library

- Recommended to begin immediately upon board approval:
  - Replace roof at Fifth Grade Center with the mid-range plan (which was around $40,000) because this building will be used in the immediate future for fifth grade, and to house programs during potential construction. He and Incite will develop specs and start the bid notice process with hopes of having it approved by the September BOE meeting.
  - New heating system for the Vocational Building Annex (this is the wing along Rolla Street that houses PHS art and Stan Cook's digital media class). This is estimated at around $20,000, and must be completed before it's cold, because of the bulge in the 64-year-old boiler that cannot be repaired and is unsafe.
  - Installation of a new control panel for the energy management system, and repair of the Career Center Building A portion of the controls system. This is the portion that Glenn is most concerned about. Glenn and Incite will develop specs to ensure that the new control panel can bring in all current facilities and have room for growth.

A Facilities Committee meeting will be called for Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 5:30 pm, in the Career Center Multi-Purpose Room. The agenda will include an overview of the Leadership Team Meeting, along with updates on Incite Design and LJ Hart presentations/information.