

NORTH MAC COMMUNITY UNIT #34
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
GIRARD MEDIA CENTER

Date: November 20, 2012

Time entered into meeting: 8:30 p.m.

Location: Girard Media Center

Members Present: Steve Furman
 Robyn Hays
 Scott Etter
 Charles Handy
 Farley Cole
 James Matuska

Members Absent: Mark Sloman

Person taking and recording minutes: Marica Cullen

Also Present: Kim Eldridge
 Sherri Gerdanc
 Eric Lancaster
 Diane Moore
 Becky Hampton
 Jennifer McQuality
 Lindsey DeFevers
 Angela Norman
 Connie Schroeder
 Coleen Smith
 Randy Smith
 Georgia Brewer
 Dixie Gage
 Anna Allen
 Matt Allen
 Fred Mulacek
 Craig Fess
 Gail Langheim
 Kay Cameron
 Alan Love
 Jackie Jones-Myers
 Madonna Wempen
 Everett Cameron
 David Spann

Infrastructure Discussion

Fred Mulacek asked about the long-term cost savings of new buildings.

Matt Allen stated that image is what attracts people to school.

Charlie Handy responded that new building would require community support of a referendum.

Kay Cameron asked about the use of Health Life Safety funding to replace or improve facilities as has been done in other districts.

Kim Eldridge stated that the District needed a long range plan to replace the buildings.

Transportation Discussion

Farley Cole said he understood the words and concerns. Problem with long-range planning come about because of the unreliable funding for schools. Transportation is a good example of schools having to respond to reductions in funding. He asked how North Mac should approach looking for cost savings in transportation - Reduction in bus routes? More concentrated pickups? Having students ride the bus for more than an hour? Charging fees for busing? We bus 860-890 students a day with 15-17 routes.

Colean Smith commented that several parents use bus transportation for convenience.

Connie Schroeder asked about the additional cost for having two bus garages.

Sherri Gerdanc questioned why Nilwood had 2 buses.

Eric Lancaster responded that staggered start times, the transition times (shuttles) and costs of supervision when students were in transition were all considerations in setting up route options.

Fred Mulacek commented he would rather have longer rides vs. larger class sizes.

Sherri Gerdanc said she would not necessarily be against longer rides unless classes get bigger.

Attendance Centers Discussion

Jen McQuality asked about attendance centers and the costs of transporting students.

Charlie Handy commented that the educational benefit of attendance centers should be the deciding factor not transportation costs.

Sherri Gerdanc listed some concerns with younger students and attendance centers.

Diane Moore commented that Virden Elementary had departmentalized 4th/5th and Girard Elementary did not, so students were not getting the same education.

Kay Cameron asked could all elementary be put in one town.

Jen McQuality suggested putting Pre K and kindergarden and younger grades at Virden Elementary because of the school facilities.

Fred Mulacek stated the squawk over attendance centers might be short lived once benefits were seen.

Technology

MaDonna Wempen called for a rotational plan for technology. That plan should include replacement cycles, wireless improvements, staff training and a computer cleaning schedule. Adults should embrace the kids' technology. She also asked when the Technology Audit for the District would be complete and available.

Time of adjournment: 9:32 p.m.

President

Secretary