

Introduction

On September 25, 2006, the Board of Education approved a Strategic Plan with one of the major goals focusing on Facilities/Technology and stating that, “The Moline/Coal Valley School District No. 40 will have facilities of the appropriate size and type so that they are equipped to meet the educational need, extracurricular, and community needs of all stakeholder groups. Special emphasis is placed on students meeting their full academic potential.”

As a result, committees were formed, decisions made and parameters established regarding the “educational structure” of the District’s future programming. The Board of Education acted in December of 2007 to approve delivering instruction through a future configuration of elementary schools providing services for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, middle schools providing services for students in sixth through eighth grade and a ninth through twelfth grade high school. In addition, recommendations from the “School Structure Committee” (report contained in the appendix) reported that:

- preschool students should be served at a single site within the district
- elementary schools should contain a minimum of 4 sections per grade level
- class sizes for grades K-2 ≤ 16 and grades 3-4 ≤ 20
- class size for middle school be ≤ 24
- the current initiatives to develop the concept of a “School within a School” philosophy be continued and expanded
- the “Campus Structure” (all buildings in one central location) had merit and should be considered.

In addition, in January/February 2008 the administration expressed a desire to implement the decision of moving 6th graders into the existing middle schools as a very high priority, with a desire to implement this part of the plan first and within an accelerated time frame. This would require additional square footage at both existing buildings.

Both the long and short term Facility Planning Committees have been meeting since January 2007 to familiarize themselves with their respective charges, review information about current District facilities and sites, become familiar with data and research relative to school facilities and their impact on student achievement and identify information needed for future decision making. These efforts resulted in preliminary reports which were presented to the Board while waiting for direction about the “structure” the district wished to pursue. Their reports are contained in the appendix.

Once direction on the above items was offered by the Board of Education, School Structure Committee and the Administration, the two Facilities Committees were convened as one group. That joint committee has developed the content of this report which has been identified as a “Facilities Study.” The joint committee represents a broad cross-section of our School District and Community and brings together extremely talented stakeholders with diverse backgrounds and experiences. After much deliberation

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and careful consideration of interests from “many walks of life” this “Facilities Study” has been drafted and is presented for consideration to the Board of Education.

It is important to note that direction and thoughts offered in this report have been generated without knowledge of the District’s financial ability to complete work, funding sources, actual costs to implement the plan or the impact on our local property taxes, which prompts sufficient concern. Other items that need to be investigated include transportation issues, the ability to acquire property and the long-term financial impact implementation of the plan would have on operational costs for the District. Also, the District and Community will need to consider how to “repurpose” existing buildings that may not be utilized by the District in the future. While decisions were made with regard to improving various services and advancing student achievement, we also believe that operational savings will exist and offer long term benefits.

The Committee wishes to thank the Board of Education for inviting them to participate in this process. There is a great deal of growth, understanding, education and support that comes from participation in a process such as this.