

Antioch SD 34

Steering Committee Meeting 8/3/16

Notes and Comments

Wight & Company with Dr. Marino reviewed the District’s guiding principles and goals for Facilities:

- Shift to a K-5 Grade Structure
 - Fewer transitions for students and families
 - Neighborhood schools / More efficient busing
- Eliminate Portable Classrooms
 - Enhance student safety / Improve aesthetics
- Create Equity Across Learning Spaces
 - Gymnasiums separate from cafeterias at all schools
 - Address inadequacies & deficiencies at all schools
- Capitalize on Timing of Retirement of Debt Obligations
 - As existing debt is retired it can be replaced through referendum / No additional increase to taxpayers

Dr. Marino briefly summarized the 2015 Enrollment Study results. Enrollment is predicted to slightly decline each year for the next 10 years if all factors remain the same (no significant new housing developments).

Wight indicated that the proposed school plans are based on a total capacity for the K-5 Schools (Hillcrest, WC Petty and Oakland) similar to the current enrollment. May 2016: 1758 students enrolled and Proposed plans 1743 student capacity, based on a mix of 25 students per classroom in K-2 and 27 students per classroom in grades 3-5.

Committee Question: do the proposed plans have room for expansion?

Wight responded that the proposed plans presented for WC Petty and Oakland have a dashed area where 2-4 classrooms could be built at each school in the future. The committee noted that bringing back portables should not ever be stated as an option to add capacity to the schools in the future as eliminating portables is considered as one of the main goals of the community.

Wight presented proposed plans for the K-5 schools with the following student capacities:

	<u>Current K-5</u>	<u>Proposed K-5</u>
Hillcrest	544 students	755 students
WC Petty	454 students	495 students
Oakland	443 students	495 students
AES	317 students	0 students

No building additions are required at Hillcrest. Building additions are required at both WC Petty and Oakland.

In addition to the grade level homeroom classrooms, Hillcrest will have an additional three SLP classrooms and Oakland will have an additional three LOP classrooms. These are district-wide self-contained programs that function as a small K-5 community within another school.

Committee Comment: The SLP and LOP classrooms need to be explained as to why these programs are not at every school building.

Dr. Marino commented that the programs are very important but there are not enough students to support the program space in each of the schools.

Committee Comment: Getting daylight into interior spaces is important.

Wight noted that they agree and typically strive to borrow light from the open collaborative areas at ends of corridors in the proposed plans and skylights.

Committee Question: If the referendum question is “NO”, will the school district still shift to the K-5 school model?

Dr. Marino responded “yes”, the District will be moving to the K-5 school model whether the referendum passes or not. If the referendum does not pass, the District will have four K-5 schools: AES, Hillcrest, WC Petty and Oakland. If the referendum does pass, the District will have three K-5 schools: Hillcrest, WC Petty and Oakland with the required building additions. Dr. Marino stated that new boundaries are required in either scenario and his administration is working on how/when boundary changes would make sense. The committee audience member noted that this needed to be fully explained to current staff and the community-at-large.

Committee Comment: Provide positive information backup as to how the K-5 structure is beneficial to students academically, socially and emotionally.

Committee Comment: Need to explain why the Early Childhood program is in AES, only one school and not at all the schools.

Antioch District 34’s Early Childhood Program, EC Structured Learning Program, and PreSchool for All Program serve students throughout the entire District. It is most effective if all six of the classrooms are located together which allows for greater teacher collaboration, increased student integration (i.e. multi-class friendship groups), decreased transportation costs, and a greater opportunity for students to move through the continuum of services within one school setting.

District 34 will have a unique opportunity to accommodate the entire Early Learning Program at either Hillcrest School or Antioch Elementary School, depending on space within each building. While Hillcrest is an ideal space for Pre-K and Early Childhood, we can also accommodate this program at AES, as needed, in the future.

Committee Comment: If the Early Childhood program only uses part of AES, what are some other uses for the remainder of the building? Park District? Community?

Potential uses for AES may include any of the following possibilities or a combination of uses: 1.) the early childhood program; 2.) space leased to other entities (including the Village of Antioch or the Antioch Parks and Recreation Department; 3.) office space for staff; 4.) space for staff professional development and training; 5.) other uses as deemed appropriate.

Committee Comment: The current staff and faculty do not fully understand the referendum process, boundary change timing, funding, etc. The committee noted that the District should have staff and faculty information sessions as parents/community members are much more likely to ask staff/faculty questions than the administration.

Wight Explained a basic equation that is used early in a project to align the key variables:

Scope + Quality = Budget

The budget is fixed at \$23.3 Million, therefore the scope and quality elements can vary but must be balanced. Determining new space required for students is more easily defined than determining the level of renovation that can be accommodated in the existing parts of the schools that are to remain. Wight noted that they are continuing to work with their internal estimating group to look closely at the renovation scope and that at some point this committee may need to prioritize renovation components. For example: it was generally stated that a new heating and cooling system in the existing parts of the schools would be a priority over new flooring.

Wight reviewed the project timeline and “Next Steps”.

Wight will be meeting with school principals to review the proposed plans on August 31st.

Next meeting is Community Engagement Session (CES 2) is targeted for the second week of September. The Steering Committee needs to set a date. The goal of CES 2 is for the community to understand and evaluate the proposed plans. In addition, the other core issues of explaining the funding approach, referendum question and boundary topics may also need to be addressed.

Committee Comments for CES 2:

- Consider using a webpage to prepare or introduce the material to the potential attendees before the meeting.
- Informed steering committee members should be at each table to facilitate recording comments and answering basic factual questions.
- Consider a facts sheet and answers to “most frequently asked questions”.
- Make sure teachers and staff are fully informed and supportive, as parents are often more comfortable talking to teachers than administrators.
- Provide details, maybe an example of a tax bill, of how the “no-tax” finance plan works for homeowner.
- Parents will want to know the future plans for the Pre-School program.
- Project the plans but also consider having designs printed at the table.
- Use social media, home owners assoc. newsletters and post cards to announce CES 2.