
Workshop Summary



Architecture Planning Interiors

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Project Greater Albany School District Facility Planning
Project No. 74-15104-00
Subject Workshop #1

Topics Brief introductions of the DLR Group Team and the DFAC members.

Presentation by Superintendent Maria Delapoer – on previous Bond Projects

- In 2006 passed a \$55 million dollar bond. This bond made a huge difference in the district. \$22 million went to build Timber Ridge School. Grades 3-8. 700-800 students.
- Add classrooms at North Albany MS. Added Cafeteria at Periwinkle, to separate the gym and cafeteria.
- Built / refurbish bus loops
- Removed decommissioned fuel tanks
- Replaced roofs, and asbestos tiles, refurbished middle school bleachers.
- Used almost all Oregon companies.
- Added 8 new efficient boilers
- Upgraded MS & HS Science rooms.
- Upgraded electrical
- Ada upgrades
- Replaced windows with energy efficient
- 18 million in contracts stayed in Linn and Benton County.

GAPS Statistics shared by Doug Pigman, GAPS Facilities.

- GAPS is the 13th largest district in the state
- It has 1.3 million square feet of buildings
- Covers 275 acres of land
- 22 schools
- 3 support buildings
- Buildings are aged from 1915 to 2009
- Spread over 154 square miles
- 9,000 students
- 1,000 employees

When GAPS went to bond for its previous bond they identified \$110 million dollars in needs for the school district. This was then whittled down to \$76 million in high priority needs which then led to the \$55 million dollar bond that was passed in 2006.

Visioning

Discussed what and where we want to go and what our guiding principles will be.

The goal is to create the Facility Plan in these meetings that will be presented to the board.

Questions:

When does the last bond retire? What is the look ahead date?

(these dates have been corrected from what was said in the meeting)

December of 2017. New bond would be Nov 2016 or May 2017. Preferable to start a new bond as a continuation of the current. Current rate is \$1.65 per \$1,000.

Thoughts on “Did you know” video:

Video can be found here: <http://vimeo.com/2030361>

- How are kids going to learn? Learning is changing. What are the educational models that are out there going to be used in the future?
- Is this bond more about Brick and Mortar learning environments or things they do at HP?
- My phone holds more info than my computer did 10 years ago. How do we get this to the hands of the students? Most students are learning their tech outside of the school. Bring them back to the school to learn what is new and innovative in a safe environment.
- How in the world do you make a rational decision today for tomorrow with the rapid change in technology? How do we do it without fear? How do we not get locked into suspended animation?
- The current method for teaching is antiquated. Keeping kids locked in a classroom is antiquated. When all the information on the internet is available. We need to be teaching kids to learn in many environments.
- Kids today need to be super adaptable. Learn how to learn. If you can teach someone to problem solve they can solve a lot of problems. You need to have a mind that can keep up and problem solve.
- Create a structure that has stability. The idea of change and how we make sure our schools are places of stability and security physically and emotionally and is flexible.
- How we look at a building, it provides a location for educational modality. The goal is for flexibility in infrastructure.
- Need to look at the need for more data ports and electrical, and HVAC that can support the heat from the electronics.
- The average age of the buildings in the district is 60s.
- We need to consider not just buildings but also Tech equipment.
- But the buildings need to be dynamic enough for the equipment.
- Upgrades vs new – this is the decisions we need to look at as we move on in these workshops.
- We will be looking at enrollment projections?
- Talking about the dollar amounts for what is already broken.

Overview of the Facilities Assessment Report:

- They were told to provide a model elementary school and then the facilities were graded against this. Enrollment wasn't part of their scope. They came up with a total need of \$116 million
- How do we stay current? What kind of data are we going to collect on a yearly basis?
- The gLas Architects's Facility Analysis was intended to be an independent survey of the facilities.
- There is an additional group putting together a technology plan.
- Pride in facility. Worn buildings create a culture of not caring.
- Rundown facilities are more likely to get defaced or vandalized.
- Public opinion is often formed from reading the local paper, seeing the exterior of buildings, and experiencing the public spaces like they gymnasiums.

Small groups discussed thoughts on these two questions:

- What do you think the biggest challenge facing GAPS students?
- What do you think needs to happen in this community to improve student learning?

Thoughts from the small groups on “Challenges to Learning”:

- Was the school relevant to employer needs? We recognized the economic disparity in the community. It is fairly wide and this seems to affect parent participation in kids’ education and funding. People on the bottom of the scale are working more and hence it is more difficult for them to find the time to participate in the educational community.
- Parent involvement, the idea of building a place where parents come to. A community focus, not just a use during the school day.
- Physical space and size, classrooms have to be flexible, cafeterias auditoriums and gyms need to be appropriate in size. Infrastructure, wifi, temperature, comfortable learning environment. Kids coming to school hungry. Kids are bigger now and desks are the same size.
- Lots of things that need help. A lot of discussion on the physical needs of the district, i.e. new roofs. Exposure to technology and technology courses. Need for partnerships. Vocational learning in technology. Two categories to tech – exposure to tech hands on and learning.
- Kids need the skill sets for the high tech jobs that are coming to the area. There is also a great need to vocational training for wood shop and metal shop. There are jobs but there isn’t an eligible workforce.
- Partnering with members of the community. Mentorships.
- Space, classrooms are too small with too many students. Student teacher ratio is too large. 32:1 with no support staff. Lack of Music and Arts, no funding and no room physically for it.
- Resources are spread out over the district causing school shopping and there is an inequity amongst the schools. Need more community buy-in. We need to start things at a younger age so that kids know who the community is and who supports them.
- Concern with a student graduating do they have the requirements and ability / skills that will be useful in the workplace? We need to teach kids the Process. Critical thinking and problem solving.
- Talked about the need to attract kids to school. Not letting kids get behind and stay behind.
- Biggest challenge facing the SD, maintaining extracurricular, and keeping up with the technology.
- Getting the parents and kids involved in the school. If you have kids who are proud of their school they will show up to help.

Meeting Wrap up:

Schedule for the following meetings:

Meeting 2: Tuesday, 2/24/15

Meeting 3: Tuesday, 3/31/15

Meeting 4: Thursday, 5/7 /15

Meeting 5: Tuesday, 5/26

Questions should go to Russ Allen and he will funnel questions on to DLR Group.

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