Des Moines Public Schools

Superintendent’s Facility Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

March 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Operations Center, 1917 Dean Ave

Members Present: Joel Doyle
Jeff Hall
Mahogany Palmer
Jay Peterson
Brad Titus
Dan Twelmeyer

Members Absent: Mary Lynne Jones
Ed Linebach
Brian Millard
Jermaine Parkey

DMPS Staff Present: Bill Good
Sarah Holland
Susie Guest

Bill Good started the meeting with introductions by the committee and staff. A power point presentation was given which is also included in the committee member’s binder for review.

Susie Guest gave an overview of the Early Childhood Program. She reviewed funding for preschool, enrollment data, the benefits of preschool centers versus classrooms in the elementary buildings, services offered to the families of preschoolers, benchmarking data and how preschool prepares children for grade school, and the challenges of the early childhood program, such as transportation costs, funding restrictions, and interpretation costs. Approximately 50% of Des Moines’ 4-year-old children attend preschool. The centers are at capacity every year and most have long waiting lists. With preschool being a legislative priority of the DMPS school board it’s important to keep the growth needs of these centers in mind while creating the needs assessments.

Bill discussed how the needs assessment was a result of meetings with principals, building staff, facility management, custodial, construction management, food and nutrition, technology, and administration. There are almost $300M in perceived needs on the list and the committee will need to plan for about $15M per year of the next five-year plan (starting in 2020/2021 school year). The plan needs to help control operational costs, maintain the district’s $1.1 Billion investment, include $17M for a new school (see addendum below), and set aside contingency funds for the unknowns. The committee spent time reviewing the needs assessment list and the recommendations set by the previous committee. The committee has agreed to the following recommendations:

- Attempt to impact all buildings while keeping student benefit at the forefront of all planning.
- Prioritize projects from a districtwide perspective with a “basics first” approach.
- Continue with Students First construction program.
- Keep prioritize already established in the Revenue Purpose Statement
- Continue utilizing PPEL five-year plans.
- Prioritize operational costs associated with building and sites.
- Sell buildings and/or sites that don’t service the needs of the district.
- Study consolidation of school facility resources.
- Maximize opportunities for early learning (pre-K).
- All schools should have high standards and results.
- Equity is important at all levels.

Bill committed to creating a draft needs assessment based on the RPS priorities and the committee recommendations for the next meeting.

Answers to questions from the Committee:

- What is the threshold for a school to become eligible for the free breakfast/lunch program:
  The determination is based on the number of students who are Directly Certified – meaning receiving some sort of benefits from the state. A district certifies the CEP schools for 4 years at a time. To be possibly eligible, a school needs to have 40% or higher identified students.

  From the USDA website: https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision

  The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation’s highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Instead, schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

- Which schools are eligible for free breakfast/lunch?

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- Schools for Rigor Information
  - Brief description of Schools for Rigor.

  Schools for Rigor is a professional development series supported by Learning Sciences International (LSI) whereby leaders and teachers learn techniques to engage in rigorous teaching in all phases—planning, delivery, reflection, and adjustment.
Leadership teams receive coaching and guidance in breaking down standards into smaller targets and ensuring planning time for teachers to create tasks to get students to higher levels of thinking (cognitive complexity). Teachers also learn how to cultivate student teams where students challenge each other to use higher-level thinking. Students are guided to own their learning and take responsibility for their progress. By taking ownership of their learning, students develop the academic and social skills necessary to think critically and independently. Students also develop the ability to work effectively with others.

- Is the cost for Rigor buildings greater than non-Rigor buildings? No, Schools for Rigor is training and professional development and is funded out of the District Iowa Core allotment, and in some cases Title Funds. It is not an expense buildings fund through their site-budgets, but rather is centralized and part of the overall district professional development and training.
- How does student achievement differ between Rigor buildings and non-Rigor buildings?

**SUMMARY OF Results FY18 (FY19 Results will be available in July 2019)**

- All SFR students gained the equivalent of an additional 11 days of learning in reading and six days in math
- Year-two (Demonstration School) SFR students gained the equivalent of an additional 21 days of learning in reading and 10 days in math
- All high school SFR students gained the equivalent of an additional 61 days of learning in reading and 42 days in math
- SFR schools reduced achievement gaps over a period of 162 school days

- List of Schools for Rigor schools.

**BACKGROUND:** Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) began their partnership with Learning Sciences International (LSI) in 2016-17 to build capacity to prepare today’s students and educators for a future in an increasingly global economy and society. DMPS wanted to ensure their schools deliver and sustain high levels of professional and academic performance. The goal was to make rapid progress towards becoming a national model for urban education. During the 2016-17 school year, six DMPS schools became demonstration sites for Schools for Rigor. In the 2017-18 school year, 16 additional schools, hereafter called year-one schools, joined the journey. We on-boarded 7 schools in FY19 and plan to train and support the remaining schools over the next two school years.

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Items for next time:

- Draft needs assessment based on RPS and committee recommendations

Upcoming meeting date and location scheduled:

April 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
Location: Wright Elementary School, 501 SW 14th St, Des Moines, IA 50315

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Holland

**Addendum:**

A new school was part of the discussion of district needs with optimism that enrollment/funding will allow the construction of a new school in the future.

Sorry for any confusion this may have created.