Brandon Evansville Public Schools
Task Force Meeting #5 Minutes

February 5, 2015

Facilitators and Resource Consultants:
Mark Westby – Superintendent
Jim Wilson – Wendel Architects
Jodi Larson – Wendel Architects

Present: Please see sign in sheet for Focus Group meeting #5

5. Thursday February 5, 2015 TASK FORCE MEETING #5

5.1. Introductions / Team

5.2. Community Comments

1. Many community members want to see both schools remain in their respective locations.
2. Community members are drawn to the feel of a school and the ability to offer additional classes.
3. Community members that have not attended school in Brandon or Evansville believe that the best long term solution is to build one new building.
4. Many community members are concerned with the costs of a project.
5. There is discussion about the costs of having an operating levy and a facilities bond. (Roughly 90% of schools in Minnesota have an operating levy)
6. Jeanine created a visual of the district including a breakdown of the student population across the district. There are 118 students in each town. There are 670 total kids from age 0-12th grade.

5.3. Wendel Architects and R.A. Morton reviewed the refined plan and budget options.

5.4. The Task Force formed small groups and discussed the Pros and Cons of Options 1A, 1B, 2A, and 3. The following statements are a recap from the thoughts and opinions of the Task Force:

1A Pros (New PK-12):

1. Brand new building – Can be built specifically to meet staffing and safety needs.
2. Efficient to bus kids and operate.
3. Neutral location.
4. Low maintenance long term.
5. No need for multiple shops, band, choir, etc.

1A Cons (New PK-12):
1. The District would need to acquire new land and possibly extend utilities.
2. The District would need to decide what to do with the existing facilities.
3. Depending on the location of the new building, the district could lose its sparsity funding.
4. Highest cost option. Property taxes would be higher than other options.
5. The current facilities are in good enough shape to keep using with updates.

1B Pros (PK-12 in Brandon):
1. Lowest cost option.
2. Efficient to bus kids and operate.
3. More efficient for staffing and operations.
4. Maintains sparsity funding.
5. Adding flexible gym space.
6. Maintaining/remodeling existing facilities and adding new.

1B Cons (PK-12 in Brandon):
1. Evansville could lose a school – especially so soon after consolidation. Money has been spent on projects in Evansville and would no longer be used.
2. The District would need to decide what to do with the existing Evansville facility.
3. New sports fields may need to be built. Might need to acquire new land for this.
4. Unknown additional land costs may arise.

2A Pros (PK-5 in Evansville / 6-12 in Brandon):
1. No duplicating of shop / facs facilities.
2. Less shuffling of staff and students between buildings.
3. More efficient use of teachers and high school classes offered.
4. Good for grade level configuration (PK-5 and 6-12).
5. The ball fields could be kept
6. Both towns could still have a school.
7. The District could maintain the sparsity funding.
8. Opportunity for project to be completed in phases.

2A Cons (PK-5 in Evansville / 6-12 in Brandon):
1. Grade configurations would change again. Some people like the current grade configuration now with middle school students separated.
2. Less efficient for operating.
4. Will bus routes need to be increased?
5. May lose ECFE in Brandon.
6. District does not own the Evansville City portion.
7. Cost is more than option 1B - to keep things similar to what they currently are.

3 Pros (PK-3/9-12 in Brandon / 4-8 in Evansville):

1. The current configuration is well liked by staff and students.
2. Both towns would get to keep a school.
3. ECFE would remain in Brandon.
4. Elementary students are closer to Alexandria.
5. The District could keep the current ball fields.
6. Maintain sparsity funding.
7. The Middle school would stay separate from the High School.
8. Opportunity for project to be completed in phases.

3 Cons (PK-3/9-12 in Brandon / 4-8 in Evansville):

1. Issues with students and staff traveling between buildings.
2. Less efficient and flexible for operating and staffing.
3. The District is still left with two older building.
4. Cost is more than option 1B - to keep things the same as they currently are.
5. District does not own the Evansville City portion.

8.5. Each small group ranked their choice of the 4 remaining options. The following chart is the results of their votes:

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Option 2A 16 points
Option 3 16 points
Option 1B 12 points
Option 1A 5 points
The Task Force eliminated Option 1A from further Discussion by consensus vote. The Task force will continue discussion of Options 2A, 3, and 1B at the next scheduled meeting.

5.5. Homework
1. **Task Force**- Discuss facilities planning with friends, family and district residents.
2. **Brandon Evansville Administration**- Research the sparsity funding details.
3. **R.A. Morton**- Revise Budget Options.
4. **ALL** – Consider phasing options and costs.
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Brandon-Evansville Schools Task Force Meeting #5

3. February 5th, 2015

1. Introductions

2. Review Meeting #4 Notes and Community Comments

3. Plan & Budget Options

4. Small Group Discussions

5. Project Timeline – Referendum Dates

6. Next Meeting – February 16th
## Plan Options

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Small Group Discussion

Pros and Cons of:

1A
1B
2A
C
Brandon-Evansville Schools Task Force Meetings

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Monday, February 16th

- Monday, March 9th
Brandon-Evansville Schools

Homework for Next Meeting...
EVANSVILLE SITE
BRANDON PK-12 LOWER LEVEL

NEW ADDITION
30,250 SF

REMODEL
6,445 SF

OPTION 1B
BRANDON 6-8 MS / 9-12 HS MAIN LEVEL

OPTION 2A

NEW ADDITION
4,900 SF

REMODEL
1,200 SF
EVANSVILLE PK-5 LOWER LEVEL

NEW ADDITION
220 SF

OPTION 2A
EVANSVILLE PK-5 MAIN LEVEL

NEW ADDITION
9,345 SF

REMODELLING
6,200 SF

OPTION 2A
EVANSVILLE 4-8 MIDDLE SCHOOL LOWER LEVEL

NEW ADDITION
15,945 SF

OPTION 3
EVANSVILLE 4-8 MIDDLE SCHOOL MAIN LEVEL

REMODEL
1,600 SF

DEMOLISH PORTION OF BUILDING

OPTION 3