

**Dist. 205 Special Board of Education Meeting**

**All Bd members present  
(Stuefen 5 min late, Blum left 40 minutes early)**

**Jan. 27, 2018  
9:05 am – noon**

**Public: 8 Staff: 20 Press: 2  
LWV Observer: J. Dorner**

NOTE: Almost all the Principals were present for this meeting.

Lots of information was presented via a long power point presentation. This apparently will be posted on BoardDocs, but is not there as this observer writes this report. D205 also recorded the whole meeting, but not sure when that will be posted on the website. FYI - The first 90 minutes is the review of all the “anchor points” (community engagement items).

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss facilities. Representatives from Wight Architects and Strategies 360 were on hand and handled most of the presentation. President Ebner called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

**Workshop Topic: Facilities Discussion**

The discussion started with a review of Focus 205, Thought Exchange, the Phone Poll, The All-Day Kindergarten Feasibility Study and the 2016 Educational Alignment Study. Most of this information is on the [www.focus205.org](http://www.focus205.org) website, and that which is not currently on that sight will be added. Several Board members asked many questions about this information, although they had received presentations on each of these pieces previously.

During the all day kindergarten (ADK) discussion, since a majority of parents who supported ADK wanted it at their home school, the architects stated the following room was available:

Jefferson	1 room
Hawthorne	2 rooms
Emerson	2 rooms
Conrad Fischer	0 rooms
Jackson	0 rooms

Edison, Field and Lincoln – proposed to be incorporated into the comprehensive building improvement.

Dr. Moyer presented “Overarching Principles Reflected in Draft Operational Plan.” Dr. Harrell asked that communications be included in this plan.

Wight Architects presented plans for Field, Edison and Lincoln – as just a starting point from which to generate input from all.

Field – The starting point is to re-do the gym and multipurpose room, add an elevator, build a new main office off the parking lot, add 4 kindergarten classrooms and a new library on the North Ave. end of the building. Suggested that this should take 3 years.

Edison – To the East end of the building, 12 additional classrooms would be added. The main office would be relocated as well as new support staff area with new construction. Ten classrooms will also be re-done. Suggested that this should take about 2 years.

Lincoln – Presented as Approach #1 and Approach #2. Two different buildings, one for each

approach, were shown but not discussed. A three-story building was considered, but decided that this would not fit into the neighborhood, so went back to a two-story plan.

Approach #1 – Phased construction – students will be attending during construction.

Construction will begin on the north side of the building. The gym and the music room, which are on that side of the building, will be impacted. Once this building is complete, the students would be moved into the new construction and demolition and completion of the building would take place.

PRO – No temporary move, minimum impact on other D205 facilities, construction starts sooner.

CON: complicated construction, higher cost, longer project, greater impact on education, stormwater problem, no gym.

Approach #2 – Move students/remove school and start with a “clean slate.” Different ideas for where students would be transferred were presented:

- Relocate 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Hawthorne, move remaining grades to Edison.
- Move 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Bryan, 4<sup>th</sup> grade to Edison, K-3 to Edison.
- Other ideas include trailers at Edison? Hawthorne? Bryan??

PRO – unencumbered access, lower construction cost, shorter construction project.

CON – One year relocation, impacts other facilities, delayed start (could not start until Edison addition was complete).

Bryan was also discussed. That plan is to move the office to the front of the building (freeing up space for 2 classrooms) and to add two classrooms onto the 6<sup>th</sup> grade wing (closest to Van Buren St.) to even out all “arms” of the building. (These 4 classrooms would allow the possibility for Lincoln students to move to Bryan, although Bryan is currently “tight,” and is conducting some academic classes in the music area.)

The last building discussed was York High School. The athletic fields would be organized, the “backhouse” of the auditorium would be addressed and the third floor space could be rehabbed.

There were drawings of all other D205 buildings, with recommended revisions outlined.

*During the above discussion on new and remodeled spaces, it was announced that the demographers from the 2014 demographic study would be asked to determine new boundaries for the attendance areas.*

The Board mostly listened during this part of the presentation, although Dr. Harrell asked why was the Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> school board meeting important? Dr. Moyer answered that this presentation would be repeated and that more information would be given. Later Mr. Collins asked what were the expectations on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>? Dr. Moyer replied that a decision to take this to the community to see what they would support would happen then. Mr. Collins replied, “Not a chance.” He went on to say that once something comes from the district, it is assumed that the Board is in agreement and that all of their reputations would be put on the line. He said we haven’t seen one single dollar sign on this yet. He is not sure he could vote yes on this. We need to have another meeting like this to actually discuss the possibilities. Dr. Harrell, Mrs Caforio and Mrs.Stuefen agreed.

A representative from Strategies 360 presented the ‘next steps’ (which will probably need to be revised).

- Feb. 13 – BOE meeting, draft highlights, decision to take to community
- Feb. 2018 – State of the School Finances
- March/April
  - Stakeholders meeting with Edison, Field and Lincoln
  - Community-wide introduction
  - ThoughtExchange (online “discussion”)
  - Online survey
- May – Community Engagement Findings, funding discussions
- June/July – Plan revisions/budget language developed and tested
- Aug. 14 –BOE meeting
- Aug. 20 – deadline to approve a resolution for a referendum
- Nov. 2018 election

Mr. Collins reiterated by saying he was not sure he could vote yes on this. We need to have another meeting like this to actually discuss the possibilities. And price tags are needed! Dr. Harrell, Mrs. Caforio and Mrs. Stuefen agreed.

Dr. Moyer ended the discussion by saying that he has initial costs for all these scenarios, but is hesitant to put any numbers out until they can be more definite. He did say that any plans would be in the scenarios that Elizabeth Hennessey of William Blair Financial Advisors presented to the Board on May 9, 2017. See:

<http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/ObserverReports/School/observerschool050917.pdf>

(Note that original presentation was for \$100, \$128 and \$151 million. Current thought is \$100, \$133 and \$156 million.)

**Public Comment:** None