

Community Facility Advisory Committee

As Monticello CUSD #25 moves forward in the development of a long-term facility plan, a Community Facility Advisory Committee (CFAC) was formed to solicit feedback and recommendations for consideration. The board member led group included twenty community members representing a variety of interests. The task of the group was to consider possible options for the improvement of district facilities including building additions, re-models, and re-usage of existing facilities. The group developed findings for presentation to the full School Board including recommendations to garner majority support from the community for a referendum in March 2018.

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June 21, 2017

Meeting Dates and Topics

Monday, March 27

- Introductions
- Objectives / Expectations
- Timelines / Logistics
- What Got us Here
 - History of Current Buildings
 - History of Last Two Referendums
- Project Priorities

Monday, April 3

- HS Building Tour
- Current Building/Remodeling Considerations for Referendum
- Project Priorities

Monday, April 17

- Current Bond Structure
- Effects of Referendum Amounts on Property Taxes

Monday, May 1

- Process to get positive communication
- Obstacles to getting majority support
- Recommendations general discussion

Monday, May 15

- Review of Previous Discussion
- Draft Recommendations to District #25 School Board

Four Key Objectives that Must be Included in any new plan:

Location: While there may be advantages to relocation, the high school campus should remain where it is, with no purchase of new land for a building project.

Remodel: This referendum should be more of a remodel rather than all new construction. A remodel will address the current facility needs and any new/re-model building structures should be well constructed (i.e. masonry) with efficiency in mind, look practical and compliment the look of existing structures.

“Something for All”: This referendum should include solutions to needs assessed in both our elementary and high school areas. Arts, Academics and Athletics will all be given consideration. All student special needs will be taken into consideration when creating the facilities plan.

Cost: Dollars used should be reasonable so that taxpayers can see the value that they are getting for their investment in the schools and community.

What facility issues should be addressed?

- The prior facility Goals set forth by the previous school board still represent the overall goals to strive for in this referendum. This committee agrees with the previously stated goals of:
 - Create a comprehensive facilities solution for the whole district
 - Updated facilities should produce operational savings and increase educational efficiencies through 21st century features and technologies
- The prior facility Priorities identified in previous community meetings are still relevant and should be taken into consideration. The committee believes the following priorities are still the key objectives for this referendum:
 - Provide safe and secure facilities that will produce favorable conditions to foster an enriching educational environment (Safety / Security / Air-Conditioning)
 - Provide High School students with modern and technically advance science labs and learning environments (Science Labs/Technology)
 - Provide a Gymnasium, adequately sized, to host all needed arts and athletic functions (Competition Gym)
 - Consolidate space/facilities to meet current student need (fewer elementary schools/ HS classrooms in the HS)
 - Provide upgraded or new space for music, drama and the arts as feasible

What tax increase is acceptable to the community?

- Specific needs and the costs for each need should be well defined and communicated.
 - Cost of each need is more critical than a specific tax increase number.

- Do not defer a dire need, but explain it well and show the specific cost.
- Should be able to explain clearly the cost/benefit of needed improvements, and be able to explain how getting great “bang for the buck.”
- Show we are currently being good stewards with community taxes.
- Show how we will utilize operational costs savings and sales tax as much as possible to reduce the referendum amount. Be specific with amounts applied to reduce referendum.

How to best communicate with the community?

- Should define how the referendum will satisfy specific future school needs.
- Clearly identify what technology improvements are needed – be specific.
- Should be very transparent with costs, net tax increases, tax reductions if no referendum, and the bond structures. Explain overlap or influence from current Middle School bonds.
- If possible, a tax-rate calculator should be provided so voters know the exact affect on their property tax. Use chart to show tax impact at various property value increments (\$100K, \$150K, \$200K, etc.). Break down by annual and monthly cost for tax increase.
- Expenses should be explained as a cost per student.
- Do not overplay how our tax rate is less than other schools.
- The costs of doing nothing should be explained with operational inefficiencies, both financially and educationally.
- The details of the referendum should be communicated through many venues to reach various community sectors.
 - Have a solid and clear presentation
 - List tough questions and have solid answers
 - Explain cost/consequences of doing nothing
 - Put facts in the Journal edition that goes to everyone twice per year, make simple points in regular Journal editions, use social media
 - Present at various community groups (clubs, churches, organizations, etc.)
 - Be intentional in communicating to our senior citizens
 - Drive the referendum by utilize community leaders
 - Use personal community testimonials and make presentations
 - Community to take lead / School Administration and School Board reduced role
 - Have a good “two minute speech” to summarize the referendum
 - Explain how adjustments were made with costs/needs lessons learned from past
 - Utilize charts and graphs as much as practical
 - Show photos and videos to illustrate deficiencies with current conditions