

AUHS Facilities Community Task Force

Meeting Minutes: January 17, 2011 South Campus Library

Attendance: 16

Minutes recorded by Steve Bailey of Donovan Group LLC

I. Introduction

- a) The group had a discussion on the purpose of the task force. Discussion points were as follows:
 - a. It's important at this time to decide where this task force is going so that everyone is on the same plane. Doing nothing with the facilities is still on the table, so remember that it is one of the possible solutions (Co-chair David Newman).
 - b. There are several people who are here to serve as resources. Joe Donovan of Donovan Group LLC is an outside facilitator, and there are representatives from Miron Construction and Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA). They are all here to give quotes on possible prices for different options and give the group better insight on potential avenues.
 - c. The group discussed the effects of clutter, particularly in the fine arts space. The area seems to be better at times than it was on the tour in October, but also much worse at other times.
 - i. The demands on the school district will always be there, so they may need to be addressed.
 - d. Are we dealing with wants or needs? The reason for the needs prioritization is because the district cannot afford every improvement; rather, the task force needs to find the biggest needs and move forward from there (Joe Eberle)
 - i. With possible reductions in shared revenue and lowered enrollments, does it make sense to add to the school facilities?
 - ii. If we don't make improvements, it will be difficult to attract families and top-tier teachers to the district, much like a business.
 - iii. The next step needs to find out what the most important needs are, and it requires the buy-in from the entire task force.
- b) Joe Donovan of Donovan Group LLC reviewed the official charge and purpose of the Facilities Community Task Force, laid out by the Board of Education.
- c) Questions about the process the task force is using:
 - a. EUA has done this type of process before. Can you reassure us that this process will work?
 - i. The progress that the group has made is normal, and this is how we start each project. This process is just to find out what you need,

according to what the group decides. The prioritization is the hardest part because people have different ideas (Bob Vajgrt, EUA).

- b. What is the attitude of the school? What does the school staff feel that they need in terms of improvements?
 - i. If the administration told us what they needed, then a lot of people might feel that the process has been driven by the school. The school's input may be helpful, but it can only be part of the puzzle (Mr. Newman).
- c. The group brings a wide variety of perspectives to the table, but needs to think about what the school is all about, which is to impact students for the future. Are we preparing them for our past workforce needs or for the 21st century workforce? We need to listen to the feedback of universities and employers, and constantly reassess its activities (Co-chair Tom Harter).
- d. Are we giving the board only one recommendation? Or can we give more than one?
 - i. Our job is to define the issues and give them several options to address those issues (Co-chair Anthony Waite).
 - ii. The report that we're making is a blank slate and can be any type of a solution. Where we are supposed to be, according to the plan, is to prioritize those needs (Mr. Newman).
 - iii. School boards tend to take these recommendations seriously. The key is not to make the recommendations so specific that the board has no way out but to decline, however. What EUA normally suggests is for the board to survey the overall community on the recommendations made by the task force. Ultimately, it comes down to the taxpayers, who vote in a referendum, if the board doesn't have the funding in its operating budget (Mr. Vajgrt).
 - iv. If the group does not have these tough discussions, the process will not be a success. Any decisions the task force comes up with must have the buy-in from all members of the task force (Mr. Donovan).
- e. How will we gather information from the students and staff?
 - i. There is a report that was made for the school board, which surveyed more on what was affecting teachers on a daily basis. The task force really is not too far off from what staff members are saying, so it's now about prioritizing those needs (Craig Jefson, Superintendent).
- f. Can we get more information about how many students utilize each part of the school?
 - i. The district administration will get some numbers on how many students are involved in school activities. Numbers can also be accessed through WINNS on the Dept. of Public Instruction website (Mr. Jefson).
- g. We need to acknowledge that funding comes from the community, and that we need to collaborate with the community whenever possible to save resources (Mr. Harter).
- h. What's the difference between a solution and an option?

- i. Solutions are broader, something like "Improve the theater space." Options are more specific avenues, such as "Build a new theater" or "Add more seats to the existing space" (Mr. Vajgrt).
- ii. All of the needs that were brought up will go into the report, showing the process. The report should ultimately show how the needs were narrowed down, not just present a few options without any explanation of how the task force got there (Mr. Vajgrt).

II. The task force reviewed the work of the study groups.

a) 21st Century Learning:

- a. Study group member Bill Slater gave a presentation on technology trends and what 21st century learning might mean for educating students. Much of the information came from <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>.
 - i. Critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation are all key components of competing globally.
 - ii. Technology looks to play an enormous role in the future of education. Current innovation has changed the way that teachers are able to educate students.
- b. Questions:
 - i. What kind of infrastructure needs to be implemented for this type of learning?
 1. In the past, technology upgrades were expensive due to infrastructure costs. However, with mobile devices, much of this infrastructure is no longer required (Mr. Slater).

III. At the Jan. 4 meeting, Group 3 came up with six overall needs categories. At the Feb. 1 meeting, the task force will pick up this discussion and come up with a prioritization based on this list.

- a) The categories were:
 - a. 21st Century Learning
 - b. Theater
 - c. Storage
 - d. Traffic/parking
 - e. Special education
 - f. Pool/gym
- b) The task force decided that it would like to hear from Gregg Wieczorek, the principal of AUHS, regarding some of the needs he sees for the facilities.

IV. Other business

- a) Next Meetings:
 - a. Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
 - b. Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.