AUHS Facilities Community Task Force (FCT)

Meeting Minutes:
December 7, 2010
South Campus Library

Attendance: 24
Minutes recorded by Steve Bailey of Donovan Group LLC

Agenda

I. Reintroduction

 a) Joe Donovan (Donovan Group LLC) welcomed the group and reviewed what was covered at the previous meeting.

 b) Superintendent Craig Jefson introduced Craig Uhlenbrauck (Vice President of Marketing) and John Schneider (Project Executive) from Miron Construction. The company will be attending the task force meetings to act as a resource for members to help identify realistic costs of potential options.
   i. Mr. Jefson explained the process the school board took to select the construction management firm, and that the hiring of the firm does not necessarily mean that there will be a project. Using the firm as a resource is a part of the process.

 c) Uhlenbrauck introduced himself and Mr. Schneider, and gave an introduction to the services offered by Miron.

II. Questions about facility needs and enrollment projections:

 a) Many of the enrollment projections show an increase in enrollment over next several years, but the K-8 feeder schools show downward trend. How are feeder schools calculated in?

   i. While grades K-3 in the feeder schools show lower enrollments, the 4-8 grades still have high numbers of students. The high school also takes in a lot of students from the parochial schools and tends to see growth in the higher grades. The AUHS enrollment is expected to grow up to a tipping point in about 2018-19, after which enrollments may start to go down.
   ii. If the economy picks up, that could change, as there is a lot of buildable land in the area for young families to move in. These factors are why the district provided a variety of enrollment projections to the task force. (Steve Kopecky, Business Manager)

III. Review of needs categories

 a) Bob Vajgrt (Eppstein Uhen Architects) reviewed the categorization of needs. Based on the brainstorming from the group at the last meeting, he came up with

four very broad categories. He the placed the needs under the categories they loosely fit into. The categories were:
- Building Capacity
- Academics
- Safety
- Site

Note: See item IV for a full list of needs within the categories

b) The task force went through an exercise to review which needs fit into each categories, and dispute any they disagreed with. Discussion points were as follows:

i. Community Collaboration and Community Partnerships
   - Community collaboration means allowing the community to utilize the campus and its facilities as a resource. Community partnerships are about working with businesses/organizations in the area to improve the learning environment, through fields like technology, medical and special needs.
   - Could community partnerships have a negative impact on building capacity, as students are going elsewhere in the community instead of staying in the classroom? If so, it could also go in the Building Capacity category.

ii. What role does the 21st Century classroom play?
   - Virtual classrooms should perhaps be a part of the 21st Century classroom. Does this deserve a category of its own?
   - The virtual classroom would be highly relevant in both Academics and Building Capacity, as it has a wide impact on both.
   - Virtual classrooms vs. distance learning – Virtual classrooms are more about learning anywhere at any time, using online resources. Distance learning is where there is a teacher at one location and students located in all different places (like a traditional class, just spread out)
   - Could distance learning be having a teacher at one campus teach to students at both? Or are we talking more large-scale, where we have students learning from across the country?

iii. Is "Building Capacity" the right terminology?
   - Should we shorten this to "capacity," as we're not simply talking about space within the existing buildings?
   - Building "Utilization" or "Configuration" might be a better name for the category, as it's more about how students are using the space for instead of what space they are using.

iv. Need for special education space
   - This may also fit under Safety because the lack of space causes safety concerns. The students in special education have less space per person, with a population that may need more space than a typical group.

- It may also fit under Building Capacity, as the space has not been designed for special education use.

    v. Should we look at what classrooms look like at the best schools around the world?
- If our students are going to be working in an international economy, we need to provide them with workspace that is up-to-date with what students and professionals are doing globally.

    vi. Title IX
- The regulations are big on extracurricular offerings, which many categorize under Academics.
- Title IX is also very big on space concerns, so that makes it relevant to Building Capacity

    vii. Academics category
- Would "Education" be a better name? This would seem to be a little more broad, implying extracurricular activities and specialized programs as well as core academic programs.

IV. The task force participated in a prioritization exercise using stickers to "vote" for the needs that were most important, based on the discussion and campus tour. The group then discussed the results. Each member received 10 stickers for this purpose. *See item V for the number of votes collected for each need.*

    a) Overall, the Building Capacity category had the most votes.
    b) There were fewer dots under Academics; Is that cause for concern?
      i. Many members of the task force agreed that it wasn't the AUHS academic programs that are the problem, but the space available to them. The facilities don't seem to be able to support the academics.
      ii. In the future, AUHS should be known not only for its athletics, but also for its cutting-edge classroom space (incorporating 21st Century learning environments)
    c) Are some of the needs too specific?
      i. For example, perhaps "pool upgrade" and "theater expansion" should just be "pool" and "theater." Is it too early for us to know that we need to upgrade and expand?

V. Categorization of Needs: The following are the needs placed within the four broad categories, serving as the source of discussion for items III and IV. The number next to each need indicates the number of votes each received during the exercise in IV.

    a) Building Capacity
- Classroom capacity - 5
- Storage (for all departments) - 17
- Ability for student group work - 1

- Large gathering areas (gym, auditorium, etc.) - 0
- Maximize use of existing spaces - 3
- Field house expansion (North gym) - 12
- Day lighting/views to the exterior - 6
- More needs than resources - 0
- Support spaces for auditorium - 9
- Music room storage - 8
- Conference rooms - 0
- Pool upgrades - 16
- Theater expansion - 26

b) Academics
- Special education space - 11
- Curriculum changes - 2
- Community partnerships - 3
- 21st Century classrooms - 25
- AP courses - 8
- Virtual classes - 6
- Distance learning - 7
- FACE lab space - 2
- Centralization of classes - 2
- Title IX issues - 0

c) Safety
- Circulation space for class transition periods - 5
- Traffic, parking, storm water management - 21
- Classroom layout - 3
- Storage space (blocked hallways) - 15
- Transportation & logistics - 7

d) Site
- Address school-wide needs for all departments - 0
- Plans of feeder districts - 7
- Avoid duplication of community programs - 8
- Community collaboration - 1
- Timeline for land development - 0
- Sewer capacity - 2

VI. Research group brainstorming

a) The group came up with some questions that will require more information. Many of these questions can be answered by district staff. The bolded items below, however, will be topics for task force members to research in designated groups.

1. **What 21st Century learning environment look like and what it will mean in terms of utilization?**

2. Are other feeder districts involved in a process like this? Are they doing this type of study or analysis of long-term needs?
3. **What will the universities and colleges expect for students coming in?**
4. **What are the college learning environments going to be like?**
5. What have the other schools in SE Wisconsin done for projects and what did it cost?
6. How have other area schools used population data in their other projects?
7. How do you weight involvement of students in the various programs? (i.e. how many are involved in theater versus football?)
8. Should we develop a link with DPI for what it sees as the learning environment of the future?
9. Is the theater expansion a fine arts expansion? If so, it would incorporate other academic programs.
10. What has been the growth for specialized programs over the past several years?
11. Why are parents elected to send students to Arrowhead via Open Enrollment? Why are parents electing to send students out through OE?
12. Are the district office spaces sufficient? Do they need to be in this building?
13. Do we have data for usage for various facilities from the community overall? Are they able to utilize the space right now, or are some groups left out?
14. Does EUA have information on what the classroom is expected to look at in 2020?

b) Members had the opportunity to sign up to do research on the bolded topics above. They were encouraged to bring copies of what they found to next meeting to use toward the report to the school board.

VII. Housekeeping Items:

a) The administration would like permission to use task force members' names and feeder district information to demonstrate that this is a community-driven initiative. Members were asked to specify their districts on a roster and cross off their names if they did not want their information shared.

b) Volunteers were able to sign up to be co-chairs of the task force. Volunteers were Anthony Waite, Don Mertins and Tom Harter.

c) Members are reminded that they can still sign up for the research topics indicated in item VI.

d) Next meetings:
   i. Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 7:00 pm
   ii. Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7:00 pm
   iii. Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 7:00 pm