

Executive Summary: Educational Adequacy and Utilization

Introduction

To support the Board of Education's review, Stephen M. Chassee, Principal of GreenAssociates, will be in attendance to present the firm's proposal for a comprehensive District Master Plan. A key component of this plan is an in-depth analysis of Educational Adequacy and Utilization. This study is designed to provide a clear, data-driven understanding of how current facilities support (or hinder) the District's educational mission and how efficiently space is being used.

Adequacy and Utilization Study

The Educational Adequacy assessment will evaluate how well the physical learning environment aligns with the District's current and future educational programs. This is a qualitative review to determine if spaces are flexible, adaptable, and properly equipped to support modern teaching methodologies, such as project-based learning, interdisciplinary instruction, and student collaboration. GreenAssociates will use stakeholder interviews and detailed surveys to benchmark facilities against state and national planning guidelines, identifying specific areas where the physical space may be limiting desired educational outcomes.

The Utilization Analysis provides the quantitative counterpart to the adequacy review. GreenAssociates will conduct a detailed Utilization Analysis for each school, as detailed in the proposal. This process involves inventorying all instructional spaces, assigning "load factors" based on the District's specific programs, and comparing current enrollment data against established space standards. The result will be a clear picture of each building's "functional capacity," revealing which spaces are over-utilized, under-utilized, or at capacity. This analysis will identify deficiencies, surpluses, or imbalances in space allocation across the District.

Together with the already completed Facility Assessment and Capacity Analysis, these two studies will form the foundation of the Master Plan recommendations. By combining the qualitative data from the Educational Adequacy review with the quantitative data from the Utilization study, GreenAssociates will provide a comprehensive "road map" for Meridian CUSD 223. This will enable the District to make informed, data-driven decisions on facility improvements, reconfigurations, or potential new construction, ensuring that all future investments are targeted, efficient, and directly support the District's long-range educational vision.

Cost

As noted in the proposal, GreenAssociates will perform both the Educational Adequacy and Utilization Analysis at no charge to the District. This is contingent upon the District contracting with GreenAssociates for the Phase 1 Health and Life Safety construction work that is identified as part of the master planning process.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Education consider the approval of the proposal from GreenAssociates to

complete the Educational Adequacy and Utilization Analysis studies.