

The buildings and grounds committee met via teleconference on August 20, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. with the following: Jill Decent, Joe Dwyer and Barb Neprud. Erica Marcussen, Jamie Skjeveland and Bill Tollefson were also present.

Plan for CRES Second Floor Remodel in Summer 2021 – The committee heard an update on planning progress made on the CRES second floor remodel plan. A second stakeholder meeting with CRES staff was held on August 18, 2020, which confirmed that planning was proceeding based on the input from the first stakeholder meeting and solidified that doing the 4th and 5th grade pod remodel in the summer of 2021 and remodeling the 6th grade pod in the summer of 2022, along with the media center area, would provide an excellent transition.

Overall, planning has involved a complete master plan for the second floor at CRES. The primary planning has been for three classrooms each for fourth, fifth and sixth grade. This will allow for 2 classroom spaces in each pod for flexible learning space/multipurpose space/collaborative spaces that will allow for specialized instruction, such as science projects, to happen outside the normal classroom. In order to accommodate differing future space needs, all of the spaces, be they regular classrooms or flexible learning spaces, will include the same interior finishes to create maximum flexibility of use.

The second part of the master plan involves what would happen if enrollment grows and there are additional sections of kindergarten through second grade needed on the first floor. This could mean that the third grade would move to the second floor. If third grade ever needed to move to the second floor because of enrollment growth, the second plan looks at needing potentially thirteen (13) regular classroom spaces instead of nine (9), and master planning provides those spaces. In this scenario, there would still be two flexible learning spaces available on the second floor, which stakeholders identified as still being sufficient to meet programming needs.

Planning also includes spaces for special education staff, Title I staff and Northern Pines Mental Health staff. These spaces are accommodated throughout the two-summer phasing, and will minimize the need to move most staff more than once. With the current model used by CRES to push special education staff and Title I staff into the regular classrooms rather than pull students out of regular classrooms to receive these ancillary services, there is not the need to such large spaces to be allocated for this purpose.

A highlight of the plan will be to improve supervision of the student restroom area, which is now reached by leaving the pod area and walking down one of two hallways. It currently appears that a wall can be removed to allow access to the restrooms from the main corridor, improving supervision of this area while allowing the existing corridors to the restrooms to be repurposed to more productive space, including a copier/workroom, two new ADA compliant/multi-gender toilet rooms, storage/multipurpose space and special education space.

Discussion returned to the reasons for the focus on the 4th and 5th grade pods during the summer of 2021. These include having enough construction to fill the summer but not biting off so much construction that the project could not be completed; having a staging area on the second floor for both the summer of 2021 and the summer of 2022 to reduce the need to move furnishings and equipment to the first floor by having space on the second floor to move it to and store it temporarily; keeping most staff from having to move only once; and not causing a need for construction to happen in areas where there would need to be movement through areas that had already been remodeled.

The committee expressed their pleasure and satisfaction with the design work and plans thus far. The Board will be asked to take action at the regular Board meeting on August 24, 2020 to approve the Phase II design plan for the High School Career Tech Education Wing and CRES second floor 4th and 5th grade pods to allow planning to continue toward summer of 2021 construction.

In order to keep Phase III moving, planning for Phase III projects, which will include the 6th grade pod on the second floor at CRES and the CRES media center, will start in September or October of 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by William Tollefson