

MAROA-FORSYTH CUSD#2

Middle School Facility Planning
Community Engagement Meeting #1 • 09/26/19



QUESTIONS FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION #1

"At Community Engagement Session #1, we received five questions on "I Have A Question" forms. Below are the five questions and responses.

1. How will the district-BLDD learn from mistakes made by other districts who have gone through recent remodeling?

In addition to engaging staff in the creation and development of the design solution, the School District plans to provide professional development for staff to help make sure the new learning environments will enhance best practices in classroom instruction as determined by district education professionals.

2. How will teachers be given opportunities within the design process to ensure classrooms are designed in (?) functionality?

The design process will enlist the insight and experience of teaching staff in multiple ways, most importantly in creating the functional requirements for classrooms and other learning environments, and in creating and critiquing design concepts that are to be presented to the board of education for consideration.

3. Is there enough room on the existing site to build a new HS before demo on current MS?

There is enough acreage to build a new HS before demolition of the existing MS, however that may require removal of newer site improvements (like paving and / or parking), or altering existing drainage pathways. Concepts for these solutions (illustrating strengths and weaknesses of differing scenarios) will be presented at the October 23rd Community Engagement Session.

4. Regarding Functional Adequacy, how do the High School and Grade School (text is blocked by an edit) current standards? As the teaching landscape continues to change, are we (blocked text) in which our two new(ish) facilities will be out of date earlier than we are used to thinking? How do we account for that risk when considering our approach the Middle School challenge?

An assessment of the High School and the Elementary School isn't needed at this time, but we recognize the limits that exist (for instance a lack of flex and collaborative spaces). Including flexible learning environments (that can accommodate change over time) in the design of the Middle School is the strongest approach to manage that risk.

5. How would an educational space which had been designed with a collaborative approach to teaching in mind affect how teachers teach, both positively and negatively? As one who is leading my team through an operational and cultural transformation, I can share that the challenges and resistance to changing old ways of working and thinking are generally harder to overcome than we think at the outset.

All of our best practice research points to the direction that our mode of operation in teaching & learning needs to be collaborative. This also fits brain research in terms of how information is retained, and how levels of understanding can go deeper related to application. So, the positives related to the bottom line of student learning is huge. Our teachers over the past 5 to 7 years have been immersed in professional development that moves them away from "sage on the stage" lecture style teaching. The only negative is connected to teachers not wanting to change...while we had some of this years ago, the culture in education has changed so much that this negative is going away and is very minimal.

For questions, please contact Dr. John Ahlemeyer, Superintendent • john.ahlemeyer@mfschools.net or 217-794-3488, Ext. 5103