9/20 Community Engagement Session at Southwest High School

Now that you have learned about the District's facility challenges, about flexible school design, and about the board's efforts to address facility challenges, we have a very general question: What do you think? What are your reactions to what we have covered tonight?

- I am confused with the presentation which I felt covered renovation to existing schools, but didn't really address the fact that is on most people's minds - What steps will be taken to address the overcrowding?
- Is there any way to get data from at-risk districts who have changed building layout and how it affected student scores/learning (this should be on the blue card).
- If there is crowding on the east side & capacity on the west side, why not re-draw the lines & use the schools we already have. I'm concerned about maintaining the other high schools. You talked a lot about 4K overcrowding, so what does building a 5th high school have to do w/it.
- Curious about the inaccurate projections of growth. If east school (Preble) is overcrowded & west schools are below capacity, consider redrawing districts. I'm concerned about maintaining 5 high schools. Why was elementary & 4k being discussed so much if we are [*illegible*] the high school level.
- I agree with the changes and items that have been brought up. However, I only hear about certain school within the district that have improved. What is the district going to do with the facilities that we already here and haven't been updated? What if the east side changes and the population goes down in 5-10 years? Then we have the opposite problem! Items that weren't covered are boundaries, safety, and education.
- He seems like a lot of time was spent saying there is a problem with space, and then asking if we believe you. I'm not sure where you are going with this information - I don't think I have a full string here to work from.
- 1) What will be done to fix the problem? Change boundaries, propose another school etc? I do not feel the presentation addressed these questions.
- Get to enrollment numbers right. Change boundaries to utilize underutilized school[s]. Modify existing buildings.
- How are you addressing how to shift the crowding from the east side and bring it to the west side? Should the topic of another school be brought back up?
- Restructuring boundaries according to population growth. When accommodating new spaces need to consider electrical outlets to recharge computers, iphones, tablets, etc.
- I'm excited… not only are we discussing boundaries on capacity <u>but</u> improving learning spaces for all.
- Ripon, Menasha, Mequon, Jhonsville [Janesville?] would love to see their learning spaces.
- I think the focus on personalized learning, collaborative & flexible spaces to educate tomorrow's workforce is "spot on" based on literature & practice I have seen. I suspect we really haven't figured out the full potential of these opportunities to engage students

- & their minds. Are we losing students to other districts because of space needs? If so, is this lost revenue? Where is this happening most - in "hot spots"?
- Need more info on what's available - find some specifics. I don't feel any direction in searching. Keep flexibility in mind. We can't afford to rebuild the whole district. Who gets what?
- Are we thinking about boundaries, moving boundaries, or, better yet, moving beyond boundaries? There are a number of school districts that have moved away from neighborhood schools by default. Are we interested in having that conversation?
- I am very interested in seeing the flexible school design continue throughout the district. As a student I find that type of learning to be easier and more productive. Everyone has different learning styles, but for my peer group and I find it better to work in a flexible school design.
- It's all good, but I worry about equity. Certain schools are getting these. All schools need it. Bottom line we need space, with smaller class size. Kids are coming in w/ more [trauma]. We need to address this 1st. Most kids are coming from split homes. Emotionally we got handled this. Large classes is not the answer. 1) More space 2) smaller class size
- Regardless of environment, flexible design will support future skills/learning needs. This supports district mission and vision
- The most difficult issue in my mind is how to anticipate the skills that students will need 5, 10, 20, 50 years down the line. The curricular landscape since 2000 has changed drastically & technology & skills that students will actually need in a future job market will need to be very elastic & able to morph within a matter of a few years.
- I went to JFK school. We had open concept areas. Our walk were mobile as were our tables. This seems the same. Keeping the old schools, they aren't able to be revamped due to age. All students deserve the same ability to receive the best education.
- I love the idea of flexible seating/space. Does creating these breakout areas decrease the capacity of the school? Are there plans to do work not covered in this presentation.
- I think we need to address the way our buildings are set up. Many are very old and do not meet the needs of our students. We have random pieces of furniture that do not fit the size of our rooms or provide for the flexibility to arrange our rooms to properly teach students.
- We need to meet students' needs within our District. We have too many students who leave our District for neighborhood Districts. Schools must be equipped to further our mission/vision. When there is a disconnect students' needs and wants are met elsewhere.
- What do we need? More classrooms when the enrollment hasn't increased significantly?? The whole purpose of the school is to educate - ACADEMICS - not comfort or niceties!! [omitted] I'm interested in the Task Force - when will they meet?
- Well, I am a student… I love everything presented. I wasn't necessarily "bored to tears" but the benefits of flexible learning spaces can't have a price tag on them. Comfortable learning spaces make learning more fun & enjoyable.
- How will you determine which schools receive updates first?

- As a student I feel that it is very important that there is a comfortable space to learn. Being able to learn w/ friends or in group is one way that help me fully grasp concepts.

As board members continue their facility-related work, what do you want the board to keep in mind? What do you think is important for the board to consider?

- Staff and teacher input?
- Why have we not considered redrawing the lines & using the schools we have? Why not use the money to improve our current schools & make them a better learning environment?
- Really take the time to listen to concerns of the community → all sides. Consider what it would take to build a new school & maintain all schools - would not be beneficial to neglect certain schools. [Illegible] be redrawing the lines & improving current schools.
- It's about the kids, our future. Not about money, or numbers that no one can predict. The people in each school boundary. The income level surrounding each school is drastic, and needs to be thought of.
- Don't' focus on bells and whistles and beauty - we need to create spaces that foster innovative learning. Has the district explored creating charter school so federal grant money can be used to create better learning environments.
- School [boundary] changes and how it affects students/families.
- Update our facilities we have now. Shorten your presentations & only present pertinent info. What is your final agenda?
- Keeping with the times. Times now are computers & technology, are these things widespread throughout the schools?
- The [curriculum] does it reflect the times and are [there] enough spaces to [accommodate] the newer technologies. Computer programming, statistics, engineering capacities, web design, gaming design, etc.
- Do all you can do be progressive & aggressive for our students.
- [Ensuring] equity in education through the facility spaces. Keeping teacher & student voice in the design work. Being inclusive of planning with partners. Match the technology to the mobile learning environment.
- Find actual options to look at. Keep staff and students in mind. You cannot be everything to everybody! We cannot have 1 teacher for each 1 student. Boundary changes.
- Equity, Integration, Opportunities for all kids.
- The impact of transportation and the development specialty programs/program facilities. Student movement.
- For one, I think these engagement sessions need more exposure. My guess is that there may have been 15 members at this session that weren't teachers or administrator (can't get much serious input that way). Input needs equity, otherwise [you're] not TRULY hearing & addressing ALL stakeholders. Also, since teachers are on the "front lines", their voices provide the most insightful feedback for "our customers".

- Equity for <u>all</u> schools (not the schools with the loudest voices). We need people power… not necessary more lighting, comfy seating, appearance doesn't make a school great. It's the people inside it.
- Each school needs to be changed/improved equally. How does this affect fire codes? Are the soft chairs ok? When my children were in school, teachers couldn't bring these into classrooms - lice, etc…
- The visible improvements are great and [showy] but do maintenance improvements need to be made as well. Will all the needs and wants be given to schools?
- Webster NEEDS a facility that allows for true arts integration and performance. The facility <u>must</u> match the mission and vision of the school.
- Each school is unique and has its own special characteristics. Consider what is needed at each building. Level the playing field.
- It is important to keep the public informed and not dismiss their ideas. Keep in mind they are <u>funding</u> all <u>your</u> decisions. Don't solve problems for short-term - think for the future. (Maybe you won't redo windows several times!)
- Technology, furniture, timeline, each classroom has different needs → important to consider.
- How can we make our "pathways" more accessible for students throughout the district? eg allowing west side students to be a part of the culinary offering, or southwest students a part of manufacturing?
- The benefits of including [unfinished]

School board members have made clear that they are interested in your thoughts and feedback. What additional information would you like to provide them? What have we missed?

- It sounds like you did not have all the accurate numbers regarding enrollment, maybe you should fix that. One of the people at my table didn't even know what you were proposing when you were done she had no idea you wanted a 5th high school. Need to do a better job getting to the point.
- Same feedback. One of the people present at my table did not know what the presentation was about or what was being proposed. Building a new high school was not ever mentioned. Also it would be nice if all speakers introduced themselves before they spoke.
- It was mentioned that school of choice is an option and no one can tell who is going to go to a different school. Would finding out why parent want to switch their children to a different school help? Would that make any difference?
- Please consider charter schools. The funding to offset startup costs of new schools is available and there are community members and teachers who feel passionate about what can be accomplished in these innovative schools. But there is also some accountability that community members may appreciate in regards to making sure a new school is successful.
- Please be accurate in the info you present.

- When is open enrollment for 4K? The flyer I received in the mail made it sounds like this meeting was about how to enroll and what to look for as a parent of a 3 yr old who will be starting school next year. I have no idea what to do because we live on the east side & I want my child to attend MacArthur, Lombardi, & High School.
- Listening sessions are positive & powerful. However, until there is a choice or choices to debate that draws more feedback attendance/opinions may be [sparse].
- I applaud your commitment to create GBAPSD to being a premiere public education provider in northeast Wisconsin. Our communities & future economy are dependent on your success. Will you embed adult/parent learning in your spaces?
- Ask the current staff, younger staff, students. Don't be afraid of student movement and the "holy" river.
- Is the board & administration thinking about reconfiguring the grade spaces at different schools? e.g. more k-8 schools, 5-6, 7-8?
- An open discussion works better, how are we supposed to hear everyone's opinion? It's hard to get the most out of time.
- Discuss the impact of virtual learning/remote learning.
- Equitable input is key. Insulation from REAL issues that are happening, creates guesses, not substantive. & impactful progress for student futures. I can throw darts in the dark & guess where they are going to land, or I can turn the lights on, move my body closer, & throw MORE darts.
- These meetings weren't really advertised. Only a few voices are being heard. How about getting this info out electronically along w/ the feedback? Our parents weren't told about this. Most here are from DOB/school board.
- Which schools are being changed? What is the budget for this? How is it going to be paid for? How do we know this will improve knowledge and learning?
- I would like to see a breakdown of each school and the plans for that school. I fear that it is a great idea and opportunity that may not be used to its full extent or projects not completed.
- Look at what has been done - what worked & what didn't!! Listen to faculty & staff & their needs & not "outsiders" who cost us money!! Thought: are you trying to make these schools little "colleges"?
- Please visit our schools - not just a quick pop in. Stay for a while so you can really see what it is like day by day.
- Please come and spend time in our schools. Stay for a couple of days. We would love to have you! :-) Thank you for holding this session!
- Have there been any thoughts on restructuring the types of buildings and models we offer (more K - 8 buildings, varying types of middle schools)

Earlier tonight we discussed flexible, effective modern classrooms and learning spaces. What do you think? What additional information are you be looking for as it relates to this topic?

- (Orange card response) Less educational buzzwords that John Q Public finds confusing and more data on how students learn differently today vs 20 years ago.
- How do you plan on maintaining the 5 high schools? How do you plan on getting enough teachers? How are you going to update the other schools to have flexible, effective modern classrooms & learning spaces?
- How do you plan to even the cost of maintaining all 5 high schools? I'm concerned about the schools that are below capacity i.e. West. Are there plans to upgrade current schools?
- I think that is good! If it means our [future] students, teachers, etc. will learn and make Brown County a better place, then OK. What will be the cost for this to every school?
- I am a huge proponent of innovative learning and there is flexibility regarding this resources that are needed to accomplish this. Learning doesn't need to be contained in a building and I think more opportunities for outdoor or off-campus learning should also be explored. Modern and sleek and beautiful buildings are not the answers - allowing teachers to TEACH in a way that fosters growth of students is paramount.
- No additional information on the modern classroom spaces. I would like to know how it relates to the issue at hand. Overcrowding.
- Use money to update technology & not new buildings.
- I'm new to this whole opened concept idea. I will need to do further research.
- Smart boards are [there] enough available for teachers to use in classrooms or are the schools going to individual computers children have. How do school [surveillance] that children are on correct programs. Smart boards use help classes to focus as a whole. Will children be distracted by their personal computers?
- More pictures, [renderings] and examples
- We need to stay - no in front- but at least with the neighboring districts → the kids needs come first
- I hope to see the continued creation of college-going artifacts into the flexible spaces. Our cultures are reflected in the artifacts around us -- what will the facility space reflect to our students? Yes! You absolutely need this type of design?
- Ask the teachers and students for input. Get more enrollment numbers - Terry Fonder might be strong-minded, but consider him, too. We can't tear down and rebuild all of the schools. Consider modifications $$$
- Does the focus of the school play a role in determining the kind of work spaces that will be made available?
- How do current facilities-connected curriculum support or [complement] both current local job/[career] needs - as well as future known and unknown occupations? What are the trends - local, regional, national, global. e.g. What is projected growth/decline in Health Care, etc. Trends support curriculum and facility use. Source → local business bureau, commerce, economic [development corporation]
- I would like the district to show evidence (yes, evidence) that changing learning spaces is effective. Since numbers & test aren't always reliable methods, talk with teachers & TALK WITH KIDS! Additionally, without support from the state any substantial changes are moot.

- Are these cloth seatings "fire [hazard]"? Do kids fight over the different chairs? How is the cleanup in these updated rooms… more work custodians? Do they need their hours adjusted? Kids are more angry… are we making spaces for them? (padded rooms/ calming colors where they can de-escalate
- How will you be equitable to all students? This will require a huge amount of money that our districts does not have.
- Light in schools is so important! Teachers would love the flexible seating/spaces. Most teachers no longer use rows, but prefer to have tables.
- Seek help from community-volunteers. Classrooms are fine - I like the new tables that can be used for small & large groups. Why are there so many small classes that need rooms? We are here to (educate) the masses. Don't waste money as was the case w/ individual laptops!
- How will we accomplish this [with] resources we have? Will we ever consider modifying our school to be more "community" friendly? Webster could "easily" partner with Village of Allouez.
- *I'm a student* I agree with everything presented. Collaborative & comfortable learning is important
- How can you provide visible work areas yet still allow for distraction-free environments? Hoping that the new environments also take into considerations all student needs, not just work spaces for whole group or small group. So ELL, special ed, movement opportunities for all students, etc.