

9/13 Community Engagement Session at West 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 the reactions to what we have covered tonight?

- I think the district should initially tackle the issues of updating the current schools before building a new E side school.
- I think change is good, and that modern classrooms and learning situations can contribute positively to kids' learning experience. However, it is my concern [that] basic needs such as school lunches, class size, and diversity in schools may be neglected. Will flexible learning help aid poverty?
- I believe that while functional classrooms and modernized open-concept buildings may improve the learning of students, poverty, multilingual and food service issues should be addressed with just as much energy in order to improve how students learn.
- We need more flexible learning spaces. We need to ensure that all learners have equitable opportunities.
- Having designing a school with too much open area doesn't give teachers & staff control of teaching students.
- Flexible school design is worth considering. However, it would be best to choose a model school in our district instead of implementing it in all our GB schools. It would give an opportunity to review if it is beneficial and more schools could be designed more specific to their needs.
- I think we need to emphasize the "reuse, revision & recycle" of what we have. I also believe this is an equity issue. All students deserve a "Da Vinci" school.
- I hope that these new spaces for new ways of learning are offered to all areas of the schools & to all schools in the District. It is important for this kind of learning to be available for math, science, English, music, Arts, theatre, Phy Ed.
- I hope items will be implemented before my children finish 7th & 4th grade. I would like to see them being able to learn so flexibly & creatively. My question on school boundaries, I was told the new department buildings across the river along the city deck would not be able to attend school on this (west) side. Why is that? Should the children attend school closest to their homes, even if you are east of the line? (Probably not explained well) but I'm confused, too.
- Concerned that the district does not focus on a 5th high school as it did in 2006 - 2007. Rather [than] upgrade existing facilities, look at the new boundaries to meet space issues, and address the increase in numbers at some elementary schools.

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?

- Do we have a boundary issue? How can we address the issue of high percentage poverty students at East, West, Franklin, and Washington. Please use a reliable formula for accurate as possible school enrollment projection. (10 yr cohort survival ratio)
- Spend time with the children, see what they want and what they feel they need, not so much what us adults or parents want.
- How do you ensure “personalized learning” & “modern learning environment” doesn’t become the new (or next) “Open Classroom?” Philosophically - on the scale of very, very “big picture”: do schools try to do too much?
- Green Bay West HS has a historic and beautiful Ralph Holter auditorium that is falling into disrepair. This theater is used by band, orchestra, choir, plays, musicals, High School events & ceremonies as well as community events. I believe it is necessary to have this treasure repaired and updated. The stage has splinters coming out & they have injured students.
- Security. Equity. Business partnerships -- how our goals meet theirs
- Keep acoustics in mind, noise, hearing issues. Keep visual access or distractions in mind.
- To focus on energy saving cost and practice to help cut cost will save money for others needs for to use other learning material.
- The Arts - too often overlooked. Proper facilities & “tools” for this. Address the funding issue (with Madison) for what public schools actually need.
- Equity is very important in considering the flexible learning spaces.
- I would like the board to consider that in order to reroute students from one overcrowded building to an open building, transportation needs to be provided for those students who are transferring or moving around the district throughout the school day.
- I hope the board continues to keep poverty in mind, and not place it on the back-burner. The special needs programs should remain in mind. These kids matter too, and flexible learning applies to them just like any other kid. Implementing these ideas for kids with special needs could be very beneficial, and even aid them when they come to school.

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

- Rezoning is positive, however, there should be an effort to evenly distribute ethnicities as well as kids with different socioeconomic backgrounds to provide a diverse learning environment. This could also help with over-crowding or under-populating in today’s schools.

- Using 5 yr cohort survival ratio 9 - 12 enrollment is projected to increase to 6146 in 2023 - that is less than the total of 6521 in 2005. Also 6 - 8 enrollment is projected to increase to 4511 in 2023 w/ a peak of 4585 in 2020. Close to 2005 number of 4572.
- For high school students → night classes for extra learning that university bound students to take for example: CPR, cooking, sewing, art etc. these wouldn't necessarily be for credit more for personal growth, socialization, etc. Our schools are what our children make of them. If they chose to be involved, participate, & learn, they will have a good school. If they chose to be negative & not involved, it is the student's loss. (Accept things for what they are.)
- How can we get more info out about how great our schools are? My 3 sons graduated from West HS. They are college graduates: UW Madison, American University, and Harvard Law. They were national merit scholars. They sometimes made mistakes in HS and learned from them.
- As we move into the future there is still a need to have shops. (wood, metal, machine, auto, welding, etc.) Scott Walker will tell you this.
- Perhaps we should continue to put our funding in the technology area where it will keep our students learning. There are wonderful resources available online for students, but if the wi-fi doesn't connect quickly or the devices are outdated, it will not matter.
- Keep up w/ the technology - for all students. Provide more resources to not only students but also their families. Please keep up w/ the ethnic diversity. But not at the expense of our own American values.
- Large, functional classrooms are great. But once the number of students in that classroom increase, it's going to get noisy. So I think the district should consider small spaces as well for a handful of students who want to work in a quiet environment, rather than the large, open classrooms.

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

- I love the idea of expanding classrooms and providing functional furniture for students. I think having that functionality would dramatically improve how students absorb information and whether or not they pay attention based upon if they're comfortable.
- Check with the other parts of Europe & Asia as to see if open classrooms work. They or we tried that at Martin only to find out that putting walls up had more control of learning.
- Identifying that "3rd" space -- important for flexibility of learning, & adapting current facilities to provide this environment.
- Does not relate, but additional comment: Why do music students pay for instrument rentals but the money doesn't go to the school, it goes to the district? West recently held their own instrument drive because they had not received new instruments in years. The money does not purchase new instruments. So how is it being used?

- What specific needs are at what schools in terms of space? What options do we have to continue expanding learning options at other facilities such as the alternative school on Roosevelt and Main?
- I would love the District to be able to really educate the community about changing expectations of instruction & learning. Communication about square footage modern vs average & needs.
- As a retired teacher I helped with testing students remember to allow for private spaces for individual or small groups for testing or counseling. Class size needs to be small not just the classroom ie if you have 30 students in a class and you break into groups of 5 where do 6 groups of 5 go?
- I like the ideas suggested by the young lady about food & facilities because she is the one that is experiencing the school. Please talk with the children.