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- Names of those submitting are redacted.
- Phone numbers are redacted.
- Email addresses are redacted.
- Home street addresses are redacted.

Community members are encouraged to share feedback by attending community meetings, completing surveys, or emailing their thoughts and ideas to the Steering Committee. Send emails to OneVision@IowaCitySchools.org and that feedback will be shared with the Steering Committee.

All documents shared with the Steering Committee are posted on the District's website. Visit www.IowaCitySchools.org for more information.

OneVision

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 8:45 PM
To: OneVision
Subject: Facilities

As a longtime employee and supporter of Iowa City's schools, I would like to raise a few questions in regard to facilities' planning. These mostly have to do with the grade level assignments at various levels as follows:

Has there been any discussion of middle schools? There are not many junior high schools left around the state; it seems to me an older model that has been replaced in most districts. Middle schools were discussed and recommended by teachers who work with young adolescents on at least two occasions in the past, with several rationales supporting such a structure: 1) 11-13-olds benefit from middle school features, especially the ability to divide large groups of kids into smaller "houses" served by teaching teams. 2) sixth graders are developmentally ready for a change from traditional elementary classrooms 3) moving sixth graders to middle schools would provide needed classroom space in elementary buildings and space could be provided by enlarging existing junior high campuses.

Has there been discussion of other alternatives to the traditional junior high/ senior high structure, e.g., ninth grade buildings? West High's campus has room for a new 9th grade center. Hoover Elementary might be repurposed as a 9th grade center. In both cases, students could continue to use music and athletic facilities and take specialized classes in the larger high schools as needed.

Other districts have met facilities needs with creative grade level arrangements. What about an 8th/9th grade center in North Liberty to eliminate crowding at West without the expense of building and maintaining a third comprehensive high school?

Many of the ideas that have surfaced are very good ones, especially that of building schools in Iowa City. Best wishes as you continue with this difficult process.

[REDACTED]

OneVision

From: David Dude
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 12:48 PM
To: OneVision
Subject: FW: A couple ideas about programming in our schools

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 12:02 PM
To: Board; Stephen Murley; David Dude
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: A couple ideas about programming in our schools

Board members et al,

Thanks again for everything you're doing.

I wanted to touch base with a couple concrete examples connected with some of the points I made the other night at the meeting.

First, I wanted to send you a link to the Johnson School of the Arts in Cedar Rapids. <http://johnson.cr.k12.ia.us/> To my eyes, this school looks a lot like what a magnet elementary in Iowa City could look like. I was particularly interested in the fact that they have an artist in residence paid for exclusively through grants, etc. I happen to know Ben Schmidt (the artist in residence at Johnson SOTA). He lives here in Iowa City. It strikes me that with a town as rich in the arts as Iowa City, we would have no trouble at all filling a similar position. Overall, the programming at Johnson looks amazing and I'd really encourage you all to take a look. It would be a perfect model for a higher-FRL school like Twain that's already situated in a neighborhood filled with artists from all disciplines. A perfect way to engage our community in the education of their children.

The other example, which I mentioned at the meeting, is the central campus model employed in the Des Moines school district. <http://www.centralcampus.org/> As I've learned more about the district at the high school levels, I've learned that there's not as much vocational/technical curriculum available as there once was in the ICCSD. And as BLDD points out in their report, the lion share of jobs being created these days exist in the service industry writ large. This vocational programming is integral to preparing our students for many of these opportunities and we need to figure out a way to offer that programming. In addition, the central campus in Des Moines also houses AP and other specialty programming (a state-of-the-art 14,000 gallon marine biology facility!!). Not to mention, it strikes me that not only would a central campus model provide the district with a more nimble programming environment for the changing needs of our learners, but it may go a long way to alleviating some of our capacity and enrollment concerns as we continue to ponder what an additional high school will fit in our district.

Please take a look at these two websites and I encourage you to share this information with the Facilities Master Planning Steering Committee so they can consider these and other options for how our district will look in this all-important future for our kids.

I hope that these topics will become an integral part of how we move forward with our facilities planning. I thank you for all you do for our community.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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