

School Talk: Maintaining For Our Future

Columbus School District Facilities Committee Wants You

Superintendent Bryan Davis, Ph.D.

August 13, 2011

Over the last two weeks I have been working with the Columbus School Board on establishing a process to assess the facilities of the Columbus School District. It is critical to me that the school district facilities assessment process engages all Columbus School District taxpayers to some extent. Therefore, I want to walk you through the proposed process of how the school district will be assessing the district facilities.

For starters, a District Facilities Committee will be formed at the beginning of November, 2011. All taxpayers in the Columbus School District will receive a request to participate on the committee via a postcard in the mail. By sending back an RSVP indicating your interest in serving on the committee, you can participate. The only requirement will be your participation in at least six out of the eight scheduled meetings. The meeting dates will be listed on the postcard Columbus School District taxpayers receive.

The mission of the committee will be to identify and prioritize the operational, curricular, and co-curricular facility needs for the School District and report the findings to the Columbus School Board. Three data sets will be used to identify and prioritize the facility needs: 1) District Facilities Assessment by an Architecture Firm, 2) A ten-year projection of student population completed by UW-Madison's Applied Population Laboratory, and 3) Short Term and Long Term Financial projection by district financial advisor, Carol Wirth. These three data sets will provide the committee with the facility needs and financial constraints that shape how we address our facility improvements now and in the future.

In March, 2012, I anticipate the committee creating a report to the Board of Education with their findings and recommendations for district facility improvements. Throughout this process, input from all taxpayers will be critical. The more perspectives we have on how we shape the future of our school facilities, the better.

If you have any questions or suggestions about this process, please contact me at bdavis@columbus.k12.wi.us or call me at 920-623-5950. I hope to see you on the committee at the beginning of November. Please look for the request to participate in the mail via postcard in the upcoming month.