

**MEETING NOTES
FACILITIES COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
May 24, 2021**

A meeting of the Facilities Committee of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at 2:31 PM at the School Service Center, 130 W Park Avenue, Wheaton, IL, on Monday, May 24, 2021.

Board Members: Mrs. Chris Crabtree
 Mr. Brad Paulsen

Staff: Dr. Jeff Schuler, Superintendent
 Mr. Bill Farley, Asst. Superintendent of Business Operations
 Mr. John Robinson III, Director of Facilities Services
 Mrs. Erica Loiacono, Director of Community Engagement and Communications
 Mrs. Kim Funkhouser, Comptroller/Treasurer

Discussion of Playground Funding Model

Mr. Farley asked the Facilities Department to put together a review of all District 200 Elementary playgrounds. This review included building site, playground manufacturer, age of the playground, square footage, and site size. Confirmation of the accuracy of the playground dates is taking place. This does not necessarily include the current condition of the playgrounds. There may be some playgrounds that are older and in better condition than newer ones.

A memo was also distributed on the history of D200 playgrounds and the current practice regarding the funding of playgrounds. There is not a written board policy on playgrounds, but the operating practice has been that parent groups fundraise for playgrounds.

The two most recent playgrounds built in the District were at the new Jefferson ECC (this was completed as part of the construction of the new building, but costs were shared with a fundraising effort – approximately 40%), and Madison (this was completed before 2019-20 school year (this project was led by several parents, and while direct costs were covered through fundraising, both Wheaton Park District and District 200 contributed labor costs and some material costs to support the project).

There was discussion on the following:

- D200 playgrounds are available to the community. When schools are not in session, playgrounds are open for community use.
- Lincoln playground preliminary cost estimates, fundraising effort, and District involvement.
- Projecting a replacement timeline for the playgrounds based on the information provided.
- The key guiding questions for consideration as the Board reviews or evaluates the current model of playground funding:
 1. Does the Board feel the District should assume some level of cost responsibility in the replacement of playgrounds? Is it reasonable to assume that fundraising could continue to be the sole funding source moving forward?
 2. What is the current status of our playgrounds and what would a projected replacement schedule look like given the current condition and age of playgrounds?

- 3. Can a playground standard be set to provide projected playground designs and costs when a building needs a playground replacement? What would be needed to establish that standard?
- 4. Would the District still allow parent groups or community partners to supplement the district contribution if enhancements are required based on a specific building consideration?
- 5. What is the annual inspection process to ensure that the playground replacement cycle is updated annually?
- Questions #2-3 are almost like an assessment plan. Once those are answered, you can answer #4.
- #5 Annual inspection process – Facilities Dept. does review however they are not certified playground inspectors. The District is continuing to have discussions on this.
- What needs to be gathered in terms of additional information? And from the Board perspective what else does the Board need to feel comfortable with a plan moving forward?
- Establishing a standard of what a playground looks like that the District will be able to fund. Projected cost-share with parents/PTA to fundraise.
- The condition of the surfaces on the ground moving forward.
- Folding the information into the Capital Improvement Plan?
- How will fundraising work? Does the District pay upfront?
- Play structures only and not blacktop considered in cost.
- Pleasant Hill has a Kindergarten playground that is a Park District playground.
- There are some opportunities for community partnerships going forward.
- The District has been involved in all playground projects on some scale.

There were questions/additional comments on the following:

- The average cost of a playground total budget?
- Every school community cannot fundraise to the same extent.
- Playgrounds are community resources too.
- As some of our programs relocate, are there accessibility issues with playgrounds? Are we ensuring that all of our playgrounds have some accessibility?
- Discussing with other Districts how to assess, plan, fundraise for schools with extreme accessibility.
- The square footage listed in the playground review document is building square footage.
- Request to add student population for each building to the playground review document.

Dr. Schuler and the team will get information together on #2-3, bring it back to the committee, and then will launch into #4. This will move forward as expeditiously as possible.

Discussion of Facilities Services Space

The Facilities Services Department currently works out of two spaces – Woodland and in a modular classroom space behind Monroe Middle School. The District was made aware of available space and did a cursory review of an option to move a portion of the Facilities Department and staff to a space that would include warehouse space for storage of some vehicles.

There was discussion on the following:

- The number of staff and vehicles operating out of the department locations.
- The current spaces at Woodland and Monroe and the challenges with each space.
- The long-term goal of consolidating all facilities into one space.
- Moving from the Monroe space would help with the conversation regarding the expansion of Monroe out the back of the building.

The Board members on the committee agreed with the administration's request to further investigate the available space.

Future Planning

This item was added to the agenda as a result of the Federal Funding/ESSER Presentation at the May Board meeting. There were comments/questions/ discussion on the following:

- Based on ESSER funding and facilities planning for FY22, FY23, FY24 – how far can we get in those three years and then budget for FY25?
- Do we have the ability to modify our allocation toward Sherman Dergis to preserve those programs and people invested from ESSER money? The relationship to debt restructuring.
- The importance of having a 5-8 year plan for facilities improvements tied with funding opportunities that might be available to us then.
- The committee reviewed a draft of the Facilities Overview two-page document, that includes information on fund balance and debt service.
- Lease certificates related to Jefferson will sit on the books, but other debt will drop off in 2025.
- The document from the April 2017 failed referendum was also referenced, including the pie chart of the facility needs to be addressed. There was a request to update this chart and to identify remaining capital projects.
- DSEB opportunities?
- The importance of noting the work that has been accomplished and identifying what is remaining.
- The Middle School projects – bigger projects.
- Capital projects allocated annually (7.2 M) – what is the typical amount based on our size District and our comparables?
- The capital facilities plan – updated what has been done; noted this is reprioritized annually.
- Also noted that construction costs are high. As we get back into the school year in the fall, identify the capital projects work targeted for summer 2022.

The administration will finalize the facility overview, capturing all of the work that has been done and all of the variables; update the pie chart – what is left, what is the need and projection of the cost; determine the standard for capital spend – comparable districts and their spend.

Public Comment

Harold Lonks - Funding for Capital Projects Work

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM.