

**For Immediate Release**

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**Monroe District Facilities Committee Evaluates Revised Building Solutions**

**Monroe, WI** – After several months of touring the Monroe School District’s facilities and gathering feedback from administration, teachers and staff, the District Facilities Committee (DFC) has explored just about every building solution to improve District facilities. The DFC gathered for their fifth meeting on Wednesday, April 4 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. to review four options, narrowed down from an original ten discussed at the previous DFC meeting.

The DFC is exploring options to consolidate the current elementary schools, from three down to two, addressing aging infrastructure, responding to much-needed upgrades to safety and security, repairing building envelope and structural issues at the high school, and solving space shortages throughout the District. These options range from additions and remodeling at all five of the District’s current schools, to building new schools on existing and yet to be determined sites.

“While varying quite a bit in terms of scope and cost, we’re confident that each of these plans helps address the current and future needs for our community, students, and teachers here in Monroe. This is a master planning exercise, and we need to think of this as planning for the long-term. Now we just need to determine which of these solutions is going to be the most appropriate in the short-term,” said Rick Waski, Superintendent. “It’s always a matter of balancing the benefits with the costs to ensure we’re getting the best value for our community and our tax dollars.”

On hand at Wednesday’s meeting were representatives from Baird, Plunkett-Raysich Architects, and CG Schmidt Construction to discuss the potential tax implications and cost estimates for the building options. Ultimately, the DFC will present their final recommendations to the school board in May to pursue a potential referendum question in November of 2018. Given the potential magnitude of this investment, the Board will likely to implement the Master Plan in phases, based on the priorities of the community and willingness to financially support projects.

The next step in the master planning process is to conduct a community-wide survey to collect feedback on what building projects should be a priority for the District in the near future. Defining the scope and timing of the first phase of the Facility Master Plan is the goal of the survey. The District is working with School Perceptions, an independent firm with expertise in designing and conducting community surveys. All survey data is returned to School Perceptions and remains confidential.

Those interested in learning more about the facilities planning process should contact District Administrator Rick Waski via email at [rickwaski@monroe.k12.wi.us](mailto:rickwaski@monroe.k12.wi.us). An executive summary of the Facilities Master Planning Report will be found on the District's website in the coming weeks at [www.monroeschools.com](http://www.monroeschools.com).

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