



Press Release

Release Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021

From: Rick Waski, District Administrator, School District of Monroe

Title: Facilities Committee Presents to Board of Education

School District of Monroe's District Facilities Committee Presents to Board of Education

Monroe, WI – On Monday evening the School District of Monroe's District Facilities Committee (DFC) presented to the Board of Education at the Bauer Education Center to present their findings and recommendations from their second round of facility planning to address the high school. The presentation was made by three community members, Jason Kundert, Andrea Sweeney and Carrie Williams. They began with a review of the master planning timeline and the work completed since the 18-member committee reconvened in July of 2021. The committee met in July, August, September, and October and started by revisiting the 7 original options identified during the initial planning efforts in 2019 and 2020.

The committee has narrowed the options to two remaining facility solutions to test with the community. **Option 1** proposes a new grade level configuration of 7-12 with a combined middle/high school on the existing high school site and closing Abe Lincoln Elementary for \$86 million. This would include 227,000 sq. ft. of new additions, 144,500 sq. ft. of renovations, and demolition of 60,000 sq. ft. Parkside and Northside would be reconfigured into PK-3 buildings, and the middle school would become a 4-6 intermediate

building that would offer cafeteria improvements and the FACE and science spaces would be converted to classroom spaces. The high school would be two schools under one roof with separate entrances and offices and allow the specialty areas to be used by all grade levels.

Option 3 remains a 9-12 grade level configuration that would include a new building on a new site, in addition to keeping Abe Lincoln Elementary open as a 4K-5 school for \$88 million. Urgent and 2-5 years maintenance items totaling \$3.562 million would need to be addressed at Abe. Parkside and Northside Elementary Schools would continue to operate as K-5 schools. The middle school would remain as a 6-8 school with cafeteria improvements and an allowance for remodeling. The committee preferred this option and starting fresh with a new building on a new site but recommends testing both options through the community survey.

School district property taxes include levies for general operations, debt service, capital expansion and community services. Ron Olson, District Business Administrator reviewed the historical and projected mill rates for both options with the board. For Option 1, the \$86 million solution this would result in an estimated tax mill rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, and for Option 3, the \$88 million solution the mill rate is estimated at \$2.06. The District has the lowest tax levy in over 30 years.

Next, the DFC discussed the proposed community survey timeline by School Perceptions, the independent research firm that specializes in conducting surveys for public school districts. The survey development process would continue throughout November and December with the plan to release the survey in January 2022. The results are intended to be reported in February, following the approval and adoption of a resolution by the Board of Education in March.

Following tonight's presentation, the Board will review Options 1 and 3 and determine next steps. The DFC recommended the District continue to engage the community through engagement sessions, the community survey, and finalize the solution(s) for a potential

referendum in November 2022. “I would like to thank the committee for their hard work over the past three years and bringing these solutions forward to the Board,” said Theresa Keehn, Vice President, Board of Education.

Those interested in learning more about the facilities planning process or obtaining a copy of the District’s Facilities Assessment Study, or the DFC Executive Summary and meeting notes should contact District Administrator, Rick Waski via email at rickwaski@monroe.k12.wi.us, or check out the district website at www.monroeschools.com.

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