

East Elementary Building Addition Meeting  
November 19, 2007  
6:30 p.m.

People in attendance: Beth Hamill, Jeff and Myrna Wagner, Mindy Albrecht, Lisa Johnson, Mark Van Beek, Joan Whitsell, Marv Van Reissen, Cheryl Heitritter, Shelly Serrano, Jay Joersz, Becky Meyer, Amanda Buse, Jane Anema, Jeri Godberson, Kristie Simonsen, Gary Ihnen, Leisal Lidiak, Angie DeVries, Jenni McCrory, Robin Spears and Jim Ruble

Mr. Ruble presented a new plan for the addition. The drawing moved the gym up to the north side of the building on the same level as the rest of the building and put the early childhood rooms on the west side of the building off of the library. This new drawing decreased the square foot from 32,704 to 32,400.

A parent drop-off drive was added on the west side of the building. A parking lot for 60 vehicles was on the west side of the building, as well as 8 visitor parking spots. The gym remains the size of the middle school gym and will seat 400 people.

Mr. Ruble explained the common use area in the octagon early childhood wing. He explained that it is shaped like this at Irving Elementary in Sioux City. The teachers at Irving have stated that it gives them a lot of variety for set up of the classroom in the triangular room. This octagon shape also gets away from the long corridor found in the rest of the building.

The adult bathrooms were removed in the south wing for a wider hallway. Additional staff bathrooms were added by the staff lounge. The SCI classroom has a shower and private facility area as well as a kitchen unit to address the lifelong skills the students work on in that classroom.

Questions that were raised:

- Is it a dead end structure? Is this plan convenient? Is there room for another plan to be added onto this structured?
- How is the flow of the building? Is it too long from one end of the building to the other?
- Do we lose the identity of the entrance with the corridor jetting out for the early childhood wing?
- If so, could the office be moved? It appears to be hidden in the corner.
- Is the drop-off point too far away from the front doors? What safety concerns does that raise with students walking down the sidewalk?
- How will the bus students get into the building? The sidewalk they currently use is removed for the new corridor.
- Is the library in the best location for the school? Should it be the center of the school? Is the size adequate for a school our size? How does the location of the library impact student achievement?
- Can the multipurpose room be better utilized?

- What would it cost to build a new building? Mr. Ruble responded 10-11 million dollars. Because we have a sound building here, it would be hard to walk away from it.
- What do the kids need at the elementary level to improve student achievement?
- Why do we need a gym? A lot of people in the community are asking this question.
  - Safety at PE. The current PE room is also used as a storage room. Unsafe for kids.
  - Assemblies – students must sit on the floor currently. That is hard to do for an hour long assembly.
  - The current ceiling height is not fit for a gym.
  - We only have 2 basketball hoops for students to use.

Other points made:

- Can we move the gym more to the south and put the classrooms behind the gym? We could still keep everything up on this level.
- Along with moving the gym forward, is there room for it to face north and south instead of east and west? Would that give us more space on the north side of the building?
- We need to maintain the service road to the kitchen for food deliveries.
- Feel that it is important to stay on top of the hill.
- The gym continues to be a concern. How can we continue to education the community on our need for a new gym?
- We have a responsibility to the community to provide a quality school in order for the city to survive.
- There seems to be a lack of enthusiasm for this project.
  - Do the decisions we make meet the mission statement?
  - Do the decisions we make impact student achievement?
  - How can we get some spark going on this project?

Future steps:

- We need to have two or three people become chairpersons of this project and lead the meetings.
- We need to identify three staff members to be spokespeople for the staff to voice their needs for the building.
- Once the plan is complete, the cost will be put together. From there will be a petition by the community taken to the board for a vote.
- We need to identify and prioritize what the committee feels is important. If things need to be cut out of the project, we go to the priority list. If things can be added back in, we go to the priority list.
- Where do the current classroom cupboards and doors fit into this project? Is that a PPEL issue or a building expansion issue? Does the committee need to make a PPEL recommendation for the resurfacing of cupboards and replacing classroom doors?
- We need to continue to spark interest in this project and educate the citizens of Sheldon.

Next meeting is set for January 10, 2008 at 6:30 at East Elementary.