

Hinsdale County School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake City School Board Opts for Ten-Year Facilities Outlook

The Hinsdale County School Board approved moving forward with a process to develop a long term District facilities plan at their regular monthly meeting on August 25. Board members cited the importance of taking a longer view and being thorough in the analysis and development of options.

“By taking a step back and considering a longer outlook and broader view of our District and student facilities needs, we are convinced we will come up with a better plan,” said Tara Hardy, Board President. “We can define a plan that considers growth and needs projections, input from other districts similar to ours, more ideas from the community, and other important planning data. This approach increases our probability that we can avoid any pitfalls that might occur with a shorter outlook.”

The process targets an early spring 2017 completion of a Facilities Plan with a 10 year outlook. It begins with an extensive data gathering phase that will provide a base for consideration of needs. At least three Board working sessions are planned, with workshops in November and January expanded to include key members of the community to broaden input and idea generation. In January and February, further outreach will occur in a variety of forms including community meetings to discuss and get additional feedback.

Phillip Virden, Board Community Liaison, said, “This is an important step in our effort to increase trust and cooperation on these critical issues. We are listening and have heard that a more comprehensive planning view that is based on data has appeal to many in the community. It has great appeal to us also.”

During the meeting Thursday, community members continued to demonstrate a willingness to engage and provide input to the Board. School neighbor John Coy shared concerns about current and future parking issues that need to be considered during definition of building plans.

“We want to be good neighbors. We understand that parking and traffic congestion is a concern,” said Leslie Nichols, District Superintendent. “We appreciate the willingness of the Coys and others to share concerns and ideas with us in a positive manner.”

The facilities planning process was developed by Welborn & Associates and presented at the meeting by Janice Welborn and David Primus. Also participating in the upcoming work will be Robin Weidenmueller, who has an extensive education background, and local Welborn Associate Bernie Krystyniak.

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