

NOTES FROM SCHOOL INFORMATION MEETING – May 15, 2017

Dr. Moore reported that a team of architects and engineers had gone through the elementary school to assess its condition. This meeting covered advantages and challenges related to four options: renovation of current building, do nothing, build a new school without an auditorium, and build a new school with an auditorium.

RENOVATION

Advantages of renovating current building

- Preserve historic building
- Preserve cultural value
- Preserve sentimental ties
- Preserve memories
- A smaller bond may be needed because renovation may cost less.
- Extensive renovations would result in lower costs for propane, electricity, repairs, and maintenance.

Challenges to current building/what would have to be renovated

- Replace HVAC system
- Replace plumbing
- Upgrade electrical
- Extensive structural renovation to get to basic life safety standards
- Upgrade mechanical
- Asbestos mitigation
- Replace all windows and doors
- Remodel restrooms/expand restrooms (so some classrooms would be smaller)
- Replace roof
- Structural upgrade to meet seismic event standards
- Comply with ADA standards, including put in elevator
- Address problems with interior of classrooms
- There would be no new auditorium
- People who move here question quality of education because of age of school
- Renovation would cost an estimated \$8 million
- Timeline – it would take longer than a summer so students would have to be elsewhere for a school year

Idaho laws related to bond equalization (33-906 and 33-1018) may apply so that interest and possibly some principal may be paid by the state from the general fund if Oneida School District meets specifications related to income.

We would have to find out the value index before the bond election, if possible.

An extensive renovation may extend the life of the building maybe 30 years, but that is not guaranteed.

Where students would be housed while the renovation is going on will require some creative planning: possible double shifts at another school, rent temporary mobile classrooms, etc.

The elementary school is approximately 44,000 square feet. With the auditorium, the square footage is approximately 78,000.

Auditorium could stand alone but would need seismic upgrades.

DO NOTHING

Advantages of doing nothing

- Cheapest option in the short term
- No bond election would be needed
- No tax increase needed
- Historical building would be preserved

Challenges

- All the same conditions described under RENOVATION would still exist and get worse as time goes on.
- Electrical system requires cords to be used to keep power in the classrooms.
- The building would continue to get older and require more extensive maintenance and repair.
- It will be more and more difficult to keep technology up to date.

The District spends approximately \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year in replacement, maintenance, and repairs. Principals list their needs and then prioritize the needs. District funds are used to pay for as many things on the list as possible each year.

The students in the school are not being harmed by the condition of the building. The District is not holding off doing things for the benefit of students.

A false ceiling could be put in to hide cords and wires.

NEW BUILDING/NO AUDITORIUM

Advantages

- Students would be safer
- Seismic safety
- Cameras and other safety equipment would be installed
- No trip and fall hazards
- Better lighting
- Better learning environment
- Better access to learning resources
- Less transition time; more efficiency in classrooms
- Upgraded technology capacity
- People who move here would be more impressed with a new school
- Less cost to maintain a new building; lower power costs and repair/maintenance expenses
- Comfortable heating and air conditioning would lead to better learning
- Would comply with ADA

Challenges

- Must pass a bond, which would increase taxes
- No auditorium so no place for students to meet
- Less total space; multi-purpose cafeteria/commons in new schools
- Location of a new school will be another debate; pros and cons to all possible locations
- Cost of demolition of old buildings, including old high school
- Bond would need to include cost of demolition
- Cost is estimated to be \$10 - \$12 million

Lottery money is dedicated to paying for auto shop for the next four years. Oneida School District gets approximately \$50,000 annually from the Idaho lottery.

NEW SCHOOL WITH AUDITORIUM

Advantages

- Same advantages as listed above
- Bigger, better auditorium with better sound system and seating
- More functions may be held if new auditorium

Challenges

- Cost; probably \$16 - \$18 million (unknown if estimates include demolition costs)
- Lose gym when the old high school is gone
- Cost of construction has gone up since last bond election

Question was raised about building a separate auditorium/civic center/performing arts center. Possibly grants and donors could pay for new stand-alone auditorium built elsewhere.

Should other power sources be considered, such as solar power?

GENERAL COMMENTS

- There should be a way to equalize the effect of a bond election because the large property owners (i.e., farmers) would bear the majority of the cost.
- There should be more competition in the building design instead of just going with Design West. Only one design was considered last time. We need more choices and more competitive bids.

Approximately 40 people were present. Board members present were Ken Timothy and Brent Evanson.