

Canton Local Schools

Community Meeting #1

September 28, 2011
7:00 pm South Cafeteria

At the first of three community meetings to plan for a 21st Century Master Facilities plan, over 130 community members attended. Please find the highlights below:

Introduction:

Scott Hamilton, Board President, opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. He stated that we were here tonight to develop a plan to bring a 21st Century education to our students, to keep our community pride and to consider that we were among the last of the Stark County School districts to bring new school facilities to our community.

Meeting Goals:

Kim Redmond, Superintendent stated there were three goals of the evening;

- Provide information
- Seek community input
- Leave with a consensus for our direction & next steps.

The question has been asked, “Why now?”

- Our state number “may be up within the next 1-3 years and a decision will need to be made as to using the state money with state mandates, or to build with local money.”
- Our buildings are requiring extensive upgrades that are becoming too costly to support with local Permanent Improvement Money (Note: We are creating a video of our facility issues.)
- Our buildings are not supportive of 21st Century learning since all of the technological advances (A simple illustration used was land line phones transition to cell phones to now - Smart Phones).

Site Based Team:

Community members sat at tables facilitated by our Site Based Team, which is made up of parents, community members, students, teachers, administrators and Board Members. This group meets on a regular basis to deeply study the needs of the community and the future educational needs of the district.

Community Input:

- Dream session to design what their hopes and dreams would be for Canton Local Schools.
- This was followed by a discussion of using State Money (OSFC) versus using Local Funding only. This decision is important because it will determine what our buildings will look like from the start of the design. The determination for Local versus State funding begins at the point of design because if we go with local

dollars our design choices are broad and focused on the community. If we go with the OSFC funding, though only 30% of the costs, we will need to follow their design handbook; which, for example, limits gymnasium space and does not allow for a stand-alone auditorium.

By the end of the evening, it was clear that the majority of the attendees believe that Canton Local can build what we want more cheaply, with better quality, and with Canton Local pride. Admittedly, actual costs were not discussed because this was the dream phase. Actual costs will be discussed at our November 2, meeting at 7:00 South Café.

Community Questions:

Additionally, community questions were recorded and will be posted on the website the week of October 3rd. Look for these questions and answers with a list of the dreams of the community!

Next Steps:

At the second Community Meeting (November 2, 7:00 pm South Café), we will have a draft drawing based on what we heard on Wednesday, September 28th. Certainly we cannot include all ideas, but we are working to categorize the thoughts into themes for the design. WE will have costs to compare with the OSFC requirements as well.

These are exciting times for this community to leave its stamp on the school district for decades to come! We will take the ideas from September 28th and put pencil to paper to design our future building plans and calculate costs. Imagine the job opportunities for our residents and the learning opportunities for students, all while adding to our Wildcat pride!