

## Long Range Facility Planning Committee Report

February 10, 2009

This committee was formed at the request of the Fremont School Board. The charge to the committee is to recommend a school district facility plan that addresses facility needs far into the future.

In gathering information for a long range plan recommendation, the committee met with education professionals, community members, town officials, school officials and architects. The committee also spoke to state officials, real estate professionals, commercial property owners, and conducted a community forum to solicit public input. The committee also relied on a report, commissioned by the school board and compiled by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC).

The options explored by the committee ranged from the NESDEC report, variations on the report recommendations, including the replacement of the existing facility.

In evaluating options, the committee considered enrollment trends, extensive demographic information, district curriculum philosophy, 21st century education facility criteria, and evolving trends in education requirements placed on the district. The condition and maintenance of the current facilities were also reviewed. In addition, the committee discussed how Fremont might leverage opportunities with the Sanborn district. In short, no idea was rejected without some review.

The committee did not try to incorporate definitive time tables, logistics, market conditions or precise overall tax impacts as these items are beyond the scope of the charge to the committee. While these discussions took place in a general way and there was a recognition that taxes and other subjects are inescapable when evaluating the district's facility needs, the focus was on the facility requirements.

### Conclusion:

1. Ellis should be converted to a PK-4 facility.
  - a. The current facility is in good condition and can be updated to accommodate 21st Century education needs.
2. Construct a new facility to house grades 5-8 on town owned land.
  - a. This facility should be constructed to be expandable around a core that accommodates the potential needs of the district far into the future.

The committee feels that this is the most efficient plan relative to cost projections, enrollment projections, and providing a 21st century education facility. However, there was not a clear consensus on whether to include 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the middle school. It should also be noted that as the town grows and municipal facility needs are projected the school district and town officials would benefit from joint discussions in solving physical plant needs in the future.

Committee members: Kevin Herrmann, Peg Pinkham (school board representative), Dawn DiManna, Tracey Christilles, Lisa Fioravante.