

Report from Subcommittee on Facility Impact on Student Achievement

Critical Questions Answered:

- Facilities have an impact when the environmental nature of the facilities is considered. Optimizing these aspects will have a positive impact on student and staff achievement. These aspects need to be measured and evaluated for our current facilities by qualified public health professionals.
 - Acoustics
 - Light
 - Natural
 - Artificial
 - Ambient Temperature
 - Humidity
 - Indoor Air Quality
 - Spatial Considerations
 - Flexible Spaces
- Capital expenditures and age of facilities are not in of themselves deterrents of student achievement unless the building was built during the cost conscious 1960s.
- There is no evidence that larger schools are superior to smaller schools in terms of student achievement
 - There is no evidence that economies of scale are related to student achievement
 - Smaller schools are better for more impoverished students
 - On average the effective size is 400-800 for secondary schools.
 - Individual attention benefits

Summary of Other Thoughts/Concerns:

- Research could not be located that ranked facilities condition with other issues affecting student achievement “So how do we spend our community dollars to impact student achievement?”
- Although members of the committee believe that the environment of Wa-Hi/Lincoln is unhealthy we would need public health data to convince voters
- Programs need to be identified to aid students not achieving academic success in the school district. Facilities need to be designed to accommodate these programs
 - We need to fully define the alternative programs necessary to achieve maximum academic success
- Maximizing graduation rates should not be the only criteria providing quality, high level students prepared for a competitive global economy is also important
- An independent citizen’s Community Council (Riding the Wave) should be engaged to initiate and evaluate any facility studies in order project an impartial, unbiased view point to the voters.
- This sub committee is concerned that the members of the Facilities Task Force does not represent a cross section of the community.
 - Ethnic/socioeconomic balance; seniors
 - Choir vs. the congregation

- The addition of a smaller vocational/technical high school was discussed. This high school would not be a mirror image of Wa-Hi's curriculum, activities and many not even have interscholastic athletics. Strong links to the business world and community college should be encouraged. This high school would give students and parents another choice.