

Des Moines Public Schools
Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

April 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Wright Elementary, 5001 SW 14th Street

Members Present: Joel Doyle
Jeff Hall
Brian Millard
Mahogany Palmer
Dan Twelmeyer

Members Absent: Mary Lynne Jones
Ed Linebach
Jermaine Parkey
Brad Titus
Jay Peterson

DMPS Staff Present: Bill Good
Sarah Holland
Dan Warren

Bill Good started the meeting with introductions by the committee and staff. Bill took the committee on a tour of Wright Elementary, showing recent upgrades as well as items on the needs assessment working document. After the tour, a power point presentation was given which is also included in the committee member's binder for review.

Dan Warren gave an overview of technology use and infrastructure in the district, focusing on student technology. The focus of the Technology department is to maintain a fast, reliable, and safe network for students and staff. All testing is done online now and ensuring no interruptions due to network or bandwidth is a top priority. At any given time, there could be 75k to 125k devices accessing the network. Since 2009 the bandwidth available has dramatically increased with a high probability of needing to increase again next year. Other technology related future infrastructure needs include additional Gb redundant backbone, upgrades to current firewalls to accommodate increased bandwidth needs, and upgrades to wireless network. The district supports a hybrid 1:1 student computer program. Student devices are currently being leased on a 4-year cycle. After this summer's replacement of off-lease devices all students will have the same device. Technology supports about 33,000 student computers.

Bill discussed the current Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) rates. Des Moines is currently at \$0.63 per \$1,000, while neighboring districts are all at \$1.34. Examples of how PPEL funds are currently used: purchase of 8-10 school buses per year, masonry and roofing renovations, and emergency needs such as main water line breaks. A PPEL increase would not be an additional tax increase to the community. Instead the cash reserve levy and/or management fund levy would be lowered for a projected near neutral increase/decrease in taxes. The increased rate would amount to over \$6M of additional revenue each year, which would be utilized for technology needs. Previous technology

expenditures that have come out of statewide penny funds: interactive projectors in every classroom (\$3.6M), wireless infrastructure in all schools (\$6.3M), student computers for a hybrid 1:1 program giving all students access to a computer (\$5.3M). Extending PPEL would allow DMPS students equal opportunities as our neighboring districts, ensure no reduction in student access to technology, and help reduce budgetary shortfall. Current PPEL expiration is end of fiscal year 2021. Next steps to extend PPEL would be consensus from this committee, present this information publicly, gain school board approval, take the extension to vote – most likely in March 2020. The committee raised questions (see below) and committed to deciding whether to move forward with PPEL extension at the next meeting once they have reviewed the answers.

Bill shared an overview of the draft five-year plan for the committee. The draft will be emailed to the committee after the meeting; the committee committed to thoroughly reviewing the plan prior to the next meeting. The draft includes \$64.2M in projects, while the budget for the five-year plan is \$82.2M. The \$18M difference would be utilized as contingency for unforeseen needs and to cover inflation.

Answers to questions from the Committee:

- Describe the management levy and cash levy.

The school board may annually certify a Management Levy. The revenues from the Management Levy may be used to pay the costs of unemployment benefits, costs of liability insurance and agreements, costs of judgments, and costs of certain early retirement benefits.

School districts are authorized to levy a cash reserve to maintain or raise an amount necessary for cash reserve for the district's general fund. The amount levied for cash reserve does not increase a school district's spending authority. The cash reserve levy allows us to make sure we have enough cash on hand to be able to meet payroll and other expenses without borrowing money. The levy fluctuates depending on how much money other levies are bringing in.

- How much of the bandwidth is being used for educational purposes?

There is no way to quantify this. The FCC recommends a district the size of DMPS to have a minimum of 27.3 GBPS (Gigabit per second) in bandwidth which would give us .7 GBPS per 1000 students, which is significantly more than we currently have at 0.15 GBPS per 1000 students. While we plan for the future to ensure our students have access to the technology and resources needed, we need to:

- Factor in every possible user and location
 - Our total bandwidth should reflect the number of concurrent users
- Plan for many students to use the network at once, ie. Testing
 - Not every student will be on the network at once but for planning purposes you should use worst case scenario
- Building with Bring your Own Device (BYOD) in mind
 - If used correctly this could bring down costs of devices
- Be sure we size for bandwidth peaks, not averages

- In order for digital curriculum to run effectively we need to be sure we can handle the “peak” events
 - Bandwidth growth is projected up to 50% as we embrace digital learning.
- Continuous monitoring
 - This is a given
- Explain hybrid 1:1 and how what it means that all students have access to a computer in more detail.

In some districts, computers are assigned to individual students which can be considered 1:1. In our district, computers are assigned to buildings based upon current year certified enrollment. So, there is computer access for each student. How they are used can be based upon an individual teacher or curriculum. Some use them more than others. From a district perspective we don't want to limit potential use by reducing to a 1:2 (as example) which may impede student learning for some. Equity comes from the fact that each student has access to a computer when needed no matter what school or classroom they reside. By utilizing certified enrollment, equity by building is assured.

One local (schools) issue is repairs of machines. Each building has the responsibility to manage this. For instance, at Middle schools, repair other than warranty is higher for some reason. Another building may let computers build up prior to sending them in for repairs. Some buildings are better sharing their computer resources over all school areas than others. For these reasons and probably others the actual number of available computers in a school building will vary.

Items for next time:

- Review draft five-year plan.

Upcoming meeting date and location scheduled:

May 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Operations Center, 1917 Dean Ave

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Holland