



West Central Area Schools

Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting No. 3 – Options & Alternatives**

- Meeting Date: December 18, 2024, 6pm – 8pm
- Attendees: See attached sign-in list for Task Force Members and School Board Members in attendance
- Brief Review of Previous Meeting Minutes: Brent asked the group if there were any additions or corrections needed to the Task Force Meeting No 2 Meeting Minutes. No comments were made about the minutes.
- Review Cost Opinions for Facility Priority Items: Since the last meeting, Widseth has prepared estimates for the high priority facility items identified and discussed at the last meeting. Brent started out by explaining what each of the numbers included. Each line item can be looked at as a standalone project that includes all costs. The cost for each line item is the “Project Cost”. This would include construction cost, general contractor or construction manager costs, permitting, design fees, and contingency. A question was raised regarding how much contingency is included. It was explained that at this early stage a 20% contingency is being carried. Brent explained that as any project proceeds through design, that contingency would then be adjusted lower. A common contingency that would be carried at the time of bidding would be 10%.

Brent reviewed each of the line items for North Elementary, South Elementary, and the Secondary School. After the review of each school, discussions occurred. There were questions looking for clarifications on what a line item might include, how a cost figure was reached, and what the timeline might be for completing construction. The group had good discussions on the value of just addressing the buildings.

- Alternative Solutions: Lindsey introduced the next step of alternative solutions and why that is beneficial. She explained that Widseth is not pre-determining what those solutions are, but rather that they need to come from the Task Force Group and be vetted through discussion. Widseth's role would be to ask questions, offer suggestions, and further develop the alternatives discussed. The group had discussed many scenarios and their impact to the community, how parents might view a solution, how voters might view a solution, all while keeping in mind that the focus needs to be on the student experience.

Alternative solutions that are going to be further investigated included:

- North Elementary Expansion Options:
 - Demolishing the classroom wing and cafeteria area, and expanding to the east.

- Demolishing the classroom wing and cafeteria area, expanding to the east, while also pulling the 5th grade out of the Secondary School.
- 9-12 High School Option: The idea was suggested of building a 9-12 High School at a new site. The existing Secondary School would then be converted to a PS-8 Elementary School. North and South would be closed.
- One Site Combined Elementary Option: The idea was suggested of a new, one-site elementary combining North and South. North and South Elementaries would be closed. The ideas on where this could be located were discussed.
- One Site K-12 Option: The idea of located all students at the Secondary School was discussed. What those plans looked like in previous referendum attempts was discussed.

Future Task Force Meetings will look at the cost impact of these options and whether they address the needs of students and reflects the Vision of the District. Additional options may be developed as well.

- Next Task Force Meeting: Task Force Meeting No. 4: January 8, 2025, 6pm-8pm

It is your responsibility to read these minutes in their entirety. This report is assumed to be true and accurate unless notification to contrary is received at the following meeting.



WIDSETH

West Central Area Schools Task Force Committee Meeting No. 3 Sign-In Sheet

Please check the box next to your name

☐ Allison Weigand

☒ Andy Clauson

☒ Anthony Green

☐ Barbara Nygren

☐ Bonnie Waskosky

☒ Boone Carlson

☒ Brent Dammann

☒ Caitlin Hendricks

☒ Chad Norenberg

☒ Courtney Smith

☒ Dale Rau

☐ Dawn Gehrke

☐ Derek Birdsall

☒ Eric Sawatzke

☒ Gary Sabolik

☒ Jake Foslien

☒ Janee Strunk

☒ Jerald Stavick

☒ John Kreft

☐ Josh Ulrich

☒ Kathy Sommers

☒ Kayla Sanstead

☐ Keith Swanson

☒ Kesha Trinko

☒ Lance Wittnebel

☒ Lindsey Kriens

☐ Megan Dotts

☐ Miah Ulrich

☒ Mike Hagen

☒ Mindy Anderson

☐ Nate Wood

☐ Nathan Porter

☒ Paul Brownlow

☒ Paul Hedstrom

☒ Rachel Swenson

☐ Sarah Meyer

☒ Shelby Zach

☒ Stacie Saurer

☒ Terry Christenson

☒ Tina Anderson

Darin Grosz