



West Central Area Schools

Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting No. 8 – Recommendations**

- Meeting Date: June 18, 2025, 6pm
- Attendees: See attached sign-in list for Task Force Members and School Board Members in attendance
- Review of Past Meeting Minutes: Brent reviewed the minutes from Task Force Meeting #7 in more detail as a refresher for the group since it has been awhile since the group was together.
- Goal for Task Force Meeting: Lindsey gave a brief overview of the intended goals for this evening's meeting. The intent is to review the updated options, cost estimates, and tax impact information. Ultimately, the intent is to develop a recommendation to the School Board on a path moving forward.
- Progress Update: Since a period of time has passed since Task Force Meeting #7, Lindsey gave an overview of the type of activities that have been occurring as a lead up to this meeting.
- Review of Updated Building Options and Cost Estimates: Brent reviewed the 2 options that the group narrowed down to in Task Force Meeting No. 7. The options included:
 - Option 1C: Modernize and Update all Three Facilities
 - Overview: North Elementary would include the demolition of the old classroom wing up to and including the cafeteria/kitchen area. The existing building would be remodeled and reconfigured to provide improved space utilization. The existing daycare area would be remodeled into administration offices and kitchen space. The existing locker rooms would be remodeled into SPED and commons space. An addition would be constructed to provide classroom and support space. A multi-use activity was shown. South Elementary would include remodeling throughout. A multi-use space would be created in the area of the existing music room for indoor recess. An addition would be constructed off the back of the building to create a new cafeteria and kitchen area. Additional educational space would be provided for kindergarten and SPED. An add-on option was shown for a new gymnasium off the back of the building. A second add-on option was shown to provide daycare and indoor play area space. It was noted that either of these options would likely push all parking to on-street. The improvements at the Secondary School would include improved space utilization to create SPED and breakout areas, flooring replacement, CTE area remodel, locker room area remodel, and a fitness addition. Site improvements included a new running track, ballfield fencing replacement, tennis court replacement, and exterior activity restrooms.

- Square Footage: Increase of approximately 7,615 sf district wide.
- Cost: \$44,275,784
 - South Elementary New Gymnasium Addition: \$2,324,208
 - Daycare/Indoor Play Area Addition: \$3,709,266
- Option 3B: One Site Concept
 - Overview: North and South Elementary would be closed and demolished. An addition would be completed to create an elementary wing that would be connected to the existing building. A separate middle school wing would be developed within the existing building, as well as a high school wing. Access to each wing would be controlled with doors to minimize interactions between age groups. The elementary wing would have its own dedicated main entrance and office area. The wing would include space for the Little Knights, Kindergarten Connection, and K-4th Grade. Support spaces would include music, art, SPED, and flex rooms. A serving kitchen would be provided for the new cafeteria/commons space. An indoor play area would be located adjacent to it. The elementary wing would have its own gymnasium. The middle school wing would include 5th and 6th Grade classrooms, SPED suite, flex rooms, and direct access to a science classroom. This configuration would be completed with minimal changes to the existing building. The high school wing would be consolidated through improved space utilization. Minimal changes would be necessary to the existing building. The existing science area would be remodeled to provide improved functionality for classroom space and hands-on learning areas. Other interior improvements to the existing building would mirror Option 1C. Site improvements would include a new running track, new softball fields, outdoor play area, and exterior activity restrooms. Additional add-ons were presented for a second gymnasium at the elementary addition and a CTE addition
 - Square Footage: Decrease of approximately 63,735 sf. district wide.
 - Cost: \$29,927,519
 - Second Gymnasium Add-On: \$2,477,143
 - CTE Addition: \$1,375,000
- Tax Impact Information: Widseth presented the tax information prepared by Ehlers based on the cost estimates presented. It was noted that the project value indicated is slightly higher to take into account that the first interest payment would be due if it were a spring referendum. So depending on the timing of a potential referendum, that would have some impact on the values.
- Projected Utility Cost: Widseth presented information on what the projected utility costs might be for water, gas, and electricity for each project. The estimates were based on average of the actual utility costs the District incurred from 2022 through 2024. Based on that average, Widseth developed projections for each option. The projections were for the year 2028/2029 as that would likely be the earliest the building would be completed for either project. The projections included an inflation factor and took into account improved efficiencies in equipment.
- Discussions: Extended discussions were had by the group as it relates to plan information presented, cost estimates, tax impact information, and utility costs.
- Consensus on Preferred Option: At Task Force Meeting #7, the Task Force determined that an approval level of 74% or greater would illustrate consensus of the group. Mentimeter was used to gauge the Task Force members preference for the two options presented. Two questions were presented. Question 1 read: "As a member of the WCA Task Force, do you approve of Option 1C – Modernize and Update all facilities as presented?" Question 2 read: "As a

member of the WCA Task Force, do you approve of Option 3B – One Campus all facilities as presented?” 21 votes were cast with the following results:

- Question 1: Option 1C – Modernize and Update
 - Yes: 6 (29%)
 - No: 15 (71%)
- Question 2: Option 3B – One Campus
 - Yes: 17 (81%) CONSENSUS
 - No: 4 (19%)
- Recommendation: Since a consensus was achieved for Option 3B, there was discussion on the next steps. Widseth’s suggestion was that the Task Force provide a specific recommendation to the school board. The Task Force group would vote on the recommendation to confirm consensus. There were discussions on how much information should be included in the recommendation. There was strong interest from the members to stay involved in the process after a recommendation is provided. The recommendation developed was worded as follows:

After extensive review and discussion, the West Central Area Schools Task Force recommends the school board move forward with Option 3B One Site as presented at Task Force meeting #8. This direction reflects a commitment to addressing current facility needs while honoring the values and priorities expressed throughout the task force process. As implementation planning moves forward, the task force recommends the school board continue to engage the community to ensure transparency, gather feedback on specific design and programming elements, and foster support for the project. The task force further recommends that the board remain guided by the following core pinnacles throughout the process: Future-Focused Education, Operational Sustainability, and One WCA Community.

Mentimeter was used to determine whether there was consensus on the recommendation developed. 21 votes were cast with the following results:

- Recommendation to the School Board as worded above
 - Yes: 17 (81%) CONSENSUS
 - No: 4 (19%)



West Central Area Schools Task Force Committee Meeting No. 8 Sign-In Sheet

Please check the box next to your name

☒ Andy Clauson

☒ Anthony Green

☐ Barbara Nygren

☐ Bonnie Waskosky

☒ Boone Carlson

☒ Brent Dammann

☐ Caitlin Hendricks

☒ Chad Norenberg

☐ Claire Vincent

☒ Courtney Smith

☒ Dale Rau

☐ Darin Grosz

☒ Derek Birdsall

☒ Eric Sawatzke

☒ 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

☐ Ryan Saurer

☐ Sarah Meyer

☐ Shelby Zach

☒ Stacie Saurer

☒ Tina Anderson