

High School Space Study Committee Meeting  
April 20, 2017

Summary

Welcome – Chair Orndoff

Comments/Questions from Committee members:

Several committee members shared conversations they have had with other community members and how most feel a second high school is the best decision. One concern shared was separating two sides of the City.

Presentation – Review of current and projected staffing and operational costs for each of the three options by Tracy Shaver, finance director, and Cynthia Prieto, Harrisonburg High School principal.

Comments:

- If go with current high school, need to build with opportunity to expand in the future.
- All scenarios require purchase of land.
- Davenport Group will present at the May 16 School Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Questions for the VMDO Architects Presentation to the Committee on April 27:

Below are questions/comments for the April 27 presentation by architects:

- Every year we delay, the existing high school gets more crowded and costs get more expensive.
- Will a new high school design be a net zero school?
- How will a design address the expandability of a new school, for example, if the school needs to accommodate more students in the future?
- Share some examples of ways in which high school programs can be similar so that there is coordination between the schools and flexibility with current high school.
- What are the land constraints for a site, including the minimum amount of land?
- Ways in which other cities and towns have created a connectedness and sense of community with two high schools to avoid a line between the town in terms of competition or separation by class and culture.

Planning for the May 11 Community Meeting:

- The School Board will hold a public hearing on May 16 and June 6 for comments on Committee's decision.
- The community meeting will be held at Harrisonburg High School.
- Dr. Kizner introduced Rachel Longwood, the JMU student who is working on the flyers for the event.
- The committee decided to have an Open House format from 5 to 8:00 p.m. at HHS for community members to drop in, view the options and ask questions.
- Translators will be available.
- Visuals would be a good idea (infographics to tell the story of the numbers, looking at numbers side by side, etc.)
- A subcommittee will work on planning the event.
- Architects should be there, if possible.
- The Open House will show pros and cons (council needs to hear what people think) of each option and show the diverse and representative committee that made decision.

Handouts:

- Current vs. Projected Staffing & Operational Costs

Next meeting: April 27, at 7 p.m.

- Presentation by VMDO Architects

Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.