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WARREN-ALVARADO-OSLO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: 3/17/2022

Time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Purpose: Community Committee Meeting

Location: WAO High School, Multipurpose Room

Present:

Kyle Kvamme – ICON

Emily Huso – ICON

WAO Community Committee Members

Kirk Thorstenson

Ashley Stroble

Molly Fridstrom

Amber Schoepp

Ally Linder

Jen Nelson

Mark Jones

Natasha Kotowicz

Denise Olson

Mike Cheney

Brent J. Monroe

JJ Johnson

Tim Finseth

Kevin Johnson

Ben Miska

Darby Boe

Scott Oberg

Ashley Reinier

Bob Wimpfheimer

Mary Beth Edman

Jeff Steer

Kelsey Johnson

ICON Project Number: 21-020

Discussion Items

I. Enrollment

- Wine colored – unsure of precise numbers
- Highlighter yellow – preschool and kindergarten numbers are “wiggly numbers”
- Gray – 3rd grade row, need teacher for next school year
 - 49 second graders – needing 1 more teacher for next year
- Orange – potential as students get older to HS, we can increase section sizes there comfortably
 - Best bang for the buck is early intervention, school district has done that
 - Could those orange groups go into two sections rather than 3 in 3rd grade
- Blue – Looking at it from HS and ES, when they get to HS, we can make things work with bigger class sizes
- School District believes they can accommodate students at the HS with what we currently have, looking at just enrollment
- Each year, we will need to add teachers for 2,3,4th grades
- Question was asked: what’s ideal ratio student to teacher?
 - Superintendent Thorstensen answers: 17 to 1, ideal for the District
 - If student to teacher ratio increases, the District loses funding

- 3 classrooms are needed to appease enrollment
- Not all funding is tied to student to teacher ratio – School District receives currently \$153,000 for this specific funding
 - We get funding from past referendum vote
- Teachers, students, staff overall perform better with smaller student to teacher ratio
- One fifth grade classroom is so tight – physical size of the classroom matters as well
- Back then, section sizes were much larger, and it was a negative experience, a lot of community members will say “we did it back then, why can’t we do it now?”
- If we have more kids, classes, we’ll need more rooms other than classrooms, such as restrooms, storage, breakout spaces, etc.

II. Site Plan Example

- Take net square footage and add 40% including storage, hallways, etc. 20% is mechanical, wall thickness
- Can run into problems getting too close to the highway – ICON will research
- Rough costs were provided based on cost per square foot – 2.5 million for the commons, 4 million for classrooms, 5 million gym size
- Committee recommends keeping elementary gym central
- Question was asked: Could rooms expand on the West? Is it okay if classrooms were along the boiler room? Answer: It would be okay if we needed to, would design up to code.
- It is possible to save money going up levels, but you have to add stairs and elevators, and might be worth it if it’s larger square footage. ICON can go through this, but it’s not ideal to do 2 level elementaries.
- What is size of elementary gym? Not big enough for tournaments and competitions – Committee members expressed a practice elementary gym would not be worth it, and it needs to be competition ready.
- To make a gym wider or bigger – 10% more
- Idea – take away new gym, HS students use gym in the rec center, have elementary students use existing HS gym, turn old gym into classrooms, keep 12,000 SF addition for new classrooms
- Gym could be turned into classrooms
- Gym could be multipurpose/library
- We have a great school, great community, why not improve our school?
- We don’t have a common entry, difficult to navigate for visitors and safety concerns, would like to have common entry
- Would need parking to go along with addition for elementary drop off
- Blacktop is the only place for kids to play during spring when it’s wet
- Centrally-located gym is best, but it may take away a classroom
- Classrooms can be designed to start as elementary schools but transitioned to high school classrooms, classrooms could be changed in the central addition
- Cafeteria function – hard to know if we could do one cafeteria for HS and ES
- Could use current kitchens for classrooms, dig into commons addition for new kitchen
- Concern for combined common spaces, may want to separate HS and ES commons spaces
- Many HS students will leave during lunch, middle school is toughest class in terms of behavior
- Elders might have hard time when using auditorium – harder to walk to commons
- ICON does not encourage too many common spaces
- TRF example – multipurpose area used for school and commons, as well as use by the community
- If we put all admin in one spot, it would be extremely beneficial
- Question was asked: What is cheapest to build? What room? Answer: Gym is cheapest, classroom and office space is similar cost, but more expensive than a gym, science rooms and restrooms are next tier up
- New music room?
 - Wouldn’t make sense to move music room away from auditorium
 - Two rooms for band and choir
 - 60 9-12 band rooms next year
- Combining lunchrooms? Would we save on costs? Would be efficient, but maybe not as much to make it worth it
- Question was asked: What HS rooms would you like to see upgraded?
 - FACS
 - Ag – nothing specific area to Ag
 - Science
 - Greenhouse

- Cafeteria area
- More locker rooms on West Side of Building or at the competitive gym
- Upgrades to auditorium, seating, lighting, sound, acoustics, sound booth
- Autoshop currently houses District vehicles, would be nice for another space for that
- How far we can go North and West?
- Assumption is if we make changes to mechanical, it's assumed we are fixing handicap accessibility, we would include that in the cost, but it is up to code official
- Mechanical updates
- Update rest rooms
- Portable classrooms – where should we put those?

Coordination / Action Items

- Cost difference of elementary gym vs full competition gym
- Classrooms in gym space, what is cost to convert this space
- Explore taking classroom away from auditorium to make commons
- Common entrance, put admin in one spot
- Option 1: to get rid of amber color, put classroom in that spot with elementary gymnasium
- Option 2: lose gym, potentially lose amber spot, renovate elementary gym into classrooms, connector with 2 classrooms/SPED classrooms
- Option 3: offices/cafeteria without gym, high school practice would go to rec center
- Option 4: offices/cafeteria with gym
- Option 5: competition gym – used for varsity/elementary gym, extended to south end
- Option 6: add locker rooms
- Option 7: cut yellow room, renovate cafeteria
- Option 8: line item music room new building, line item renovated music room
 - Potentially split the rooms into band and choir
- ICON to provide more facility assessments for the group
- ICON to send Design with ICON link out to the group
- ICON to send out to email every week to remind group

Milestone Dates

Next Meeting March 24, 2022 at 7 p.m.