

January 2018 Facilities Newsletter

Listening Post Results



District Gathers Stakeholders' Facilities Insights at Listening Post Sessions

The Avon Grove School District and Board of School Directors are committed to keeping the community informed and involved in future facilities planning. Students, parents, teachers and others who use the Avon Grove School District's buildings and grounds have first-hand experience with the facilities' strengths and shortcomings. The District recently held a series of stakeholder meetings to capture that knowledge so that it can help guide future facilities decisions.

The aptly named Listening Posts are part of the District's ongoing facilities review initiative, which began in 2014. Two types of Listening Post sessions were held. Teachers were asked questions designed to assess the educational adequacy of our buildings and prioritize the associated needs. Administrators, support staff, students, parents and community members were asked questions designed to elicit broad feedback on the facilities initiative, identify current facilities challenges and to prioritize the needs identified. Five hundred people participated in the 23 Listening Posts.

At every Listening Post, led by consultant Foster, Jacobs, and Johnson, Inc. (FJJ), participants were provided with an overview of the non-binding facilities recommendations issued in fall 2017 by the Facilities Input Group, or FIG, a diverse group of District stakeholders that conducted 16 months of research.

Listening Post attendees were asked to identify areas in which current facilities are meeting District needs and areas in which they are falling short. They were then asked to prioritize the shortcomings to help the District identify the most pressing needs. These recommendations were presented to the Board of School Directors at its January 11, 2018 meeting. The Board will now begin deliberating its facilities options and will finalize its plan for implementation this spring.

What Listening Taught the District: Participants Cite Overcrowding and a Lack of Classroom Space as Major Facilities Concerns

Participants across the District's 23 Listening Post sessions share a common concern: District schools are lacking in adequate educational space.

The community's top facilities areas of concern included the number of classrooms, classroom size and number of students per classroom. At some sessions, participants highlighted the specific need for spaces more conducive to 21st century learning and science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) classes.

Renovating the high school as a whole was a top priority at many Listening Posts. Improving shared spaces, including cafeterias and auditoriums, ranked high in some sessions, as did adding more spaces designed to encourage collaboration. Other concerns included HVAC systems, handicapped accessibility and a lack of space for academic and extracurricular activities.

For more details, please visit www.avongrove.com/facilities.

Facilities Input Group's Non-Binding Recommendations and Key Benefits

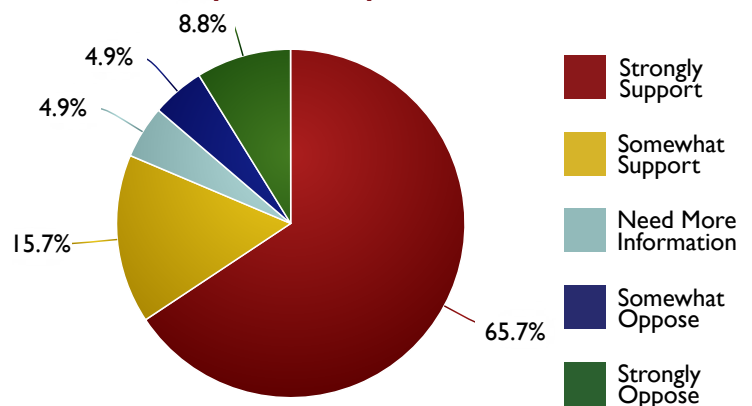
High School: Renovate the current middle school and high school buildings to form a redesigned high school campus. The redesigned high school campus would support future enrollment in a facility compatible with 21st century learning.

Middle School: Build a new middle school and campus for grades six through eight on the Sunnyside Road site. The new facility would allow for best-practice grade configuration, be compatible with 21st century learning and better support co-curricular activities.

Intermediate and Elementary Schools: Reconfigure grades so that Avon Grove Intermediate School (AGIS) serves grades two through five and Penn London Elementary School (PLE) serves kindergarten and first grade. Moving second grade to AGIS would create more room for current and future enrollment at PLE as more families choose the District, due in part to the full-day kindergarten program.

Visit www.avongrove.org/facilities and read the Fall 2017 Facilities Newsletter to learn more about the recommendation.

More Than 81% of Listening Post Participants Surveyed Support the Facilities Input Group Recommendation



Source: Responses to the Listening Post survey in which participants were asked to rate their feedback of the Facilities Input Group's non-binding recommendation.

What's Next?

The Board is expected to vote on the pathway for the District's facilities plan this spring. Community members are invited to attend upcoming Committee of the Whole Facilities Planning Meetings at 6:00 p.m. on:

- Jan. 30 - Avon Grove High School (Library/Media Center)
- Feb. 8 - Avon Grove High School (Library/Media Center)
- Feb. 27 - Fred S. Engle Middle School (Library/Media Center)
- March 8 - Penn London Elementary School (Little Theater)
- March 27 - Penn London Elementary School (Little Theater)
- April 3 - Fred S. Engle Middle School (Library/Media Center)
- April 12 - Avon Grove High School (Library/Media Center)

All Committee of the Whole Facilities Planning Meetings will be broadcast live on AGtv.