


Taylor Park Community Meeting

February 10, 2020



Our FSD 145 Mission Statement

In partnership with students, family and community, we educate every student for the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow through the continuous pursuit of excellence.



Outline of the Community Forum

- I. Introductions
- II. Task assigned to committee
- III. Background information provided to committee
- IV. Process used by committee
- V. Consensus reached by committee
- VI. Q & A (Questions)
- VII. Announce: Options presented at February 18 Board meeting

Members of the Taylor Park Task Force

LaFrancine Baker – Teacher at FMS and Local Resident

Paulette Bowdry- Community Member and Local Resident

Danita Jackson – Teacher at Taylor Park

Tihanna Martin - Taylor Park Parent

Denise McIlwain - FEA Rep. and Teacher at Carl Sandburg School

Patricia Norman- Community Member and Local Property Owner

James Rhyne- Exec. Dir., Boys & Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson County

Tabatha Sherrer – Taylor Park Paraeducator

Ryan Shirley – Community/Local Business Owner

Rev. Charles Threadgill – Pastor, Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church

Babette Jamison Varner- Exec. Dir., Freeport Housing Authority



Our Task:

THEME: What Would Be Best For Students

The task of the committee:

- to review 7- options presented and their financial impact,
- to consider alternative options as well, and
- to come to consensus on recommendations to the Board of Education.

Process: Divided into three groups, discuss and narrowing the options down to three. Regroup & reach consensus.



Four Principles that Guided Our Work

1. Provide students with a safe environment to learn.
2. Maintain consistency for our students' educational experience.
3. Create a sustainable plan for the school community with input from *stakeholder groups*.
4. Provide timely and open communication.



Information shared with the Task Force



Background Information Provided to the Committee

At our first meeting we were provide an historical overview of the flooding that has taken place in this area by the Director of Stephenson County Emergency Management, Robert Baker. While flooding is the challenge as explained by the Superintendent, *finding ways to create the best and safest learning environment for Taylor Park students is the task of the school district.*



History of Flooding /Events

Most recent floods:

- 2008
- 2010
- February 2018 - 2 days of school missed
- June 2018 - State required City to enforce federal floodway classification of Pecatonica River
- October 2018
- March 2019- an entire week of school missed
- September 2019
- October 2019
- November 2019



Impact of Flooding

- Pop up school had to be put in place in March 2019. In Feb. 2018, students missed out on two days of school. Student attendance was impacted (50%)
- Community members who had to help get kids to school (walkers) using a van and make shift elevated platform
- With minor flooding, park district equipment has been damaged and therefore restricted use of the playground
- Facilities/Maintenance had to disinfect playground equipment and ground including parking lot
- Utilities not functioning properly. Gas + electrical meters are often shut off + smell of sewage in the school building results in disruption to use of classrooms, smell of gasoline and petroleum products from the cars parked during flooding is everywhere in the community.

March 2019 Flood

In the past 23 years the parking lot to the left (west) of the school has always been dry and served as a staging area for emergency services and parking areas for the neighbors. When the river hit 17' 2.6" in March of 2019 access to the school was lost.



Student Enrollment & Staffing (as of 2.7.20)

- Total Students:
 - Pre-K: 30
 - Kindergarten: 46
 - 1st Grade: 40
 - 2nd Grade: 33
 - 3rd Grade: 35
 - 4th Grade: 35
 - Live in affected area: 39
- Total Staff:
 - Certified Staff: 20
 - Support Staff: 16
 - Administrative: 1



Taylor Park Historical Enrollment

Historical Enrollment



	December
2015	247
2016	249
2017	196
2018	229
2019	221



FSD145
Freeport School District

Taylor Park Student Breakdown,

Taylor Park Boundary (Total number of students living within the Taylor Park Boundary):

- Cedarville - 20 students
- Ridott - 1 student
- Country (rural, Willow Lake and Kent Bank subdivision) - 43 students
- Housing Authority - 43 students

Attending Taylor Park Students (Total number of students living in the Taylor Park Boundary and attending Taylor Park):

- Cedarville - 6 students
- Country (rural, Willow Lake and Kent Bank subdivision) - 12
- Housing Authority - 30

Demographics of Taylor Park	
AFR/AMER BI-RACIAL: 40 students	HISPANIC: 12 students
ALASKAN NATIVE: 2 students	MULTI-RACIAL: 6 students
AMERICAN INDIAN: 1 student	WHITE: 56 students
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN: 101 students	Grand Total: 220 students



Top Three Options Identified by the Task Force

The three groups identified their top three options and a discussion was held. The pluses and minuses of each option was reviewed and the group arrived at a consensus that we felt would be best for students.

1. Modular Units on Current Buildings
2. New Build –Permanent Additions
3. New Build – Stand Alone

Option 1: Modular Units on Current K-4 Buildings

- + Maintains current class sizes
- + Expands classroom space
- + Length of time to complete installation
- + Space available at each grade school if needed
- + Flexible use of space
- Cost of units, installation
- Classrooms outside the main building
- Temporary solution
- Exposure to climate

Option 1: Modular Units on Current Buildings

Facilities

Material

\$259,200 per 2-classroom unit

Lead time 60-90 days

Labor

\$140,076 per 2-classroom unit

Personnel

Keeping the same number of sections and class sizes

Operational (additional recurring costs)

Building maintenance

\$5,000

Transportation

No impact



Option 2: Build Permanent Additions in existing elementary buildings

- + Maintains current class sizes
- + Air conditioning
- + Potential for building upgrade
- Building time may impact beginning of new school year
- Disruption/Increase in student transfers
- Cost to build / would require referendum



Option 2: Build Permanent Additions

Facilities

Material & Labor (6 classrooms, M/F restrooms, and 2 offices - approximately 10,000 square feet)

\$4,000,000 - \$5,000,000

2 years

Miscellaneous \$ Factor

Would require voter approval of a building bond referendum.

Programming

Personnel

Keeping the same number of sections and class sizes

Operational (additional recurring costs)

Building maintenance

\$5,000

Transportation

No impact



Option 3: Build a new school

- + Modern facility, STEM facility
- + Air conditioning
- + Flexible spaces for learning and activities
- + Maintain current staffing model
- + possibility of additional programs due to space
- Timeline won't meet immediate needs of school/district
- Expense
- Building bond referendum needed, impact on property taxes
- Location and impact on boundaries



Option 3: Build a New School

Facilities

Material & Labor (42,000 sq ft to 50,000 sq ft elementary building at \$350 to \$400 per square foot)

\$14,700,000 to \$20,000,000

2-3 years

Miscellaneous \$ Factor

Would require voter approval of a building bond referendum.

Personnel

Keeping same class sizes & number of sections

Operational (additional recurring costs)

Building maintenance

\$10,000

Transportation

Unknown- depending on location



Timeline

January 2020

Date	Task
1/15	Task Force Meeting
1/21	Superintendent updates Board
1/23	2 nd Task Force meeting

February 2020

Date	Task
2/10-2/12	1 st Community Meeting
2/13-2/16	Post-Community mtg, finalize options to Board
2/18	Presentation of options to the Board

March/April 2020

Date	Task
3/3	Board meeting to take action
3/4-3/16	Possible informational community meeting
4/1-4/30	Final planning stages and communication to principals & families



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Public Forum

2 minutes per speaker.
Your name will be called in the
order listed on the comment
sign-in sheet.

Please submit your questions via
cards available. We will collect
them at the end.

Thank you !

