

**Community Meeting  
Fisher Middle School Growth Project  
February 25, 2010**

The meeting began at 6:00 PM with Board Member, Tina Orsi-Hartigan welcoming everyone and introducing Richard Whitmore, Superintendent.

Richard explained the reason for calling the meeting and said we are experiencing growth at all the schools because of redevelopment and the downtown corridor. There are students coming in from people moving back into the area and living in multi family arrangements, from private schools etc.

With that said, we are going to need to take on some projects to accommodate these students. One of the projects here at Fisher will be to add 10 classrooms for the extra 300 students that are coming in. If we do this quickly we will have the added benefit of using this campus for interim housing for Lexington. If we put it up quickly we can have the Lexington students here for interim housing and leave Fisher with a modular building to house the extra students we are going to see. Richard explained that the proposed Fisher growth project is demographics driven.

Richard said, "We have our architects and our principal to give you an overview of what we are going to see for the district over the next 10 years or so".

Richard introduced Melinda Lum, of HMC Group Architects, who took the group through a Powerpoint presentation showing the site drawing and how the proposed two-story building would look and where it will sit. We evaluated the site for where it would be best to sit. It would be visible from Fisher Avenue and the playground area.

The two-story building would house the additional growth we are seeing for the demographic growth. We are also proposing an auxiliary gym to be built in the future.

Lexington could move into part of the campus when the two-story is built. In June of 2011, when the new two story is already occupied by the Fisher students, we will use the vacated P wing and add some portables to house Lexington Elementary School students while their construction is ongoing . There would be a drop off and parking where the district office parking lot is located now.

When Lexington goes back to their newly modernized campus, Fisher will take back the P-wing.

Melinda showed some drawings of what the new building could look like with landscaping around it. There were views from the Fisher Avenue parking lot and views from the play courts

There will be an elevator and two stairwells. There will also be added restrooms for students.

Rick Kramer, of Kramer Project Development Company, then presented some logistics on how to make the construction projects happen. We will need to make a decision by three weeks from now so we can submit the drawings to DSA (Division of the State Architect), he stated. We hope to start site work utilities in the middle of this summer. When approved by DSA we would begin the balance of the construction.

For DSA submission we would do two submissions: one in mid April and the next one in early May. This would enable us to prep the site this summer.

Foundations and buildings would be approved by September with our schedule plan. We would need to upgrade the electrical service to the site and we would have to work with PG&E to get that process going.

We would need to go through a process to get contractors on board and would use a lease leaseback method to accomplish this. We would use competitive bidding for site work. Site work and utilities work to start in July and complete PG&E upgrades by August, start construction of foundations and building by October and complete construction and substantial occupancy by June of 2011.

We would set the portables for Lexington in the spring of 2011 and Fisher would vacate P-wing in June of 2011. We would complete closeout documentation in September of 2011.

We will be working with the Town on all the traffic issues and start times for each of the three schools in the neighborhood to make sure we have the best traffic flow. We will do more meetings as we have more information on this.

An audience member talked about people cutting through their property to turn around during Fisher and Van Meter modernizations. Will there be a plan to keep the neighbors informed of the traffic plan, she asked. She said they had to register and tag every homeowner's car and police their area and put tow notices on cars that didn't belong there. She wanted to see notification of neighbors going forward. We will have more information in April or May, stated Richard.

A question was asked about if there was going to be busing considered. Busing is an expense and we do not have a transportation division of the district, stated Richard. Also many parents are already bringing other students down here to other schools. We are working on different parking lot and crossing guard options. We are also going to work with the Town for suggestions.

The kindergarten students will not be walking by themselves so cars have to park. It helped when the extra parking lot went in at Fisher, stated an audience member. But people use neighbor's driveways as a turn around.

We will still have summer school this summer and the noisy construction will happen after summer school is over, stated Richard.

Lisa Fraser then reported on how it looks from a principal's point of view. Lisa convened a site committee to work on what the campus impact will be. She explained that when you are adding classrooms on the campus, you have to provide classrooms in all content areas. You need science, history, English, PE classrooms all to accommodate the growth we are going to experience. Lisa has her home and school club president, site council president, PE people, Jim Latorre, the school secretary, and school campus security person on the site committee so that she can get input from each of them.

Lisa then listed the following Site Construction Committee pending recommendations:

- Relocate the entire SPED wing to the bottom floor of the new building.
- Add 2 to three new science classrooms in the a building
- Relocate the Zone
- Move the orchestra/choir to the B wing.
- Relocate art and ceramics temporarily.
- Relocate P6, P4, and P2 to the new building.
- Relocate PE space P5 (location still pending)
- Switch location of PE storage and bike rack area.
- Seek alternative summer school site.

We are trying to maintain parity within the district to provide an equitable environment for students to learn in.

SPED (special education) classrooms will need to have conjoining rooms with doors between them and be located close together, explained Lisa.

The Zone will need to have another location, as the existing classroom location will need to be used for another function. Our music program has expanded so much and we share music programs with the elementaries, so we are proposing to move all music to the B wing.

Art and ceramics will vacate the B wing and there will be a different program for them for one year. Art will go to room A115 for one year.

P6, P4 and P2 are the world language program and can move to any other place on campus.

PE that currently uses room P5 will move somewhere else, maybe the end classroom on the lower floor of the admin building. It's a rainy day room with circuit training available.

We moved the bike racks to another location that will work long term and even through construction. It will cut down on the path of travel through construction and through neighboring areas.

We will continue to house 6-8 graders here for summer school and move them away from the construction area of campus.

Fisher was happy to hear that construction won't take place until summer so that the program can be completed for the school year before it starts.

David Freed and Lisa Fraser have worked together to consider some cross age opportunities for the students during the interim housing year. Lisa and David feel this is a really positive opportunity. Fisher will welcome Lexington to their campus and will treat them well.

Richard then said we will do another meeting in late May or early June with more specific answers about traffic and neighborhood mitigation issues. We will have more timeline information for people at that time.

Kathy mentioned that if people would check our website there is the most up to date construction news on the facilities page. Kathy said she would be happy to send newsletters to anyone who gives their contact information.

Richard thanked people for coming and adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ordner  
Facilities Modernization Project Coordinator