



Facilities Task Force completes study of District 16 schools, community informational meetings scheduled in October

Members of the Spring Lake Park School District 16 citizen-staff Facilities Task Force, a group that has studied the needs of district facilities since January, is preparing to share its findings with the community.

Community meetings—each with the same content—have been scheduled to explain major components of the task force's Preliminary Facilities Improvement Plan. Time will also be provided for questions and comments from those in attendance. Though they will have the same content, three meetings were scheduled to increase the opportunities for community members to attend. The meetings are:

Community Information Meetings FACILITIES TASK FORCE REPORT

Thursday, October 6
Wednesday, October 12
Monday, October 24

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Fine Arts Center, Spring Lake Park
High School, 8000 Highway 65 NE,
Spring Lake Park

Since January, the task force has toured and reviewed all district sites, prioritized current and future facilities needs, reviewed enrollment and demographic data, and reviewed state statutes related to renovation and new construction.

In the report to the community in October, the task forces will discuss:

- Significant deferred maintenance needs on all facilities, buildings that are 35 to 50 years old.
- Projected enrollment increases of 800 students, that have already begun to take place (a nearly 18 percent increase), leading to the need for additional classrooms at

several schools, the purchase of additional land, and a new elementary school in Blaine.

- Land-locked school properties, too small for today's state guidelines, that limit district renovation options and choices. This may lead to a reworking of the Spring Lake Park High School site and the closing of Kenneth Hall Elementary.

- A plan that combines major renovation and new construction at the high school.

Task force research and findings will not become recommendations until November. The school board will then review and discuss the recommendations, eventually agreeing upon a facilities improvement plan to take before district voters in 2006.

Remaining tentative timeline for task force and school board activities following the October community meetings:

- Task Force fine-tunes Facilities Improvement Plan, utilizing community feedback and survey results. **Prior to Nov. 8, 2005**
- Task Force presents its final, completed Facilities Improvement Plan recommendations to the School Board. **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2005**
- School Board decision on Facilities Improvement Plan and decision on 2006 date for Bond Referendum. (Specific date will be announced). **Nov. 22, Dec. 6, or Dec. 13; 2005**
- District prepares and conducts an informational campaign to inform residents of the Facilities Improvement Plan and the Bond Referendum vote. **Following the Board decision**
- Probable date for 2006 Bond Referendum. **Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006**