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School District Advisory Committee Considers Facility Options
Group addresses needs and opportunities

EAST TROY, Wis. – In order to more economically meet the needs of students, the East Troy Community School Board recently enlisted the assistance of a Facilities Advisory Committee comprised of community members from across the district. The committee is currently considering various options related to “right-sizing” the district’s facilities and is expected to make a formal recommendation to the school board in late July or early August.

“The fact of the matter is that the facility needs of our district, from an educational perspective, stewardship perspective, and community perspective, require us to take a closer look and determine how to best position the district to benefit today and to benefit tomorrow,” said Dr. Chris Hibner, district superintendent. “The board has engaged community members in the advisory committee in an effort to maintain a credible process that assesses and prioritizes the needs of the district while balancing potential costs.”

The committee has met several times and is currently working with an architect and construction management firm to develop a plan of action that is right for East Troy. After the committee makes its formal recommendations, the school board will weigh the information presented and determine how to move forward.

The district’s thoughtful planning, which included paying off some of its debt early, has put it in a position where a significant amount of facility work can be done with little or no impact on debt levy taxes. However, in most cases, if the board were to move forward with any type of construction project, the plans would have to be first approved by voters in a referendum. As a result, the committee has expressed an interest in encouraging the board to place a referendum question or questions on the November 2012 ballot.

“One of the advantages of considering various options now is that the school district will soon be in a situation where it may be able to address its facility needs with relatively little or no effect on the debt levy,” said Hibner. “These are very difficult economic times, and the district, the committee, and the school board have to be extremely sensitive to the financial challenges facing community members.”

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