



# Dixon Public Schools

"A Place to Grow"

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## Facility Strategic Planning for Dixon Public Schools

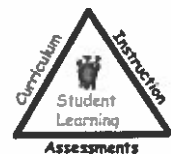
*Summary of Planning Efforts  
2013-2016*

### June 2013

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- Strategic Planning Task Force formed by District Administration with Board approval charged with the task of performing thorough and comprehensive evaluation of all Dixon Public School District's facilities.
- The Strategic Planning Task Force was comprised of fourteen (14) members from the community, school employees, Board of Education members, and parents.
- Goal was to develop a long-term plan to help guide present and future Board of Education members in providing a safe and educationally stimulating environments for our students while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers.
- During the 10-month process, members met with school facility experts, toured each Dixon school to evaluate current conditions, toured new facilities in close proximity to Dixon, and studied funding opportunities available to school districts.
- *Vision 2020*, a report on current status and recommendations for future Dixon Public School facilities was developed by the group.

*Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.*



## April 2014

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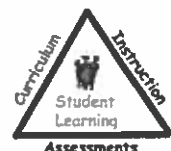
- Strategic Planning Task Force presented *Vision 2020* to the Board of Education.
- The group reported current facilities are inadequate and cost of operating and maintaining existing facilities cannot be justified.
- Key findings in the *Vision 2020* report included:
  - Current Dixon schools do not meet the needs of students.
  - Students deserve better schools to provide better educational opportunities.
  - Current Dixon school facilities are failing to compete with neighboring districts facilities.
  - Current Dixon school facilities are not able to meet needs for critical 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments.
  - It is within the power of the people of Dixon to provide updated facilities for its children and for the community.
  - *Note: see list of identified concerns and facility issues identified by Strategic Planning Task Force at end of this timeline.*
- Facilities group recommended Board of Education hire a consulting firm to help district continue facility improvement planning and to facilitate a better understanding within the community of the need to update the district's schools in order to support the changing landscape of public education.

## Summer 2014

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- As recommended by the Strategic Planning Task Force, Board of Education hired an outside consultant, an architectural and educational facility planning group based in Chicago, Illinois. The outside consultant facilitated community forums and other informational sessions.
- Key findings from the surveys and community forums included:
  - Supporting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning
  - Accommodating Future Growth
  - Enhancing Community Vitality, Growth, and Pride
  - Providing Long Term Solutions (50+ years)
  - Engaging School Communities
  - Minimizing Costs to Operate/Maintain Buildings

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- Community forums and informational sessions conducted by the outside consultant focused on facility improvement efforts.
- Surveys, working groups and community forums to gather and disseminate information were implemented to identify most important factors of renovating or building a new school, and seek input from all stakeholders related to advantages and concerns of facility options.
- During the summer of 2015, Dixon Public Schools conducted its required 10-year Health/Life Safety Survey. Engineers in association with district's architectural firm, Green and Associates, evaluated all aspects of each building within Dixon Public Schools.
- The Health/Life Safety Survey results found \$26.5 million of improvements needed throughout the district to simply bring buildings up to code.
  - Dixon High School - \$22 million needed code repairs
  - Other Dixon schools and buildings - \$4.5 million needed code repairs
- During forums, community members asked for more detailed information related to costs. Community also asked for conceptual plans for both a renovation and new build of Dixon High School.
- In December 2015, the final community forum was held. Costs and conceptual plans were unveiled for three options at the December meeting.

**Option 1: \$26.5 million**

- Health/Life Safety Work only at all Dixon buildings and schools.

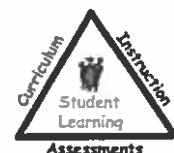
**Option 2: \$77,675,104 million**

- New High School on new site - \$69,229,741.
- Health/Life Safety A&B priorities and additional work at Washington, Jefferson, Madison elementary schools and Reagan Middle School - \$8,445,363.

**Option 3: \$86,965,622**

- Renovation of existing high school with new remote athletic facility - \$78,520,259 (includes new costs to replicate original building exterior detailing on the addition – \$3.5 million added)
- Health/Life Safety A&B priorities and additional work at Washington, Jefferson, Madison elementary schools, and Reagan Middle School - \$8,445,363.

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## January – March 2016

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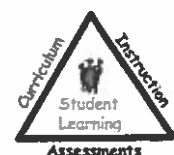
- Dixon Board of Education reviewed and evaluated information from *Vision 2020* report, Health/Life Safety Review and working groups and community forums, plus all surveys. Board of Education utilized monthly public Board meetings to discuss thoughts, opinions, and information presented.
- Board of Education formulates a recommendation to be voted on during a special Board of Education meeting in April 2016.

## April 2016

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- Dixon Board of Education approves Option 2 by a vote of 7-0 at a special meeting on April 12, 2016.
- Board of Education statement:
  - In keeping with and honoring the philosophy of Dixon Public Schools, and working within the Powers and Duties of the Board of Education, we feel Option 2 is the best decision in order to meet the educational and safety needs of our students, while providing the most fiscally responsible choice for our taxpayers, and opportunities to grow and change educationally in the future. We recognize the emotional attachment and historical value of our current high school. It has been a building that has served our community well, but no longer meets our needs as an educational facility. We will establish a Joint Committee charged with exploring options for repurposing. It is important for our community to know possible future options are available for the current high school building and site.

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**Concerns, Issues, and Difficulties with the Current Dixon Public School Facilities**

- The Strategic Planning Task Force concluded Dixon Public School facilities are deficient in the following areas:
  - Basic mechanical infrastructure is inefficient, obsolete or non-existent, in all Dixon facilities.
  - The physical building conditions are deteriorating beyond the scope of maintenance.
  - There is inadequate practice and performance space for both athletics and the arts.
  - Schools fail to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - Schools lack up-to-date safety and security systems.
  - Schools fail to provide space and furnishings conducive to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning environment.
- Other important facility points to note:
  - all Dixon Public Schools are facing very tangible and costly “end of life” realities.
  - Dixon High School, built in 1929, will be 91 years old in 2020.

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