

Whitley County Consolidated Schools Future CCHS Forum – January 23, 2008

What are the Pros and Cons of doing this project?

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- Will having all of the classes so close together cause more trouble with crowding or bullying?

We will take all measures necessary to keep groups apart by age levels.

- How many students will be in a classroom?

This may not change much from our current class loads which are really quite reasonable now at CCHS.

- How does this improve testing?

Larger classrooms with flexible space will allow the students and teachers to be engaged in a variety of learning activities that relate to a more relevant and rigorous curriculum which can lead to better test scores.

- How does this improve learning opportunities for the highly intelligent student?

More opportunities in a newer facility that will address the needs of “learners for tomorrow” is our plan. We are already a global society. A new facility can expand our distance learning opportunities, higher educational partnerships and provide space where AP classes can better use effective resources and tools.

- The nation is going to school within school (smaller school concept within the large school) Bill Gates concept. How will this accommodate that?

ABEAMS is the acronym for our current career pathways at CCHS. This is one way, much like the smaller school concept, to bring meaning to student learning as we work with students to consider their future careers.

- What year will this school reach capacity?

Not determined at this time. A growth study of the community may need to be undertaken.

- What level and type of student are we gearing this school toward? Only the average students? Middle of the road student?

We need to meet the needs of all learners. We need to follow our mission of educating all children one child at a time. A new high school will be designed for ALL LEARNERS.

- How is it my school? I am retired.

A school can be the center of a community in so many ways. It would be our hope that you would feel welcome there to attend music and arts events, athletics, debate presentations, agricultural demonstrations, science exhibitions, and perhaps even adult classes.

- Can a “building” create higher achievement?

Yes, we believe it can. An optimal educational environment is one where space is created to enhance the learning process. This is what we are striving for.

- How can it be a community center with all the liability issues?

There are always liability issues and as a corporation we carry insurance to be responsible. Groups that use the space carry their own insurance as well which is part of our present policy.

- Will there really be open areas to use by community or is that just talk?

Our schools, all of them, are open now for community use. There is a nominal fee at times or no fee depending on the group. A new high school would offer up to date wonderful facilities for more use.

- Will there be room for more students? (Are classrooms and cafeteria enough?)

We will plan accordingly once the design is in its final stage.

- How will and who will coordinate sporting events – 7th grade, 8th grade and a high school football game all on the same night/day could cause some challenges?

These schedules will be closely monitored by staff.

- How about asking the current students to write out what they would gain from a new school?

We did ask them recently and it is posted on the website. We will continue to seek their input.

- Flexibility needed – freshman academy?

Right now this is not an avenue CCHS is pursuing. Our ABEAMS or career pathways have become our focus of structure at this time.

- I have been in schools – taught in HS and no matter what the building and how old we always used the top high tech – an old building is not reason or excuse for not already using distant learning, moveable computer carts, white boards, etc.

We are using some of these now, but would like to offer more in a future facility. Classroom space along with wiring capabilities is an issue at this time.

COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Rooms are much too small to accommodate.
- Pro - State of the art school
- School books not new building
- Concerned about groups/clubs not in the athletic realm and what can be offered on classrooms outside.
- I am very concerned about putting high school students near younger students.
- I believe it needs to be done. I don't know if having high school kids around little kids is a good idea.