



**For Immediate Release**

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**Fort Atkinson School District Takes First Step in Long-Range Facilities Planning**

**Fort Atkinson, WI** – The School District of Fort Atkinson took an official step towards long-range facilities planning on Tuesday, May 7 with a special board of education meeting to review the Facilities Condition Report. Representatives from CG Schmidt Construction (CGS) and Plunkett Raysich Architects (PRA) compiled the report over several months by assessing the appearance, condition and current uses of the buildings as well as exploring building capacity, educational space adequacy, accessibility standards and overall site security for the four elementary schools, middle school and high school. Both firms have extensive histories partnering on long-range facilities planning exercises with school districts throughout Wisconsin.

The Finance & Operations Committee, a sub-committee to the Board of Education, reviewed in detail the formalized report on Thursday, May 2 prior to presenting the information to the full board to review the report and identify next steps in the planning process. The maintenance lists for all six buildings is categorized under general building, roofing, fire protection, plumbing, mechanical and electrical needs, and identified as either urgent in nature, or items which need to be addressed within 2-5 years, 6-10 years, or 10+ years. Besides touring each building and meeting with the principals, the consultants reviewed existing floor plans, engineering surveys, building and energy efficiency reports.

As part of the District's Strategic Plan, one of the Bold Steps is to develop a plan to engage and involve parents and the community in district objectives. Now that the facilities analysis is completed and a formalized report published, the School Board plans to solicit input from community members to further refine the facility planning goals. The board suggested the next step will be to formulate a Facility Advisory Committee to engage the community in the facility planning process. These committee members will also serve as an informational liaison to the community throughout the planning process.

"Forming a Facilities Advisory Committee will be critical to finding the right solutions to keep our facilities operating efficiently and continuing to meet the educational needs of our students and community. It's going to take some time but we're confident that together we'll create a long-term plan that will ensure the Fort Atkinson community remains strong and a thriving place to live, work and educate our children ," said Mark Chaney, Board President.

The Board and District is continually committed to keeping our students and staff safe and comfortable while they attend school or work in any of our District buildings. The District recently learned that radon testing in schools is something many districts are exploring. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can enter buildings through cracks and openings in the foundation. As a proactive measure to inform any future work to be done as a result of this master planning process, at the April 18 Board of Education meeting the board approved completing radon testing for all district buildings during the 2019-2020 school-year.

For more information on the facility planning process, please contact Jason Demerath, Director of Business Services at (920) 563-7800 or via email at [Demerathj@Fortschools.org](mailto:Demerathj@Fortschools.org).

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