

## 10.1.15

### Dear Community Members:

I am sure that many of you have heard about the passing of an Elmwood senior this morning due to a car accident. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Elmwood family and to the family of the young man. Every day our students leave us for one reason or another, and the thought of them not coming home is more than we can bear. Make sure to tell your kids how much you love them because tomorrow is guaranteed to no one.

We are pleased to share with you several images of the proposed K-5 building along with some general explanation and thoughts behind the layout. The rest of this email will be devoted to this subject. I will probably follow-up with some other items later this weekend or early next week.

### **SCHEMATIC DESIGN PICTURES**

Attached are several pictures of the floor plan for the new K-5 building as well as a view of the site and the building orientation. We will have these on display at Friday's Chicken BBQ in the Middle School and at some athletic contests as weather permits. It is unlikely that given the high winds predicted for tomorrow night that we will have them at the game.

### **KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BUILDING DESIGN – Floor Plan**

In general, the building is designed to separate the gym, music and cafeteria spaces from the academic areas with the offices in the middle. The purpose for the design is to keep academic learning environments in quieter locations away from louder common spaces and transition corridors. We saw this multiple times in our site visits, and staff in those buildings constantly told us how this cut down on distractions and improved the overall learning environment for kids. The music room is close to the cafeteria, as the cafeteria will double as a stage for music programs and plays while the gym will have the seating. There is a storage area off the cafeteria that will house scenes etc. for some of the elementary programs.

There are four general spaces, and I will try to describe each.

#### **CENTER**

In the center of the floor plan we have the main entrance and offices as well as the media center, computer room, and art room. This area will be where all students enter and exit the building and attend some of their special classes like art, computers, and library time. We also have smaller classrooms that will be used to serve students with disabilities, or those who need interventions like speech or occupational therapy. It also serves as a buffer between the gym and cafeteria.

#### **LEFT**

There are two main academic areas, the first on the left will be a 2 story pod that will serve students in grades 2-5. The first floor will be for grades 2 and 3 and the second floor will educate the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This pod will also be connected to the middle school.

The pod is designed for 5 sections of students per grade level and each will have what is called an extended learning area (ELA). The ELA will be used to provide intervention or enrichment in close proximity to the classrooms. It will also be a place where students can collaborate on projects. There will be mainly loose, comfortable furnishings as well as a projector and teacher work board in these ELA spaces. Since all of our students will be together, we will be looking to create flexible groupings where student needs can be addressed more effectively.

Also with the academic classrooms we have two smaller rooms that can be used for any kind of intervention or small group instruction. They are located at the beginning of each pod on each floor.

You will also notice that there will be doors at the entrance to the pod. These can be controlled via a panic button to lock down the pod in case of an intruder.

## **TOP RIGHT**

On the top right we have a single corridor wing that will serve the kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. The kindergarten rooms are 270 SF bigger than all of the other academic rooms to allow for the wide variety of tasks these young students engage in daily. All of these rooms will have individual restrooms which will reduce lost instructional time. There will be an extended learning area for 1<sup>st</sup> graders towards the middle of the hallway, and we have made the decision to extend that wall to the edge of the building rather than having a small bump-in. Later drawings will reflect this change.

## **BOTTOM RIGHT**

The bottom right contains mainly the gym, cafeteria, kitchen, and mechanical spaces, along with the large group restrooms. There will be an additional, smaller entrance directly to the cafeteria for students in a before or after school latch key program (STARS). The gym has been slightly oversized, and we will be adding bleachers for seating for any large event to be held in the gym or stage.

There will be steps between the gym and cafeteria that can be used as risers for choral performances. A movable partition will separate the two rooms and can be opened on days we have indoor recess during inclement weather. We will also open the doors and have a curtain backdrop in the cafeteria space which will create a stage for performances. We saw this design in a couple of locations and thought it would allow us to maximize our spaces.

## **OTHER PICTURES**

I have attached another image of the building as it sits on the campus site. We will have other images, but the files are very large.

## **FUTURE EXPANSION**

What I like about this design more than others that were tossed about over the course of the last few months is how this building is ready for a Phase 2 if future district leaders want to expand the building. The building and site are designed to build an exact replica of the two story pod directly north of the current one. Originally, we had a design in which the two pods were a single story connected to the main area where the media center is located. However, as we discussed where we would expand this building if needed, we decided to stack the square academic pods and leave the space open for any future building expansion. We will already have the plans, and a future architect and firm will have a huge leg up on where and what to do. The building could be converted into a K-8 in the future if need be.

Those decisions will be made by future administrators and Board members, but it is nice to have a sound option for them if needed.

## **FINAL FACILITIES THOUGHTS**

We are looking to move into this building at the start of the 2017-18 school year. When that happens, Eastwood will have to decide what to do with Pemberville, Luckey, Webster, and Dowling. ***Included will be a decision on the future location of our Board of Education offices which are currently housed in the old Union Building on Dowling Road.*** There are basically three options for the Luckey, Pemberville, and Webster buildings. The buildings can be retained by the district for current and future purposes. Another option is to sell the building to a responsible third party like we did with the old Lemoyne Building. If there are no interested buyers and no need for the building by the district, it can be demolished and abated. **NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE!**

This spring we will reach out to village and township leaders to begin discussions on uses for these buildings. We will work diligently to make sure that any final decision is consistent with our needs as well as the community. There is money in the project for the demo and abatement of each of the three buildings. If there is a viable use that is supported by the district, village, or township leadership along with the broader community, we can sell the building and save 67% of that budgeted cost for demo and abatement.

We will have much more on this as the calendar flips to the new year.

Have a great rest of the week.