

La Porte Community School Corporation
Building Project Update
October 10, 2016

Where have we been?

- ▶ Schmidt Associates have been conducting interviews with staff and stakeholders for each school in our system, in order to determine the final design for three building projects:
 - ▶ 1. New Handley Elementary School
 - ▶ 2. New Middle School
 - ▶ 3. High School Performing Arts Center

Where have we been?

- ▶ A blog site has been established for the public to view our progress.
- ▶ Site visits have begun at schools where Schmidt Associates have designed buildings that are similar to what we need, to meet our needs and expectations.
- ▶ An investigation was conducted for a potential building site for the new middle school.

Where are we going?

Our journey to select the best location for a new middle school provided time for us to think critically about a number of factors.

Where are we going?

Throughout the discussion of locating a new middle school, there was high interest in keeping the two middle schools close to the center of our district, without redistricting, which narrowed the location possibilities and caused us to reevaluate. We knew that building one new middle school would, naturally, result in the new school becoming more “popular”.

Where are we going?

Depending upon the location of the new middle school, it was likely that redistricting would be necessary and, as much as we wanted both middle schools to be equal in programming and facilities, the fact was that there would be a natural affinity for the new Boston Middle School to be favored. Disappointment and division would exist not only between parents and students but among staff as well.

Where are we going?

The Feasibility Study dialogue, our interests in expanding programs, recent announcements by the Indiana Department of Education regarding mandatory preschool, and the need to position all of our schools for the future have convinced LPCSC administration that LPCSC should move to the following grade configuration:

Pre-K-4th

5th/6th

7th/8th

9th-12th

Where are we going?

The end result is that there will be four ongoing building projects, all of which will be expected to be completed for the beginning of the 2019/2020 school year.

1. New Pre-K-4th Handley Elementary on current site.
2. New 5th/6th intermediate school on the grounds where the current administrative offices are located.
3. Renovation of the current Kesling Middle School to accommodate a 7th/8th configuration.
4. Transformation of the high school auditorium into a Performing Arts Center.

How we are going to get there!

The natural tendency for all of us including staff, students, and parents, is to begin wondering how this change will affect us personally.

Questions will surface such as: In which school will I teach? How will the administrators be selected? What about athletics? How will my younger elementary school children walk to school without their older sibling? These are all good questions and there will be many more that will need to be addressed as we prepare for opening day of the 2019/2020 school year, when we kick off a new era for the La Porte Community School Corporation.

How we are going to get there!

To answer these questions, we are establishing strategic planning teams this fall to study exactly what the programming and educational model will be for the Pre-K/4th, 5th/6th, and 7th/8th schools.

How we are going to get there!

Strategic Planning Teams

Pre-K-4 Programming Model

5/6 Programming Model

7/8 Programming Model

Drug Free Task Force

K-12 High Ability Program

K-12 Athletic Programming

K-12 College and Career Readiness

K-12 Visual, Fine and Performing Arts

How we are going to get there!

The action plans that are developed will influence the final outcome of the building projects and the transition to the Pre-K-4th, 5th/6th, and 7th/8th configurations.

How are we going to get there!

This decision is based on what is best for students, future program expansion, and guaranteeing a consistent college and career readiness experience for our students.

It is not about money or adults, and it will take hard work and an acceptance of change by all of us. We are excited to begin preparation for this transition and look forward to the challenges that we will face in making these improvements.

How are we going to get there!

You are encouraged to get involved in the work that will be done by our strategic planning teams. Future communications will outline the process and assignment of staff, community members, and parents.

How we are going to get there!

Please visit our building project blog at the following link in order to stay up to date on our building construction progress:

<http://www.lpcscprojects.blogspot.com/>