

NEWS RELEASE

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Mariemont City Schools

Mariemont School Board Approves New Comprehensive Facilities Plan

At their October 20th meeting, the Mariemont City Schools Board of Education voted unanimously in favor of adopting the comprehensive district facilities plan recommended by School Superintendent Paul Imhoff at the previous month's meeting. The plan includes economizing from five school buildings to four and relocating the junior high. The eight-point plan promotes the following facilities changes and next steps for implementation and financing decisions:

School Building Configuration & Construction:

- Construct a new 7-8 junior high school on the current Fairfax Elementary site and integrate the current cupola into the new structure.
- Utilize the composite approach (combination of new construction and building renovation) for Mariemont Elementary School (K-6) and, at a minimum, save the front facade of the current school and the auditorium. Students who currently attend Fairfax Elementary would attend Mariemont Elementary.
- Utilize the composite approach for Terrace Park Elementary (K-6) and, at a minimum, save the front facade of the original portion of the building.
- Utilize the Dale Park (current junior high) building as "swing space" to house junior high and Mariemont Elementary School students during the construction/renovation of those buildings, thus saving the district money on modular classroom rental fees.
- Relocate the Board of Education office to Mariemont Elementary School.
- Explore "green" technologies and design buildings that are energy efficient.

Next Steps in Planning Process:

- Engage the community and research possible options for the Dale Park Building after the completion of all projects.
- Appoint a Financial Advisory Board comprised of district residents from each community to study financing and implementation options for the needed facilities. The committee would be asked to submit a report to the Treasurer and Superintendent regarding the draft district plans prior to the December Board of Education meeting.

The Board-approved plan is the product of a fourteen-plus month planning process where the district engaged feedback from community, parents, staff, students and school facilities professionals. The plan will provide a framework to guide long-term decisions as the district deals with aging buildings with failing infrastructure and building systems. The district has been working with school facilities professionals SFA Architects and Turner Construction throughout the planning process.

"I am pleased with the very thorough and engaging process we have used to get to this point. I have confidence that our decision phase will help give us even more definition to our plan," said Board of Education president, Marie Huenefeld. "It is the right thing to do."

Mariemont Schools Superintendent Paul Imhoff added, "Blending our financial needs with our building needs is our next major and important step. I'm confident that together with the expertise of our Financial Advisory Board, we'll develop a complete plan that works best for our community."