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SCHOOL NEWS

CherryPicked Questions Report:

Referendum report: More parking

(Editor's note: Dr. Brad Ebert, administrator of the Kiel Area School District, will be answering questions regarding the Middle School referendum between now and the November vote in this series of articles.)

WILL THERE BE ENOUGH PARKING IF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL IS ADDED TO THE HIGH SCHOOL AND WHAT ABOUT PICK-UPS AND DROP-OFFS?

Yes, additional parking lots and separate pick-up and drop-off areas will be added for the new Middle School addition. There also will be two exits from the current back parking lot for fire safety purposes. An additional entrance will be added—likely off of 1st Street—that allows for traffic to flow around the building, which includes pick-up and drop-off areas.

CAN YOU CREATE SMALL VIDEO CLIPS OF SOME OF THE AREAS OF MOST NEED AT THE CURRENT MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTEAD OF JUST HAVING ONE OF THE FULL TOURS ON THE WEBSITE?

Yes, we did recently create videos of certain areas of the Middle School and they are now being finalized before we can put them on our website. I will communicate when they are ready to be viewed.

WE HAVE HEARD SO OFTEN THAT THE CURRENT KIEL MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS MANY ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES THAT ARE CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR THOSE WITH

DISABILITIES OR THOSE WITH INJURIES, ETC.? WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES?

We have a number of bathrooms in the building that have stalls and entrances that either those with disabilities cannot fit into (bathroom stalls) or have a very hard time entering. This means that if a student uses a wheelchair, she/he needs to go to the other end of the building to use the bathroom and is not able to use the restroom in the hallway where she/he has class.

Also, we only have handicapped accessible entrances on the far west side of the building, so those with mobility issues can only use those entrances if they need to get into the building.

A number of classrooms and areas are smaller in size, which makes it difficult for students and staff members with disabilities to move around the rooms. Our front entrance to the building does not have a handicapped accessible entrance.

In the case of an emergency or fire, or in the case of the elevator malfunctioning, students in wheelchairs that are on the top floor of the Middle School will not be able to easily and safely make it out of the building; this is something that we have seen happen from time to time. This means that those with disabilities and mobility issues need to wait for safety personnel to arrive to be assisted out of the building.

WHY WASN'T MAINTENANCE TAKING PLACE 20 TO 25 YEARS AGO?

Maintenance has been done every year, but the budgets only allow for smaller items to be addressed. Money is budgeted every year to take care of safety issues and other maintenance issues and projects that fit within the budget. All of the district maintenance issues are ranked yearly by priority and the money that has been allocated is spent based on what the School Board determines are the priority items for that year. The facility assessment study has determined that many of the components within the Middle School are still operating beyond their original useful life because they were actually properly maintained over the years.

WHY IS IT ALWAYS THE FIRST OPTION TO TEAR IT DOWN AND BUILD BIGGER AND BETTER?

This wasn't the first option. Many options were considered, but due to the inability to remodel the existing building to make it feasible for today's instructional model and to make it completely ADA compliant, that option was not the best for all students and was not at all supported by the focus group of community members that spent a lot of time reviewing all of the options.

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Ebert's Cherry Picked Questions Report

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Let me get this straight-

Superintendent Ebert took all the credit for fixing our \$1,000,000 deficit when he first came to KASD.

But after 6 years of his leadership we are now \$51,000,000 in the red? So he tells us it's the budget's fault, not his lack of management skills?

Is he hoping nobody remembers it's his job to write the budgets? And he told us our budgets were balanced year after year, and we were in great shape financially because of his brilliance? Remember how Johannes bragged too?

We've paid Ebert over \$1,000,000 to manage the District's finances over the years. All he did was lie to us!

Is anyone too stupid to see right through all this BS?