METHACTON HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Subcommittee 3 - ACCESSIBILITY

October 14, 2023

STRENGHTS

What would you list as accessibility/programming strengths of the MHS/campus?

- Current situation does meet the needs
- Current needs of students are being met, we are meeting state and federal guidelines
- There are opportunities for students to receive appropriate support, life skills, and outside of the district for job shadowing and leveraging the community with what can be done
- Compliance for ADA
- Two rooms available for low incidence special ed students
- IU for outsourcing for career training
- Best Buddies program
- Inclusive Opportunities (unified sports, special Olympics)
- Related Services (speech, OT, PT) & willing to bring in services to students (vision, hearing, orientation and mobility)
- Clubs
- Café
- Qualified Staff
- Accessible Technology (assistive technology)
- Transportation
- Availability to supplies
- Some bathrooms accessible for students to completely support themselves and be independent
- Accessibility/availability of administration spread throughout the building

CHALLENGES

What would you list as challenged regarding accessibility/programming on the MHS campus/in the building?

- Compliant but is this the best compliance possible, is it 2010 as opposed to 1990
- Standards could be higher
- Access points (there is a limited number of elevators and lifts, they aren't centrally located and they sometimes break down)
- Campus is spread out and takes up a lot of space
- Doors ways are difficult to maneuver if you are in a wheelchair
- Some bathrooms accessible for students to completely support themselves and be independent
- Outsourcing, can we have programs in house rather than sending students out
- Surrounding districts do not share resources
- Staffing

- Fragmented
- Locker rooms-lack of privacy
- Lack of gender neutral bathrooms and having spaces for students that need assistance

OPPORTUNITIES

When I think of accessibility/programming on our campus in the future, I envision the following….

- Create an inclusive, equitable, environment of belonging for all students, creating the gold standard for an inclusive culture where students can feel their authentic self which really fulfills the whole child approach
- Includes: Having more programs in house rather than outsourcing
  - Less lost instructional time
  - Feeling part of the Methacton community
  - Less stigma
  - Get "voice of the customer" and get input from stakeholder groups

When I think of accessibility/programming in our High school building in the future, I envision the following….

- A focused/intentional thought on building/campus (Upper Merion campus for example)
- Flexible learning spaces
- Including natural elements
- More administration on campus, can we add Central office to the building

What are the accessibility/programming trends that we should further investigate as a district?

- Looking at corporate or other industries to look at functionality of areas and space
- Flexible seating options

Can we prioritize these trends to implement?

Are there opportunities to design a better campus layout/building that would include great accessibility/programming than exists today?

- Building up rather than out
- With current building, use "dead space" in the front as a central hub
- Open spaces/open design

Are there important space design, furniture, and other resources that each classroom in the building should have?

- Flexible seating options
- Natural elements (atrium, greenhouse, windows and natural light)
- Collaborative working spaces
- Spaces for related services
- Functionality of Subject area neighbors and pods and open areas to collaborate

- Additional elevators in the building that are centrally located

THREATS

What future challenges will impact the MSD if accessibility/programming investments into the high school campus/building are not made?

- The health and safety (HVAC system, mold and humidity)
- Reputation
- Limits the ability for additional programs

What are some of the external forces preventing us from making accessibility/programming improvements to our campus/building?

- Cost
- Tax base
- State and Federal Funding
- Enrollment
- Community buy-in
- Global economy
- Past experiences (community feedback regarding past experiences with construction –Skyview and Arrowhead)

Are there safety/security improvements that, if not implemented, could undermine the perceived value of our institution?

- Impacts of renovations (how it impacts the space, physical safety of the renovations)
- Lawsuits (504s and IEPs not being met)