

Comments and Questions Submitted on the "I Have a Question" Forms Community Conversation November 15, 2017 • Oak Park River Forest High School

## Questions

To help alleviate costs of Imagine will the district consider adopting shared service models with all other taxing bodies for functions such as HR, accounting and insurance, insurance negotiations, vehicle (purchases and maintenance)?

The district regularly searches for cost savings opportunities and has researched a number of the examples you mention above. None has proved feasible to date, but the district remains open to exploring new ideas and possibilities.

# What guarantee is in place or will be put in place that this group's work won't fall by the wayside once a new board is elected? (Think two strategic plans in less than six years.)

We are confident that the current Board will have enough time and information to act on Imagine's recommendations prior to a new Board being seated. The recommendations from Imagine OPRF are expected to be presented to the Board of Education about nine months before the next Board election. Two current Board members act as liaisons to Imagine, and the full Board receives regular updates from Imagine at its monthly meetings. The significant number of community stakeholders on Imagine adds to an expectation that the Board will be responsive to the group's work and recommendations.

#### How do we plan for security in the present era of mass shootings?

This is a major area of emphasis for the district, with or without the work of the Imagine Team. A variety of security enhancements have been made in recent years, including adding an entrance with a security buzzer to the main entrance and restricting the doors through which students can enter the building. However, the Imagine Team also is exploring this issue as part of its overall recommendations for facilities improvements.

Why have we not included students in this activity? We have community/teachers/staff but lack students. For example, my son says bicycle parking is lacking severely at the school. We are planning to gather considerable student input in January. We have held off until the members of the Imagine Team developed a more thorough understanding of the current conditions of the facilities. We are aware of the bicycle parking issue.

## Really would like to know what the best practices are for high school learning — what does the research say? Would love space to follow from there.

As noted during the November 15 community-engagement presentation, the acknowledged best practice for all of education is student-centered learning, with ample opportunity for collaboration and access to technology. A primary reason why Perkins + Will was selected as the architecture consultant is the firm's expertise in designing spaces that support student-centered instruction.

## Would the school look at using Mindful Meditation in classes at the beginning of the day to settle and focus the students as they move forward in the day?

This is beyond the scope of the Imagine team's work, which is focused only on determining facilities needs, not curriculum.

#### Which high schools will you be visiting?

We plan to have groups visiting Lake Forest, Highland Park, Deerfield, New Trier, York, Naperville Central, and Argo High Schools. All of these schools have done renovations or additions to older buildings, some of which have location challenges similar to OPRF.

#### Student preparedness--what are we doing right? Opportunities to be hero

We are unclear on the meaning of this comment/question.

# I am disturbed by how few people of color from our community attended this evening's meeting (11/15/17). I don't want people to be left out of the process, but not sure how to make it easier. I did appreciate how diverse the Imagine OPRF members are.

We agree about the need to make sure that all voices are heard and are looking at additional ways to conduct outreach to ensure that happens. We do plan to have focus group sessions in January and February with organized parent groups, including A.P.P.L.E., to supplement the broader community meetings.

# How will you incorporate the input you received from the community into your preliminary conclusions you will present in January/February?

All Imagine Team members have received a copy of the comments and questions from the November 15 meeting. They will be asked to include these considerations as they assess their their initial impressions of facility needs, and formulate presentations on these needs for early winter.

#### How do you prioritize what to spend money on?

An essential step, which Imagine OPRF is conducting now, is to gather a wealth of data on facilities needs. This includes assessing the building's physical infrastructure; gathering input from students, faculty, and staff on how the facilities affect instruction; listening to feedback from community members on what facilities investments they believe are important, etc. We believe that through compiling and then analyzing this data, some key priorities will emerge. Additional steps likely will involve gathering stakeholder feedback on the prioritized list,

estimating costs associated with the identified priorities, and testing the level of community support for the financial investment in various options.

## Comments

- Don't be overly influenced by cars/parking!! Not the guiding force of the future as it was in 20th century.
- We still need a new pool!
- Don't be handcuffed by the guidelines of the Financial Action Committee. It is frustrating to see \$ collected by current taxpayers not spent in the same time as these taxpayers live here.
- Just to put into the hopper Vermont just made Ultimate) frisbee) a high school varsity sport, and is on path to be Olympic sport. Can share space with soccer & football.
- Please consider feedback of our Post Secondary colleagues (College, voc, or work)
- When you are touring the other landlocked schools, please look for <u>creative</u> & <u>innovative</u> solutions to our space problem. Other schools seem to have far more with less space. Thanks for all of your work!
- Imagine Team must look at educational justice/equity issues & keep this in context for facilities & costs. If facilities cost so much that taxes increase we are just taxing diversity out of our village & this is the opposite of equity & educational justice. Thank you.