NEWS

RE: Hancock Central School District
Wednesday, February 19, 2014

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Hancock Central Schools Facilities Committee Kicks Off its Work to Study the District's Facilities

State-mandated facilities review revealed instructional space limitations.

Facilities Committee established to study conditions and make eventual recommendation to the Board of Education

Board of Education in support of considering an eventual zero tax impact proposition to meet current and future needs of HCS Students and the Community.

HANCOCK, NY – A February 11, 2014 meeting was held at the Hancock Central School District administration office to begin the detailed process of studying the District's facilities and infrastructure. This was the initial kickoff meeting of the newly established HCS Facilities Committee.

The Committee is comprised of a broad spectrum of community members, staff, faculty, and design consultants to aid the group in determining the eventual community priorities. Calls for community participation on the committee were advertised in the November/December edition of the *Hancock Wildcat News* newsletter and the January 15 edition of the *Hancock Herald*. Committee members include David Gilmore from Highlands Associates, Bill Connor from Lend Lease, Gene Homer, Nick Hazen, John Martin, Linda O'Brien, Terrance Dougherty, Scott MacDowall, Brenton Taylor, Mike MacDonald, Frank Seely, Brandon Olbrys, Shaun Shannon, Amber Dennis, and Kathy Herzog. This was the first of several scheduled meetings that are intended to lead to an eventual recommendation to the Hancock Board of Education in September 2014.

If approved by the Board of Education, plans would be put in place to have a vote by the Hancock community for their consideration in late 2014.

After introductions, the Facilities Committee was given a general overview of the Board of Education's parameters and a history of the district's recent capital project endeavors over the past two decades. The most important parameter set by the Board of Education is for the committee to come to a final recommendation that results in no additional tax impact to the community. This would be accomplished through a combination of New York State building aid and the District's current capital reserve funds.

The Facilities committee was then given an overview of long term capital project strategies followed by a review of shifting priorities often experienced with school capital project planning.

An initial list of potential project scope items taken from the New York State Education Department (SED) required 5 year Building Condition Survey (BCS) was reviewed with the committee. A tour of all facilities will take place at the next meeting. It was explained that the committee will need to eventually prioritize the list and pare it down to a level that fits a level that is financially feasible to the community.

The consultants reviewed the potential timeline involved with school capital projects. An initial target of providing the Board of Education with a recommendation was set for September 2014. Please look for additional press releases in future editions of the *Hancock Herald* and the *Hancock Wildcat News* newsletter. Meeting agendas, minutes, and press releases may be located on the HCS website, www.hancock.stier.org.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26th in the District office. The meeting is open to the public.

Mr. Dougherty concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and voice in helping the District protect this important community asset.

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