

The Ivy School
4212 NE Prescott St
Board of Directors—Special Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2015

Board Members Present: Johanna Keith, Billy Ladd, Lisa Larpenteur, Amie Robar Chally, Alby Salsa, Karilyn Wax

Administration Present: Karie Breyne, Rebecca Keith, Amy Stuhr

Observers Present: Ellen Dishman, Travis Eddy, Laura Jeness, Rebecca Gilson, Betty Skundrick. Many parents and some students were in attendance as well.

4:02pm: Meeting called to order.

Laurie Simpson gave some background and history on the facilities work and expansion options explored in the past. She presented three original plans to expand Prescott that were drawn up over three years ago. The options at the time included:

1. Adding a second story to the building, which would have created a space with 8 classrooms and was estimated to cost between 1.2 and 1.3 million dollars.
2. Adding to the front of the building, which would have added two classrooms to the building as well as a courtyard in the front and was estimated to cost around \$330,000. If we invested in adding classrooms to the existing building in either scenario one or two, it would be good to purchase an adjoining lot to have additional land to accommodate the number of students and traffic flow. The lots looked at at the time are not available today.
3. Placing two portables in the parking lot which would have provided two additional classrooms at the cost of approximately \$40,000 for foundation work, ramps and running utilities to them in addition to the cost of leasing the portables. This scenario would cost more than a loan payment on an addition to the building.

With our current student body and the potential to add a kindergarten in the future, these options do not accommodate the number of students we have or will have in the future. The board and leadership team will be creating a new, long-term plan to house the school with the goal being to have all students together in one facility large enough to accommodate 11 classrooms.

Laurie has also recently explored other, smaller changes at both the Prescott and Morris campuses:

1. Reclaiming the hallways at Prescott for each of the three lower elementary classrooms (currently LE1, LE2 and the aftercare room). This renovation would bring LE1 to 825 square ft, LE2 to 857 square feet and the aftercare room to about 900 square feet. The approximate cost for this renovation would be \$30,000 and would bring the 4 rooms to a larger, more equal size. Laurie pointed out that the

ideal amount of space per student is 35 square feet and that we currently have an uneven distribution of size of classrooms.

2. At Morris, we could build a two classroom addition on the garden side of the building, giving us six classrooms at Morris. This would cost approximately \$250,000-\$270,00 on a building we do not own. It could be possible to look into the church making the additions with the assistance of grants.
3. At Morris, we could take the existing two bathrooms and renovate them, turning them into a teacher lounge and an auxiliary space for testing, etc. The bathrooms would be relocated. This would make the existing space at Morris work more efficiently.

Laurie Simpson presented the space options for middle school for 2015-2016 as we will need four classrooms for upper elementary, the four existing lower elementary classrooms and a space for approximately 50 middle school students:

1. Lease the community room at Morris which would cost us an additional \$26,000 in rent as well as set-up costs. We would need to set up and break down the room each day as the church continues to use the room for events. We could also be bumped from the room occasionally when the church needs the space during the day.
2. Expand the 3 Prescott classrooms (LE1, LE2 and the aftercare room) and create an opening between the center classroom (currently LE3) and the media room. This would allow us to house the middle school in the center (LE3 and media room) with approximately 1300 square feet of space, while creating 4, more equally sized classrooms for lower elementary. This renovation could be done over the summer. Cost is approximately \$30,000.
3. House all upper elementary and middle school students (approximately 158 students) in the four classrooms at Morris.

Comments from observers:

Parents:

- It was asked if we could look at having 3 lower el, 3 upper el and 2 middle school classrooms in the future. Rebecca Keith replied that that is something we could consider when looking at a long-term plan.
- It was asked whether Amy Stuhr would continue to be involved with the middle school. Rebecca Keith replied that she would most likely move with the middle school students. It was then asked who would be at Morris in her place and Rebecca replied that it was possible Anne O'Neal would move over to Morris. Parents and teachers expressed concern over this idea as relationships have been established with each campus' student support person. The board has not had an opportunity to hear staffing options and it was agreed that the personnel component would still need to be worked out.

- It was asked if the number of classrooms needed had been projected multiple years out. Rebecca Keith replied that Ellen Dishman had been working on the numbers and her projection was that we would stay at about 50 middle school students.
- It was asked where aftercare at Prescott would be housed if we moved middle school students into the remaining two rooms at Prescott. Leadership replied that aftercare would take place in a classroom as is currently the case at the Morris campus.
- It was asked where middle school students would have recess. The leadership explained that there are two parks ideal for their age-group within walking distance that could be utilized.

Staff:

- Travis Eddy feels that the Prescott option is preferable to the community room. He says the space needs to feel like a classroom and the students need to feel ownership of the space.
- Betty Skundrick has had experience using the community room with students and stated that it is not feasible to manage the space with the requirements for how it is kept.
- Rebecca Gilson does not like either of the options but feels they can make it work. She stated that the idea of Anne O’Neal moving to Morris would not be ideal as the students and staff at Prescott have created relationships with her. Rebecca does feel that we have been missing the connection to older kids at Prescott and that by moving the middle school to Morris we could fill that need.

Students:

- The middle school needs more space.
- We would be okay with moving back to Prescott.

Leadership explained that the drop-off and pick-up traffic would not be affected by having the middle school students at Prescott as their start and end times will be different than lower elementary’s.

Alby Salsa asked if anyone had concern with having middle school students at the campus with lower elementary students. The teachers and staff expressed the positive aspect of having the middle school students at Prescott, being able to work with and mentor the younger students. Rebecca Keith mentioned that the students from Morris have already been coming over to Prescott to read with the lower elementary students and that by having the middle school on the same campus we could build on that.

Amie Robar Chally asked if we could afford the renovation of the Prescott classrooms in order to move the middle school students over to Prescott. Lisa Larpenteur said there was room in the budget and that we could use capital campaign funds for the renovations.

Lisa Larpentuer moved to do the \$30,000 Prescott classroom renovation and move the middle school students to Prescott, locating them in the current LE3/Media room spaces. Johanna Keith seconded the motion.

There was further discussion by the board, with members agreeing that the option to renovate the Prescott classrooms and move the middle school students to Prescott was the best option. It was the best option financially as well as logistically as leasing Morris was a more expensive, recurring cost and that it did not sound feasible to set-up and take-down and generally manage the community room space daily. It was pointed out that this option would leave no extra, empty space for testing, computers, etc. The leadership felt that they could work with the space and scheduling to accommodate this.

After discussion, the board voted unanimously to do the \$30,000 Prescott classroom renovation and move the middle school students to Prescott, locating them in the current LE3/Media room spaces.

This decision will be announced in an all-school email this week.

5:11pm: Meeting adjourned