

**For Immediate Release**

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**Building Options Presented at RASD Board Meeting:  
Community members were invited to speak as well**

**Ripon, WI** – CG Schmidt Construction and Plunkett Raysich Architects presented six potential facility options at the RASD Board of Education meeting on Monday. The options included continuing with small maintenance repairs at the four schools using money from the operational budget; upgrading and adding a partial building replacement at the high school and middle school; combining the middle school and high school at the current high school site; building a new middle school on the current RMS site; building a new middle school on district owned land; or building a new high school on district owned property and moving the middle school to the current high school site.

Community members were invited to provide feedback to the Board of Education following the presentation of options by the consulting firm. The six options were developed after the consultants spent several months assessing the condition of the facilities. The Board, district staff, and community members had several opportunities to provide input on the day-to-day operations of the buildings and improvements needed.

While engagement sessions participants have focused on the operational and educational space deficiencies at all schools, most conversation to date has focused on the middle and high school. The six options presented at the Board meeting address concerns identified by community members at the engagement sessions such as handicap accessibility, security improvements, water drainage, and educational space deficiencies at both schools.

In addition, several options addressed the large capital maintenance projects and space deficiencies have been deferred over the years as they are too large to fit within the annual operating

budget of the district. A list of deficiencies identified recently through a staff facilities survey included items such as information technology (IT) infrastructure; food service equipment; and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning issues. The staff facilities survey also identified the lack of space for small group learning and break out spaces throughout the buildings, and the condition and layout of co-curricular spaces for students, staff and the community (i.e. speech and language).

Several community members at last night's meeting suggested the Board explore additional options, such as buying properties between the middle school and high school and combining the middle school and high school on another site.

The full list of deficiencies and the detailed reports are available on the school district's website. Future community engagement sessions are scheduled for January 16 at 6:30 p.m. and February 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Ripon High School to formalize and refine the facility options and the development of criteria used to evaluate the options.

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