

Okemos Public Montessori Facilities Committee Agenda
January 24, 2024
6 - 8 p.m.
Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92953141879>

Next meeting: Monday, Feb., 5
6:30 p.m. at OPM

Introductions:

- All committee members in attendance

Update from Director of Operations Brian Lieber:

- Shared some details regarding deep cleaning and remediation of lead dust from Enrichment and the staff lounge

Purpose of Committee:

- Review of communications plan including website, to ensure transparency and thoroughness and build trust
- Share building environmental concerns and seek solutions
- Future testing scope
- Not intended to discuss long-term solutions (although this was modified later in the meeting upon agreement to discuss a new OPM bond at the next meeting)

Update on Winter Break testing:

- Test results expected Jan. 30 or 31 from ERG
- Already mitigated some positive test results, including lead dust in enrichment and staff lounge
- Will share chart of room/type of test/test result/mitigation efforts (if needed) and when
- Utilize sinking fund to address health and safety needs

Website review:

- Mikayla Temple creating and linking to OPS website
- Site will house current and historical testing data for all district buildings
- Plan to go live following Jan. 30/31 testing results
- Add Erin Gould to committee list
- Add teacher names/grade level/tree names to the room numbers in the testing results
- Don't add building map for safety concerns
- Add which expert recommendations were enacted and when

- Add OPMFC agendas, meeting summaries, upcoming goals
- List the committee's charge/scope (see above in "purpose of committee")
- Add health resources (especially videos) to educate children and their parents/guardians about what is safe (hand washing, dish washing, etc.) and what is not (drinking) – Health team

Environmental Facility Concerns:

- Have we tested for radon? Especially the enrichment area and cafeteria that are below ground.
- Pocket knife found in Christine's room. Questions about the deep cleaning crew. Brian said the cleaners had been trained not to bring some tools, including a pocket knife, into schools and the cleaner will no longer be allowed to work in schools.
- Mark: State Legislature starting budget season. Can we figure out the cost of replacing pipes and other environmental concerns and ask our state representatives to add to the budget negotiations?
- Jillian: Why aren't we putting filters on all the faucets now?
 - Shannon: We are waiting on guidance from the State on what the recommendations are with the new Filter First legislation to make sure we will be in compliance. They said they will be providing these recommendations in March/April.
 - Brian: It is more complicated than the water filler stations, which are designed to have a filter. Faucets with a hot and cold line require a filter for each line. The guidance we are waiting on from the State will help us know we are getting the solution the experts recommend.
- Some students still have a fear of the bottle fillers/ Does Kelly S. need different water bottles to loan to the older students?/ Cleaning braces and retainers in the bathroom
 - Kelly S. asked for these concerns to come to her same day so they can be resolved quickly and not have to wait for committee meeting
 - New bottles can be purchased
 - Students who feel more comfortable with the Besco coolers can use those
 - Ask health team to add expert videos (e.g., from the CDC) on the website as an educational component so that teachers/paraprofessionals/school administrators do not need to act as water- and air-quality experts
- Mark: check with EGLE on the guidance for filters/state funding through Filter First/cost
- Kelly S.: How often will the faucet filters need to be replaced?
- New OPM Bond discussion
 - Mike C.: Given the voices assembled on this committee, it ought to pursue long-term solutions, not just short-term fixes. Waiting around for a decade is not a sufficient long-term solution. We need to be talking about a new bond to rebuild OPM. Concern that it might be voted down is not a good enough reason not to do it; we need to ask the community for what is needed.
 - Mark: Meridian Township is looking at a ballot for partial funding for the Senior Center. We should look globally at what is coming up on ballots.

- The committee agreed to discuss a new OPM bond at its next meeting.

Communication Plan:

- Balance of when information should be shared with families and on what topics? Set expectations/district standard. – Future discussion.
- Guidance to John and Administration going forward: you can say not that we know something different, we are doing the best that we can.
- Communication/meeting notes group: Mike C., Erin G, Jillian W., Shannon B.
- Erin G.: Staff would appreciate guidance on what to say about what is understood by district and specialist testing.

Next Meeting Date:

Monday, February 5
6:30 p.m. at OPM
Tour of the building

Zoom chat:

18:05:28 From Erin Gould to Everyone:

Apologies - technical difficulties!

18:22:25 From Kelly Bertilrud to Everyone:

Has the district been pursuing state or federal grants to support the replacement of the pipes?

18:22:51 From Erin Gould to Everyone:

Who did the cleaning in those 2 rooms?

18:26:49 From Erin Gould to Everyone:

Thank you!

18:33:17 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

Which rooms have been deep cleaned, and which ones are left to go?

18:33:37 From Kelly Sundeen to Everyone:

The back hallway was done last weekend, and the front will be done this week.

18:33:47 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

Reacted to "The back hallway was..." with 👍

18:40:50 From Katie Cavanaugh - Okemos Public Schools to Everyone:

a suggestion to maybe include a teacher's name with the classroom number. as a parent, I have no idea what the classroom number of each room is, but I can tell you exactly which room it is when I have a teacher's name associated with it.

18:41:20 From Kelly Bertilrud to Everyone:

Reacted to "a suggestion to mayb..." with 👍

18:41:43 From Katie Cavanaugh - Okemos Public Schools to Everyone:

building maps online are a safety concern however.

18:41:57 From Kelly Sundeen to Everyone:
I thought the same thing, Katie!

18:43:58 From Jillian Winn to Everyone:
Just adding teachers names would be helpful then. I also like the idea of adding the classroom/tree name.

18:51:36 From Erin Gould to Everyone:
If we see something that was missing from the website testing (like a one-off test in the future, for example), would we communicate to Mikayla? Brian? John?

18:52:57 From Kelly Bertilrud to Everyone:
I think it's blurring with your background filter

18:59:44 From Sue Hallman to Everyone:
Thank you Mike!

19:03:57 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:
A "no" vote leaves us exactly where we are now, I think.

19:04:18 From Kelly Bertilrud to Everyone:
I couldn't agree more, Mike!

19:04:47 From Mark Polsdofer to Everyone:
Perhaps we can have a potential new bond discussion at a future meeting, so folks can see the give and take about that issue.

19:05:10 From Sue Hallman to Everyone:
Thank you Jillian!

19:05:21 From Kelly Bertilrud to Everyone:
Reacted to "Thank you Jillian!" with 👍

19:06:55 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:
Reacted to "Perhaps we can have ..." with 👍

19:07:22 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:
Agree with Mark. Let's put an OPM bond on an upcoming agenda so we give everyone the space to talk about it.

19:07:43 From Kelly Bertilrud to Everyone:
Reacted to "Perhaps we can have ..." with 👍

19:08:14 From lori mazzullo to Everyone:
Reacted to "Perhaps we can have ..." with 👍

19:08:56 From Erin Gould to Everyone:
Did we doing any radon testing (thinking of the enrichment space and the cafeteria that are below ground) (A piece about radon was on NPR today.)

19:10:06 From Shannon Beczkiewicz to Erin Gould(Direct Message):
Recommendations about the website should go to Mikayla and me. You can email us both at communication@okemosk12.net

19:11:27 From Mark Polsdofer to Everyone:
It's looking like Meridian Township will be putting something on the ballot for partial funding of a new senior center in the near future.

So, if a secondary bond was pursued, we would be wise to look globally at what is coming up on ballots.

I will make sure to have upcoming county-level renewals and dates by our next meeting.

19:11:41 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

Reacted to "It's looking like Me..." with 👍

19:14:26 From Shannon Beczkiewicz to Mark Polsdofer(Direct Message):

Thank you very much for looking into the information about is happening on ballots. That is very helpful. I will add that to the next agenda.

19:16:36 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

Sue is EXACTLY right. There's only so much credibility that can be earned through short-term work. It won't pass the smell test for anyone (like me) who has ever owned a 20-year-old car. John and the district are doing everything they can with the money that we have, but I don't think we should rule out asking for more money.

19:27:58 From Erin Gould to Shannon Beczkiewicz(Direct Message):

Staff would appreciate guidance - we want to say what is understood by district and specialist testing.

19:28:55 From Shannon Beczkiewicz to Everyone:

Some of you have asked for access to the January environmental letter we sent out on Jan. 12. Here is a link to that letter.

19:28:56 From Shannon Beczkiewicz to Everyone:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XkEB3CF2-6j1GNUXJyuMg4jh_xtKxa5EVg2RCTiG8Rg/e/dit?usp=sharing

19:33:56 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

Really appreciate the equity perspective, Jennifer. <3

19:35:43 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

Good question!

19:38:31 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

It can't hurt, Waterwise! I just want to hear from teachers/paras about whether it's feasible.

19:46:17 From Kelly Sundeen to Everyone:

I thought I hear that the filters need to be replaced each year. Is that correct? If so, if we put them on now and we are out of the scope of their suggestion, can't we just replace them with something different when it is time to change them?

19:46:37 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

Reacted to "I thought I hear tha..." with 👍

19:46:41 From Jillian Winn to Everyone:

Reacted to "I thought I hear tha..." with 👍

19:46:46 From Kelly Bertilrud to Everyone:

Reacted to "I thought I hear tha..." with 👍

19:49:30 From Kelly Sundeen to Everyone:

I think we should avoid the 13th

19:49:41 From Katie Cavanaugh - Okemos Public Schools to Everyone:

Replying to "I think we should av..."

agree

19:49:42 From Kelly Sundeen to Everyone:

it is the anniversary of MSU's shooting.

19:49:43 From Mike Callahan, PTO rep to Everyone:

^^yeah, for the MSU remembrance; it'll be a tough day for many.

19:50:51 From Mark Polsdofer to Everyone:

6th works for me.