MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Marshall School Board Defines Priorities for Facilities Planning Efforts

Staff and Community Focus Group Feedback Provides Guidance

Marshall, WI – Marshall Public Schools Board of Education members engaged in discussions on the District's facilities planning efforts in a work session held October 22. The work session provided an opportunity for Board Members to incorporate initial community and staff views into the process of establishing facility priorities. Feedback was obtained from EUA's recently-held focus groups with Marshall Public Schools' staff and community members. Focus group views were shared with the Board in a presentation by Eppstein Uhen Architects'(EUA) Public Outreach Specialist, Kit Dailey, at an October 16th Board Meeting. Focus group participants shared perspectives on the facilities and campus strengths and weaknesses; the impact of these spaces on teaching and learning; staff, students, and community experiences on campus; and response to specific needs outlined in the recent Facilities Study report. Additional recommendations for how the Board should address identified needs, along with expectations for communication and engagement in the planning process were also shared.

In the October 22nd work session, Board members discussed general priorities that can be used by the community to evaluate potential facilities options. Board members were in agreement on the need for priorities to reflect the values and expectations of community members; to include safety and security, energy and space efficiency, capital maintenance and flexible campus-wide learning spaces. The Board confirmed direction to EUA and Miron Construction to use these priorities to develop wide-ranging options for further discussion. Once EUA and Miron have explored a broad scope of options and associated costs, the Board will be in a position to begin engaging community members in meaningful discussions. The District will host community workshops in late January-early February, 2014 to discuss facility priorities and options for consideration in the long-range planning process.

A master planning process leading to any potential projects for the district was outlined in the October 22 work session as a multi-stepped process, beginning with the evaluation of the Facilities Study; envisioning and establishing priorities; exploring options; and finally, defining solutions that are supported by the community. School Board members reinforced the need to continue the process with strong communications and community involvement, consideration for long-term fiscal responsibility, a need to address staff-community questions about vision and strategic plans, the need for additional transparency with current capital maintenance plans and budgets, and the need for well-defined priorities as the district begins to explore options.

For information on the District's facilities planning, focus group report and School Board priorities please visit the district website at www.marshallschools.org or call Barb Sramek, District Administrator, at 608-655-3466 x1011.