Out of District SMC Sub Committee
School Modernization Tour
Monday, March 2, 2020
Guilford High School

Meeting began at 8:30 am
In attendance: Jeff Solan, CPS Superintendent, Sylvia Nichols Chair, subcommittee, Matt Bowman, Anne Harrigan, Rich Gusenburg, Paul Freeman, Guilford Public Schools, Superintendent.

Guilford HS is a newly built, 3 level high school, designed by TSK architects, opened in 2017. The concept was to create separate pods for collaborative but interdisciplinary learning, built in a butterfly configuration with academic pods on one “wing” side, offices and gym, auditorium, band and tech classes on the other “wing”, centered with a communal cafeteria space on the lower level and library on the main level. Budget just under $100 million dollars. There is one floor above and one floor below the main entry level.

State of the art security is in place, mantrap entry, ability to lock individual pods consisting of 5 classrooms, teacher prep areas and bathrooms. Auditorium and gym section of the building can be locked to prevent public from entering entire building during public events.

The building, utilizing glass on interior walls and exterior windows is situated and built to take advantage of natural light. Heating and cooling is optimized by using energy efficient materials. Natural gas is the fuel and there are some solar panels.

This school is a great example of a very modern design and construction process. The Contractor was a collaboration of Fusco and C.G. The tour concluded at approximately 10:45.

The second tour began in Meriden at Platt HS at noon. The Cheshire visitors were joined by. Mark Benigini, Superintendent, Mike Grove, Assistant Superintendent and Pete Civitelli, Assistant Principal

Meriden has 2 high schools each serving slightly over 1000 students. Both Schools were renovated as new at the same time. The students remained in the building as the renovation was completed. Project at Platt took about 3 years to finally complete.

This project is more similar to Cheshire High School. Complete new heating and cooling was installed, major parts of the building were retained and remodeled while additional spaces were added. The finite details and photos will be available through our completed notes which will be distributed to the entire SMC committee upon completion of the tours.

Innovative ideas:
Platt HS has one preschool/ daycare classroom staffed by the Meriden YMCA. The program can serve up to 20 children. Staff expense and program expenses are borne by the YMCA. In exchange for use of the classroom space, Platt students have the ability to earn community service credits by volunteering and can also gain certifications such as baby sitting that will serve them outside of school. This also creates an opportunity for students considering a career in education to have hands on experience with professionals. The cost of the program is cost neutral to the Meriden schools.

The Middlesex community college branch in Meriden was in danger of closing. Platt HS made some classroom space available for the college use from mid afternoon to early evening. The college staffs a dedicated entrance, and classroom space is closed off from the entire school. The upside here is that HS students and teachers at Platt are able to take college courses at no cost and the community at large continues to have a local opportunity for higher learning. Like Guilford, Platt has state of the art security and both schools have maintenance staff on site through the evening to support public use. Both schools offer reduced cost to community groups (503C non for profits) for use of space and require that these groups pay an hourly rate for custodial services and in the case of the auditoriums groups are required to hire the school staff to operate the lighting and sound systems.

More details to follow
This tour concluded at 1:45 pm.

Tentative schedule: Southington Schools March 9. Subject to confirmation.

Attest: ___________________________
Sylvia Nichols
Chair Out of District SMC Subcommittee