

Renovation versus build new? All or nothing? Consolidate elementary into high school? Build new high school? Renovate old high school to accommodate elementary?

The Facilities Committee recommended new.

How can we push back on the state for more money for our schools?

Rossford Schools is a member of the Alliance for Adequate School Funding. This organization lobbies on behalf of school districts to hold schools harmless with the TPP funds and other important issues. In addition, the Finance Committee is looking at 0% bonds to assist our ability to leverage funding dollars.

Why don't Board members vote their conscience and what their constituents want? Why do they always vote in block (5-0)? Why is credibility with the community a lacking virtue?

The Rossford Board of Education has not voted as a block on many issues, past or present.

Why is renovating not even an option, only Master Plans A & B? Rebuild? Ever look into House Bill 264? If not, why not?

The Facilities Committee has been meeting for two years. After many discussions and reviewing the information, they determined that building brand new was a better choice than renovation. HB264 is a method for districts to borrow money if they plan on remodeling or repair aspects of a building. However, the committee felt the enormous list of facility needs, design changes and safety concerns warranted new versus renovation.

What Board members support the statement in the RRJ (1-28-10)? "When they (Rossford) built a new downtown on Route 20, they should have planned for the old downtown."

The Board of Education unanimously does not support this statement as published by the Rossford Record and then interpreted by the writer of the letter to the editor. The President of the school board was interviewed by the Rossford Record and in that interview said the following, "There are some members of city council and the mayor who believe the high school must remain downtown because it is perceived that without it remaining in its present location businesses that remain in the downtown area will suffer. The real reason why downtown businesses suffer or have closed is the lack of a comprehensive development plan, conceived or executed. When they built a new downtown on Route 20, they should have planned for the old downtown. Keeping the high school downtown at all cost is not the solution to the city's challenges."

This is a statement of truth. The mayor has said it publically and a member of city council proposed a resolution that would have council support the school remaining downtown. As the second largest owner of downtown real estate, it is the prerogative of the public through its elected officials to point out this fact.

What will continue to drive the facility master plan including the location of buildings will be the Board of Education's commitment to doing what is best for student's first including their safety and a comprehensive approach to their quality of educational experience. With that said, the Board of Education does believe the city leadership does share safety concerns with the Board, which is why they are seeking funding from the casino for additional police and fire

protection. We also believe there are city council members who will put together and execute an eventual plan for downtown development.

With this in mind, the Board has done several things to support this effort regardless of where buildings are eventually located. These include the annexation into the City of Rossford of the additional property purchased at the Glenwood site and a commitment to not lay-off staff like so many districts are all around our area. In these two ways, the city's income tax base from its second largest employer is assured. We have also directed our superintendent to work with the Facilities Committee to include in the master plan how land and perhaps buildings would be repurposed if they are no longer used directly by the school district. No matter what the final outcome, we will not be a contributor to additional decay in the downtown like so many fellow owners of downtown real estate have been.

We will continue to the best of our ability to discern what is best for students, work to achieve that best solution and help support the city as we can in that order.

Is new residential growth in the district anticipated that will greatly increase enrollment?  
Rossford Schools is not anticipating an increase in enrollment.

How will property values ever increase if you live near an empty or demolished school plus an additional tax burden for a new school and transportation to that school being 10 miles away?  
Real Estate agents will usually say that one of the first questions asked by families considering moving into an area concerns the schools academic effectiveness and school facilities. The district's academic ranking as an Excellent District by the State of Ohio speaks highly of the academic success the district has demonstrated, but the condition of our present facilities are lacking in many areas. Note: Map Quest shows Glenwood Elementary only 3.5 miles from High School & Board Offices.

What "renovated" schools did the Facilities Committee tour? How many "new" facilities were on the tour list?  
The Facilities Committee toured one facility that had renovations and additions. It toured five new facilities.

How was contact made with Lawrenceburg, Indiana and who was contacted there?  
Dr. Lang spoke with several out of state superintendents that have Penn National casinos already in full operation in their school districts.

Why was the Glenwood complex started in these dire recessional times?  
All athletic fields and track are located at the Glenwood Complex. The new complex was necessary to offer a prideful athletic complex for our students. The current facility was in very poor condition. The new complex is not costing the residential taxpayers any money.

What happens to the stadium and field house?  
Not determined yet.

With whom are we as a district competitive? We are a public school with closed enrollment policy. Why don't we preserve tradition and pride, but create a 21<sup>st</sup> century feel in RENOVATION?

Rossford Schools is competitive with all schools (public and private) in the greater Toledo area, statewide, national and international. Attracting students within our district is a major goal. 21<sup>st</sup> century learning is created by a new design for our schools. Currently, our junior high school does not have science labs. Our consumer science classes, art classes using digital media, and industrial arts courses are not designed for current programming. Hallways need to be wide with digital spaces, and computer wiring and cafeteria space is not adequate for students needs. The list goes on and the Facilities Committee believes that renovation was not in the best interest of our students.

Having 4 kids in Rossford, 1 at the Junior High and 3 at Glenwood, how will the special education services be in the new schools?

Rossford Schools currently serves most of our handicapped population. However, the classroom spaces need to be designed differently. There is a small percentage of handicapped students who will be served out of district due to their unique needs.

What opportunities do our students lack that other districts have? What districts are you comparing?

Much of this question has been answered in the question on competition. In expanding on this theme, our students and adults must be prepared to showcase their work on a global environment. We are no longer educating for the local businesses. Integrating technology in all aspects of our curriculum and facilities design is necessary to prepare all of our students and have them competitive in college and the workforce.

How much will these options cost taxpayers per year?

The exact size to the project(s) has not been determined, but as a general rule, the owner of a \$100,000 assessed value home would pay an additional \$30.63 per each mill required to fund the project. Therefore, a 5-mill levy would require an effort of \$153.15 per year for a \$100,000 home.

What is a projected timeframe? Decision made by? Project completion? Taxes to be paid? Kids to attend?

The Facilities Committee needs to have a recommended master plan by the end of April. The Board of Education will decide on a bond issue by August because the motion must go to the Auditor's office by August. The bond issue will be placed on the November ballot and, if passed, taxes will be collected January 2011. New building(s) would possibly be ready by August 2013.

You say things are not safe (i.e., tunnel, electrical strips, etc.). Then why are they still being used?

The tunnel is used to access areas of our high school. They are not safe due to water leakage, old pipes, major electrical concerns, cracked foundation and the list goes on.

How much enterprise zone monies to we have? Who determines how and where they are allocated? Why does a “mystery” surround this question?

There is no “mystery” about the enterprise zone funds. In the mid 1900s, the district had several company directed enterprise zone funds, all of which have been used as directed by the individual companies. Today, only three active enterprise zone companies are making or about to start making donations. The remaining monies committed are not company directed and can be used for whatever the Board deems necessary. Walgreens is currently remitting funds. FedEx and First Solar have yet to remit, but with construction numbers being finalized, the funds should begin to flow soon.

How did our district attain an “excellent” rating what with or so-called outdated and crumbling facilities?

The designation of “excellent” comes from our state report card. Student performance is not based solely on just ranking of tests. America prides itself on a well-rounded curriculum and educating all students. Therefore, performing arts, technology and extra-curricular activities are a major consideration for newly designed facilities.

Doesn't the OSFC make recommendations and not requirements? Who makes up this commission?

The Ohio School Facilities Commission makes recommendations if you are not receiving state construction dollars. Rossford only qualifies for 6% and is not targeted to receive any monies in the near future. However, they commission was utilized to offer our committee expertise in the area of school construction.

Why the band-aid approach to maintenance? Why were the buildings allowed to get “decrepit?” What is the breakdown of the \$400,000-\$500,000 being spent? Isn't this figure more like \$95,000 per year?

The numbers were averaged over the last 10 years and do include renovations. Although the numbers look high, they include such items as a new roof on Indian Hills for \$205,000 and windows at Glenwood for \$135,000 to cite a few projects.

What about handicapped children? How will the plans change to adapt their needs?

Previously answered the question.

With new facilities, what type of new job opportunities could and will this support?

Not determined yet.

How many families walk away or do not locate to our district because our facilities are no up to par? ADAAG issue must be addressed. Cost of maintaining old buildings versus new facility costs? \$400,000 savings....

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the “consolidation savings.”

What is the return on investment? How long will this take to repay for itself? Has any accounting been done for the project?

The return on the investment is in the future success of the youth of our school district. We have invested in the youth of our district as evidenced by our school district rating of Excellent by the State of Ohio.

Why should you be allowed to build new schools when you don't know how to take care of what you have?

Clearly, anyone who has been in the buildings over the last several years would come away with a little different perspective. Quite the opposite is true. The buildings have been taken care of quite well. Prior boards recognized in the mid 1900s that the buildings were reaching the end of their useful lives and put together a comprehensive plan to address them. After two failed attempts, the district is 15 years down the road and the buildings are even older and more inefficient.

Has the district identified specific facilities needs based on shortages or rooms, features, or amenities? How does the cost of addressing those shortfalls ONLY compare to the true cost of new facilities INCLUDING all "enhancements?"

The following list was derived from the minutes of a prior Facilities Committee meeting. After reviewing the list, the committee believed that it warranted new versus renovated.

Needs:

1. Temperature controls
2. Storage space
3. Large hallways
4. Lighting/natural
5. Technology drops
6. After-hours access for teachers/staff
7. Energy efficient
8. Slope roofs
9. Common area (before/after)
10. Colorful/bright
11. Consolidation/efficiency of staff
12. Security/safety
13. Additional parking for buses, cars (bus loop); separation of buses, student drop-off
14. Kitchen/cafeteria up-to-date
15. Identifiable entrance
16. Media center (reading area/comfortable)
17. Outside doors for art, music, physical education
18. Unique areas
19. ADA concerns
20. Flexible space
21. Adjacent classrooms
22. Restrooms (washroom outside)
23. Incorporate artifacts from old in new

Additional for High School:

1. Focal point of district
2. Media center
3. Multi-purpose gym
4. Auditorium
5. Auxiliary gym
6. Larger locker rooms
7. Separate academic wing from extracurricular
8. Flexible spaces
9. Wireless technology
10. Lab space

If this discussion is not about location, why did the Board purchase property on Lime City BEFORE completing a new master plan?

The Board purchased the land next to the Glenwood complex for availability if they chose to consolidate schools. Consolidation of buildings requires additional land. Eagle Point and Indian Hills do not have enough land to build upon.

In the late 1990s, we purchased All Saints Church for building a new school, and the taxpayers did approve it. If the casino is an issue, why did the state approve the casino .9 mile from the school? How much money have we spent on renovation? If we have such a high school tax bracket example First Solar and Walgreens, so that is why only 7% paid by state.

Please provide the costs for the "enhancements" desired in the new facilities. Also, please provide the costs of other "enhancements" and total square footage to match our current facilities.

No design work on new facilities has been done. Thus, no enhancements have been decided upon at this time. Common enhancements that districts consider are additional classrooms, upgraded flooring in high traffic areas, Geothermal systems, larger gymnasiums with additional seating, auditoriums, bus garage, and Board of Education (BOE) facility. Following are ESTIMATES provided by MKC Associates, Inc. for such enhancements.

Additional 900 SF classroom	\$ 258,930/classroom
Additional 1,200 SF classroom	\$ 345,240/classroom
Terrazzo floors (47,076 SF)	\$ 800,295 beyond basic flooring cost
Geothermal system (235,381 SF)	\$1,294,595
Gymnasium (5,000 SF additional)	\$1,086,100
Auditorium (600 seats)	\$3,770,948
Bus Garage (4 bays w/ Office Area)	\$ 598,000
BOE Facility (3,525 SF)	\$ 634,523

Is it the voters, peoples or parents fault the buildings have not been maintained? Why have the buildings not been maintained?

Clearly, anyone who has been in the buildings over the last several years would come away with a little different perspective. Quite the opposite is true. The buildings have been taken care of quite well. Prior boards recognized in the mid 1900s that the buildings were reaching the end of their useful lives and put together a comprehensive plan to address them. After two failed attempts, the district is 15 years down the road and the buildings are even older and more inefficient.

How were other various renovations (i.e., Scott HS, Clay HS, UT, Heidelberg University (Laird Hall), our White House, our US Capitol) brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Do our enrollment numbers support and justify a new high school? How does Penta, county units, and PSO affect our enrollment figures?

In Rossford's case, enrollment is not growing. However, a critical factor in retaining students is providing an attractive, 21<sup>st</sup> century designed learning environment. There are currently 133 students attending Penta, 19 students in county units and 15 PSO students.

How does a district's rating affect property values?

A quality highly competitive school district is a cornerstone of any community. A mix of business and residential taxpayers affects property taxes. Rossford is unique in that approximately 50% of the taxes are generated from businesses.

I would like to see a consolidated district with new facilities. It would also like to see a more detailed assessment of annual savings in terms of maintenance and energy.

When a clearer version of the master plan evolves, detailed comparisons will be made.

Rossford Schools rank the highest in total per pupil spending in Wood County yet third lowest in facilities maintenance expenditures. Why would new facilities make a difference in those expenses? If you don't take care of what is entrusted to you, you will not be entrusted with any more.

Rossford schools have invested their money in the students of the district. The Excellent rating that the district received from the State of Ohio is evidence of that fact. The district has maintained our present facilities as prudently as possible over the years. With the advent of the technology age in the late 80's, our present facilities have been proven to be antiquated and outdated in their ability to provide the learning environment needed for our children. New facilities would provide the latest in learning environments, equipment, and technology to allow our students the best possible opportunity to compete in today's global economy.

How many Facilities Committee members are now or have been employed by Rossford Schools? What percentage of the entire committee are employees or Board members?

The committee members actively involved in the work is split 50-50 between employees and community members.

Did anyone explore HB264 as an option to upgrade the lighting so you could have better control of heating and cooling? HB264 seems to be something we SHOULD explore.

The district not only has explored HB264, but also has used this type of funding. This type of funding is a loan and can be very useful for buildings with an extended life span, since the energy savings which pay for the borrowing can be recouped over a period of years not to exceed 15.