**Millsap Middle School Expansion**

**Question & Answer**

**Who contributed to the decision-making for the Millsap Middle School (MMS) Expansion Project?**

The Millsap ISD Board of Trustees, in November 2023, after careful consideration of district needs, resources, stakeholder input, and a review of current facilities, decided to expand MMS and make room to move 5th grade to that campus.

***Background Information***: The work started in June 2022 with a Facility Assessment by a 3rd party. The Facility Assessment included a comprehensive look at all facilities and interviews with MISD staff. The assessment results, based on data and input, highlighted district strengths and needs.

The Millsap ISD (MISD) Community Facility Committee made up of 23 community members, was formed in November 2022 to review assessment findings and prioritize district needs. The committee made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees in December 2022, which prioritized district needs including 1) Provide for Millsap Elementary School (MES) Capacity Issues - MES is currently nearing capacity of student enrollment. 2) Provide for district safety needs - Items such as Safety Vestibules and Fencing were discussed. and 3) Complete Track Renovations and Turf the Football Field.

After much discussion, the committee recommended moving the 5th grade to the current MMS campus by making physical renovations and educational enhancements to adapt to the additional grade level.

After the Community Facility Committee recommendation and before the selection of an architect, multiple MISD Board of Trustee Facilities Workshops were conducted to determine the optimal path forward for MISD.

MISD hired Parkhill Architects in November 2023. In December 2023, the Architects led the MISD Community Facility Committee and Staff Committee in a review of various methods to integrate 5th grade into the MMS campus. Based on input from both committees, it was recommended that MISD move the 5th grade under the MMS roof and create an Intermediate Educational Hall (5th and 6th grades) and a Junior High Hall (7th and 8th grades). Additionally, both committees identified exterior preferences for the MMS renovations.

Finally, in March of 2024, an MMS Design Team was established with teachers and staff from MES and MMS. This team, along with input from the MMS Nurse, Counselor, Assistant Principal, Receptionist, and Principal provided Parkhill input as to the campus design. Input from the team has been recursive and is ongoing today. The model displayed is the floor plan as finalized by input from the various stakeholders.

**Why was the MMS Expansion Project Deployed?**

The plan to expand MMS and move 5th grade to the campus was created as the best possible solution for reducing the enrollment at MES (currently nearing capacity) and providing sound educational learning environments through the most cost-effective method. This recommendation came after careful consideration of district needs, resources, stakeholder input, and current facilities. Additionally, deploying this plan ensured MMS will receive much-needed safety and security enhancements such as a new parent pick-up/drop-off driveway and a campus entrance with a security vestibule.

**What are the components of the MMS Expansion Project?**

At this time, MISD is still in the planning stages. The information provided is based on our most current recommendations for planning. Once the design is complete and the construction contract is secured, final decisions will be made. At this time in the planning stage, the recommendations are to provide MMS with the following:

* A new front circular drive with a parent pick-up and drop-off will be located on the North side of the current building
* New front entrance with safety vestibule
* New office space including space for the nurse, counselor, reception area, MMS administrative offices, and Conference Rooms.
* Classroom space - the current MMS office area is housed in classrooms, those classrooms will be updated and turned back into classroom space.
* Additional campus enhancements, contingent on funding, include a new updated Library, Maker Space (an innovative room for hands-on learning), and Art Room – all will open to a newly renovated courtyard that students and staff can use as a unique learning space. This is also the proposed location for the new 5th-grade recess area. The courtyard will be enclosed with security fencing. Finally, student restroom expansions are included.

**What is the educational plan for MMS once the building phase is completed?**

When the renovations are complete, the educational plan for the middle school includes an Intermediate Hall for 5th and 6th graders and a Junior High Hall for 7th and 8th graders. The connecting hall between the two campus sections will have shared spaces such as the campus Library, Maker Space, and Art Room.

Additional design concepts, given funding is available, include shared spaces opening to an outside learning courtyard, complete with security fencing. It is the educational vision of MMS to limit the day-to-day interactions between the 5th graders and older grade levels by implementing this design. Currently, the transition from MES to MMS is a challenge for students. MISD believes this design will reduce the difficulty of the transition. Mr. Coker, the MMS Principal, is currently working with teams of teachers and staff to design a high-quality educational environment for all grade levels.

**What is the timeline for the completion of the project?**

The current projection is to begin work in the summer of 2024. The initial step will be the addition of the new MMS office space. Once staff has transferred to the new office area, the classrooms, that the offices are currently in, will be renovated and returned to classroom space. The project is estimated to be completed by the summer of 2026.

**When is the 5th grade going to move to the new updated MMS?**

Work is projected to start in the summer of 2024. New office space is projected to be completed in the summer of 2025. Classroom renovations are projected to be completed by the summer of 2026. When all work is complete, the 5th grade will transition to MMS. The current timeline for this transition is that the 5th grade will move to MMS for the 2026-2027 school year.

\*\*At this time, all timelines are estimated. More concrete timelines will be available after construction contracts have been awarded. MISD will continue to update the community on changes as they occur.

**How much will this project cost the district?**

The estimated budgeted amount for the MMS expansion and renovation is $3.7 million.

**Is the MMS Expansion a sound financial move for MISD?**

This expansion is not going to cost the taxpayers any money, increase taxes, or require the passage of a construction bond because the MISD Board of Trustees has already secured funding for the construction costs. Additionally, this will provide much-needed educational space for our students.

**Will the MISD Central Administration Building be renovated through these funds?**

No, the MISD Central Administration is not included in any of the renovations. The current administration building at 201 East Brazos will remain the district’s location for the Superintendent and Support Staff Offices.

**Are there any other facility updates/construction projects going on in Millsap ISD?**

Yes, thanks to a donation by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Durant, the track is being renovated and the football field is being turfed. Coming soon will be the addition of a safety vestibule at Millsap High School.