

TJ PTSA Building Initiative/Fact Finding Meeting: Tuesday, October 25th, 2005

Three officers of the PTSA met with Mr. Douglas Tyson (Assistant Principal) and Larry Bridges (Building Supervisor) to discuss some of the pressing issues concerning the condition of the school building. The following priorities were discussed:

1. Roof Leaks

- A new roof has been added over the past 2 years
- However, roof leaks appear to be coming from around rooftop equipment such as air conditioning units etc.
- The old insulation was saturated causing moisture problems in Zone 2-A and classrooms 201-210

2. Mold in Classrooms 203, 204 and 205

- Mold has been a big problem in these classrooms and recent remedial work has been undertaken to alleviate the situation by washing down walls, removing carpet etc. This was thought to be only a temporary fix however.
- Mold is present in the foreign language book room 222s and in other locations
- The causes are thought to be leaking windows without proper seals, faulty or poor air conditioning installation/equipment and other sources of moisture.
- Ceiling tiles throughout the building need replacement because of moisture damage to them over the years.
- In some rooms, the air conditioning is so noisy that teaching is very difficult. The ceiling fan coil unit was originally placed in the ceiling in order to stifle the noise but that led to a musty smell problem in the room because it was drawing from stale air above the ceiling. The units were put back in their original locations which helped with the air circulation but now we have the noise issue again.

3. Building needs complete painting

- It has been over 12 years since the building was last painted.
- There has been some spot painting in areas such as the aud lob etc.
- Painters are in the building currently doing some spot painting but much more is needed (week of October 24th).
- Painting needs to be done with a mold retardant paint.
- At the very least, all the public areas including the library, cafeteria etc. need to be painted.

4. Replacement of Water Fountains

- Water fountains are old and leaking and have already been “repaired” multiple times.
- It is not effective to keep “fixing” them when they need to be replaced.

5. Venetian Blinds

- All the Venetian blinds in the building are old and need to be replaced.
- Many blinds are in a state of disrepair or are broken.

- At the very least, the blinds in the public areas such as the office, cafeteria and library need immediate replacement.

6. Bathrooms

- The bathrooms present a lot of serious issues mostly because they are old and in need of repair/replacement.
- In some bathrooms, stall dividers need replacing.
- Urinals in some bathrooms are leaking.
- Paper dispensers, soap dispensers, faucets and sinks are so old that they need to be replaced.
- Although the hot water systems work properly, some bathrooms do not have hot water to wash mostly because of broken or inadequate faucets.

7. Student Chairs and Desks

- Although 13 trailers were added to the school campus, no new furniture was provided to furnish those rooms.
- Due the large amount of group and cooperative work done in the school, the old “one arm” type of desk is not suitable for student work. This was the only kind of student furniture available in the FCPS warehouse so that there could be some furniture in the trailers at the start of the year.
- New chairs and desks were promised with the new trailers but have not appeared.
- New classrooms that were renovated inside the building also did not receive new furniture. Cafeteria tables were used to furnish the classrooms at this point.
- It appears that renovation funds did not accompany the renovation of the 10 classrooms into 5 science labs as would usually be expected in the county for outfitting the newly renovated spaces.
- No teacher desks were available in the warehouse for the additional classrooms.

8. Cross Walks Needed for Safety

- Due to the county’s decision to install a larger diesel tank at TJ to serve as a fueling station for more FCPS and Fairfax County vehicles in the area, there is a considerable increase in traffic of large vehicles around the back of the main building where the new trailers are situated. This includes fire trucks, school buses and tractor trailers.
- No measures have yet been taken to provide for the safe crossing of the students from the main building to the trailers all day long.
- A cross walk, signage, perhaps enhanced speed bumps etc. are needed to ensure the safety of the students walking back and forth to the trailers.
- A cross walk is also needed at the front of the school where students cross at the end of the day to the senior parking lot across the main road in and out of the school.

9. Trailer Needs

- Awnings were supposed to be put over the doorways of the trailers and this has not happened. (Note: it appears that awnings have now been attached to the trailers as of 10/31/05 although they are very small and don't appear to provide much shelter.)
- Mats were needed for just inside the door on the tile floors so that when it is raining, people do not slip on the floor.
- There is a need for more pole lighting in the area where the trailers are situated for safety reasons.

10. Inadequate A/C in computer labs

- The flow of air in rooms 206, 216, 229, 231, 232a, 232b, 237, 242a, and 242b is not adequate to cool the rooms when the weather is hot. Separate units are needed.

11. Electrical Systems in the Cafeteria

- The electrical wiring in the cafeteria needs to be upgraded with additional outlets added. It is not possible to use more than one microwave at a time without blowing the circuits.

12. Guidance Department – Window Leaks

- Water comes in around the windows to the extent that paper left on the window ledges gets wet.

Summary of Possible Action now to building “The Case”:

- Digital pictures will be taken of all the problem areas to start to document the issues with the building.
- Testimonials will be asked of teachers, students and administrators, e.g. as to the mold problems in the classrooms, how it has affected them, days off sick etc.
- Information will be sought on how many man hours and overtime was paid to remediate the 3 rooms with the mold recently. We already know that the Key Club provided about 8 volunteers for 10 hours a day over two days.
- Need to identify the people to take these issues to including Dean Tistadt, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities, any members of the TJ community that may be of assistance to us etc.