I wanted to reach out to the teachers, staff, students, and the community to answer a few questions I received during and after the meeting on Monday, March 20th. Since our initial interview with the school board, Compass Architecture has always placed an emphasis on creating a master plan for the future of HPS instead of designing a "band-aid". During the planning process, the initial idea of what the master plan could be has evolved dramatically into what you have seen at recent community meetings. Because of the many issues presented by teachers, staff, the community, administration, and the past two bond votes that have not passed, we took the master planning approach of creating a multi-phase process rather than attempting a fix-all option that has failed twice before. We started this process back in July with the priority to fix the High School first.

Why restrict the budget:
With no tax funds in place for building development, there must be a substantial jump in property taxes to create funding for the school district. During the initial planning processes, the Board of Education set a requirement to have a maximum 35% increase on property taxes to fund the bond. Moving forward, school administration will constantly be evaluating the ways in which teachers and students interact, the state of the current facilities, and growth within the district.

How we got to where we are today:
During the initial planning stages, we designed many different options from renovation and addition of the 3-story, renovation and addition to the 2-story, to demolishing the 3-story building to build new. We developed these options based on estimated price per square foot for these concepts and attempted to figure out the best option that would fit the budget. During the process, the estimated price per square foot was raised substantially. This made the concepts shoot above the projected budget the board set. Major factors that go into concept creation include:

- Asbestos abatement. Because of quantities and varying locations, the 2 and 3 story buildings would each have to be completely empty for proper abatement (There is no need for concern about asbestos in the buildings in its current state. As long as the asbestos is not being actively disturbed, it is safe to be around).
- Cost of modulars to house classes during construction.
- Ability to stagger work to reduce classroom displacement into modulars.
- Accessible circulation
- Quantity and size of classrooms
- Restroom quantities (toilet count per student)

During these studies, we found that remodeling the existing 2 and 3 story buildings would leave us short on classroom count for grades 7-12. This means an addition for classrooms would be required. The existing site provides a lot of constraints above and below ground including property shape, building locations and shapes, and existing mechanical system geothermal loops. The later item would require system modifications or replacement that have substantial cost impacts on creating a high school addition. System modification would also mean a building that couldn't be heated or cooled and would require more classrooms displacement into modulars. It was mentioned in the meeting that we could use church buildings around town instead of modulars. While the offer is appreciated, there would be many issues including proper fire egress on those existing buildings, administration and security for each building, the cost to temporarily set up those spaces with proper electrical systems and technology that is expected in classrooms, and students traveling around town for different classes. That would create a logistics nightmare and most importantly, it is not a safe option for the students or staff.

Our next step was to reorganize our priority list to meet the budget goal for the current Bond while having the most impact for our students and teachers. The few elementary teachers that

participated in the survey early on had clear concerns about the existing 5/6 building and computer lab modular. Those concerns included safety of young students walking outside to the labs, no tornado shelter, no natural light, and classrooms being too small. It is very common for schools to be divided into Elementary (K-4th), Middle School (5th-8th) and High School (9th-12th). This led us to creating solutions for bringing the 7th/8th grades across the street to create a Middle School. An addition and renovation that connects the 5th/6th grade building with the elementary school fixes the most problems across the district while staying within the Board required budget. Problems presented to us by teachers that we are creating solutions for include:

- Overcrowding of JH/HS buildings
    - We can move classrooms out from the dungeon, old weight room, basement, and the doubled-up library classroom
- Safety
    - Entry into 5/6 building
        - Administration on site to secure entry
    - Administration for grades 5-8
    - Fire doors between Elementary and Middle School
    - Tornado safe rooms for 5-8 that are ADA accessible with bathrooms
- Electric/Plumbing
    - Ample electrical outlets
        - flexible classroom layout
    - Code compliance on numbers of toilet and lavatories
- Natural light
    - Linear design of addition with natural light in hallway and ALL classrooms
    - Existing 5/6 building will be remodeled to fit spaces that don't benefit as much from natural light: STEAM lab and computer labs
- ADA Accessibility
    - 5-8th classrooms and bathrooms are ALL accessible
    - Curb work will be performed with left over funds to make the site more ADA accessible
- Classroom sizes
    - Current 5/6th classrooms are 544 to 574 sf
        - New classrooms range from 663 to 749 sf
            - Flexibility with furniture and individual/group learning
            - Built-in storage in classrooms
    - Current computer lab modulars are 768 sf, JH computer lab is 663 sf
        - New labs are 840 and 842 sf
    - Current JH classrooms are 391 to 627 sf
        - New classrooms range from 663 to 749 sf
            - Flexibility with furniture and individual/group learning
            - Built-in storage in classrooms
- New learning opportunities – STEAM lab
    - STEAM lab will be 1,121 sf
        - Specifics will be designed after bond is passed with input from teachers
- Drop-off reconfiguration
- More teacher parking

Next steps:
After the bond passes, Compass Architecture will be able to dig into the details of the design. This will largely involve staff and 5th-8th teachers input on classroom layouts, furniture, technology, flooring options, storage options, and individual/group learning opportunities to name a

few. The current design is not set in stone. Our goal was to provide a conceptual design for the public and staff to have a tangible potential vision and to assist in explaining the benefits this Bond brings to staff and students. With this Bond, 190+/- students would be put into better learning environments every year and 10 teachers given the space they deserve to better teach our students.

Future planning:
We hope to build trust with the community and staff and show how our schools can be improved through this process. It has been over 50 years since a major bond issue for academics was passed. The learning environments are suffering, and the community is recognizing this issue. With the last two Bond votes failing, it is obvious that voters want to take smaller steps to a larger goal rather than one huge step to fix everything.

To address some survey responses we received, after work for this Bond issue is complete, focus can be shifted to addressing the needs of the High School. We would go through the same process of designing concepts to best fit the number of students, classrooms, and extracurriculars. With the 7th and 8th grades in their new building, there will be much flexibility in planning for the needs of 9th-12th grade students.

This Bond solution is something I am proud of, and I believe it to be the best next step for Hooker. I want to maintain a lasting relationship with the schools for future projects and help the Board to create a maintenance plan for upkeep of the existing and new buildings to make sure they last.

As always, please reach out to Board members, Administration, or me with any questions.
I encourage you to share this letter with your friends, colleagues, and family members that will be directly impacted by the project.

Don't forget to vote April 4th!!!

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