

Business, Operations, Finance and Construction  
Ofelia San Pedro, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF PROTOTYPE MIDDLE SCHOOL FACILITIES LIST**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

**Introduction:**

This item is in response to Board action on May 19, 2004 regarding Item E-15 directing the Superintendent to review the complete facilities list and bring it back to the Board after it has been thoroughly studied; and not include a full auditorium in SS "NN-1" and all prototype middle schools. Additionally, include a Life Skills Director and an Activities Director on the review committee. A committee comprised of middle school principals from all ACCESS Centers, as well as representatives from ACCESS Operations, Curriculum, Vocational, Life Skills, and Facilities was reconvened to reassess the current prototype middle school facilities list and recommend a course of action. The Architectural Partnership (TAP) provided updated budgetary information and professional expertise to assist the committee in its deliberations.

**Committee Actions and Recommendations:**

The committee conducted a comprehensive review of the prototype middle school facilities list, last revised and approved by the Board in October of 2003. After significant discussion and deliberation, two options were proposed to reconcile the total project budget for the current facilities list for State School "NN-1", (and all other prototype middle schools), funded in the amount of \$22,940,000.

**Option A** maintains the prototype middle school facilities list as it currently exists without a full auditorium. The budgetary impact of this option is mitigated somewhat by the addition of 12 general education classrooms (22 student stations per classroom) which is required to meet the state mandated maximum allowable cost per student station of \$15,299. This option increases the number of student stations from 1,528 to 1,792 and results in a total funding shortfall of \$4,475,808 for a total project budget of \$27,415,808. (Not including site purchase).

**Option B** reflects an amended prototype middle school facilities list that incorporates the identified "Revisions to the Prototype Middle School Facilities List" (Exhibit 1) without a full auditorium. The budgetary impact of this option is mitigated by the revision of the facilities list and the addition of 8 general education classrooms (22 student stations per classroom) which is required to meet the state mandated maximum allowable cost per student station of \$15,299. This option increases the number of student stations from 1,528 to 1,662 and results in a total funding shortfall of \$2,486,938 for a total project budget of \$25,426,938. (Not including site purchase).

The committee demonstrated due diligence in its deliberations and expressed that due to budgetary constraints associated with the State mandated "cost per student station cap" and the recent dramatic cost increases associated with raw materials and fuel that Option B is the preferred option.

### **Committee Comments:**

Members of the committee expressed their emphatic opinion that despite the budgetary constraints there is a very compelling desire to include full auditoriums in prototype middle schools. School principals stated that full auditoriums add to the educational programs of schools and are a valuable resource for the community. Therefore, the committee believes that the Board should seek legislative relief to the current state mandated limitations to costs per student stations by increasing the maximum limits to reflect real market conditions and secondly, that all designs be developed to allow for the possible future construction of full auditoriums.

### **Senior Staff Review**

To further ensure consensus of the decision and recommendations reached, an additional meeting was held on August 20, 2004 among senior staff members of the instructional, operation, curriculum and facilities areas along with the Assistant Superintendent ACCESS Center 1. All participants concurred with the final recommendations and further clarification of several key considerations were provided:

1. The cafeteriums included in the design of all prototype middle school facilities provide a stage area with support spaces (dressing rooms, storage, stage lighting, dimming controls and a control booth) equivalent to that in a full auditorium. Senior staff agreed that the cafetorium provides the best alternative to a full auditorium and still allows the District to meet the state-mandated cost per student station cap.
2. The full use of the cafeteriums for performances or assemblies will be curtailed only by the use of the dining area during lunch periods. The provision of covered outdoor dining space further reduces extended lunch periods. The use of the stage for assembly purposes will be otherwise unaffected.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to implement Option B and revise the current small and large prototype middle school facilities lists to include the "Revisions To Prototype Middle School Facilities Lists" referenced in Exhibit 1, increasing the student stations in the small prototype from 1,528 to 1,662 (large prototype from 2,120 to 2,232) and funding the budget shortfall of \$2,486,938 for prototypical middle state school "NN-1".

### Revisions to Prototype Middle School Facilities Lists

1. Reduce Science Demonstration Classrooms from four to three classrooms.
2. Replace two Exceptional Education Classrooms with two General Classrooms, leaving one Exceptional Education Classroom.
3. Eliminate reference area, two practice rooms, and uniform storage from Band Classroom.
4. Eliminate reference area, two practice rooms, and robe storage from Vocal Classroom.
5. Eliminate student showers, drying, laundry, and first aid rooms from physical education area.
6. Reduce Media Center by 371 net square feet.
7. Eliminate student activities room from administrative area and reduce teacher planning offices by approximately 50%.
8. Replace physical education multi-purpose room with two general classrooms and locate within the physical education area with a movable partition between classrooms providing flexibility of use.
9. In addition to the changes noted in items one, two, and eight above, add an additional four general classrooms (one cluster) with movable partitions between classrooms for flexibility of use. This will permit this space to be used for large gatherings or as individual classrooms.