



# Blueprint 181

*Investing. Growing. Leading.*

## **Harrison Elementary, May 2, 2017**

**Attendance: 62 total (8 admin, 2 board, 4 FJJ)**

Understand refurbishing is not an option; would like the school in this neighborhood and this location; please no mega school - keep the culture (500 or less; 4 section school)

Decisions are made based on the student learner of today and the student learner in 15-20 years

It is a challenge being land locked but we can work with the city to expand on certain streets

A group of people that are not always heard because they are working during sessions like this. Decisions that can help them get out of the cycle of poverty

Trust is a theme from a few people

Find out who your biggest critics are and get them on board.

Transportation and busing for kids. Too long of bus rides for students that have to go to Forestview..

**ASK THE KIDS!!**

To be honest with us about all of the options available.

It is more important to keep Harrison here than other things mentioned tonight. ???

Online technology may take over and we may not need buildings anymore. Even when this happens neighborhood schools will stay important.

Add up instead of building new.

Last referendum broke the trust.... No transparency. We are starting in the hole. Not sure how to get those people into the process.

Question : Is it still a mile limit for bus rides?

It would be a hard sell for this community to tear down two buildings just to build one new one. Has not heard anyone in the community that would support it

Might work to pass smaller scale plans instead of all at once.

Harrison is has been on the chopping block for the last 10 years.... District didn't care about Harrison. We didn't invest in Harrison for the last 20+ years

Creating problems with kids that does not need to exist.

The mis-trust comes partly from the school district said Franklin couldn't be refurbished and now its a beautiful arts center. Why wasn't Franklin able to be used for students, but can be used for public use now?

Trust Trust Trust

People don't like FMS. They feel like it was overbid, too big, and has many many problems.

Afraid of loosing the "Community feel"

"It was good enough for my kids."

Culture is changing. We can't compare what we did in the past to now. "Brainerd has the family feel that I wanted my child to have."

FMS is way blown out of proportion, could have been built better? Was a waste of money.

Unpack the trust issues. Define what it means that trust is important. Are we viewing trust through the lens of what we want or through the lens of what we need?

A lot of value being placed on nostalgia

Communication - people need to feel like they have a voice in the process. That didn't happen during the last referendum.

Research cited about smaller schools better support children in poverty.

Staff and teachers at Harrison. Faith, family, friends.

If we look at how our children are doing in the current environment they are meeting the challenge and its working. If you look at research it would support this.

"What Harrison doesn't have compared to other buildings"

Make sure that there are systems in place to make sure that all six buildings have equal opportunities and kids can transition between schools, if needed, more smoothly.

Moved from Lowell to Harrison and it was fastly different. Look at whats happening. It was a big adjustment for her son. Have to think about the poverty statement. Not all of us are not in that group. Don't lump them all, or forget about the families that aren't impoverished. There are varying degrees and all backgrounds.

Every staff member has made a difference in this building.

Brought up technology inequalities.

Only building in ISD181 without A/C

Anti FMS comments.... Cost per student is a lot less. Smaller building cost per student is more
We can't afford another failed referendum.
When the article was written in the Dispatch that the building was going to be torn down, Cathy had to do triage. Kids crying thinking their schools was going to be torn down tomorrow.
New "onsite building" "500 kids max size" technology and security is needed
Expand on this property
If it is truly more expensive to remodel versus build new "show the voters that"
Do we as a group have a contingency plan if referendum doesn't pass?
I work in construction and have worked on several new, remodeled schools and they forgot to tell the public they need FF&E (desks, etc and they sit empty for two years)
Is there a way, due to the population of this community, to dig a little deeper. I am concerned that this voice is not going to be heard.