

**January 20, 2010**

**Many ideas for new schools exchanged at St. Louis County School District's all-teaching-staff session on Jan. 18th**

More than 175 teachers and principals from the St. Louis County School District's seven campuses met at the Cherry campus on Monday, Jan. 18, for a seven-hour overview and input session regarding the district's upcoming realignment.

"Monday was a great day for teachers and architects to get together to make plans for these new and remodeled buildings," said AlBrook School Principal Kristi Berlin. "There are so many exciting decisions to be made, and so much passion for the students and families of our district regarding how we will educate them in the future."

Morning discussions focused on integrating an emerging new educational approach with the district's new configuration of campuses. District principals reviewed work done to date by work groups on various aspects of changes in educational processes, including individualized learning plans, flexible scheduling, life-career readiness and rigor.

District staff described how enhanced technology can empower teachers and students to undertake learning within the new and remodeled schools. Superintendent Charles Rick and the district's consultants presented overviews of the construction and transition period schedules and the design decision-making process.

Smaller group sessions were conducted to gain insights into building and space design from the teachers and staff who work in elementary classrooms, special education, art, science, music, Indian education, technical education, physical education and others. Comments and suggestions were also generated regarding building and site components such as outdoor education spaces, community education and the commons.

Dr. Rick said similar staff work sessions will be held with coaches, athletic directors and other district staff regarding outdoor athletics, parking and transportation, food service, building security and custodial concerns.

"The principals and teachers had a lot of great thoughts on how to maximize the effectiveness and versatility of the district's new and updated schools, and many of those ideas will be incorporated into the school designs," said Dr. Rick. "Our all-teaching-staff meeting was one aspect of the input we're seeking; next will be a similar session with all interested citizens at a later date."

Dr. Rick added that since the district's transition plan is for all facilities to be ready for the fall of 2011 school year, the two new school designs and Cherry school designs will be presented within the next two months for input and feedback. He said the Babbitt-Embarrass and Tower-Soudan school designs will follow the same community input and feedback process in the near future as well.

For additional information, contact Dr. Charles Rick, ISD 2142 superintendent, at 218-749-8130.