

FINE ARTS – March 3

After reviewing our 2/16/09 meeting minutes, we added a few thoughts to our original list of facility needs. We then reviewed the feedback offered by community members at the 3/2/09 Community Forum as well as views from guests present at our meeting. Next, Phil Hodgkin presented highlights from prior feasibility studies (1994 and 2005) which each concluded a need and desire for a performing arts facility in our community, but did not move forward due to lack of funding. Phil also provided visuals from the 2005 study to illustrate location options for a potential performing arts center. Members of the group, as well as the guests, expressed hopes that the 2009 study of a performing arts facility will lead to actual construction.

We then began our task to identify pros and cons of facility possibilities, beginning with the new construction options. Due to time limitations, we agreed to generate lists of pros and cons individually and send them to study group facilitator Lori Diebel electronically.

Fine Arts Facility Needs

Fine Arts Study Group

February 16, 2009

(highlighted text added at 3/3/09 meeting)

Question: What do you think our district needs in terms of fine arts facilities?

Size (number of auditorium seats needed)

"Big Hall" - - 1000-1200 seats

Blackbox Theater - - up to 300 seats

Junior Highs - - 400-500 seats

Elementary Schools - - around 250 seats

Space (types of rooms needed)

"Big Hall"

- enlarged classroom spaces (orchestra, vocal)
- warm-up room
- rehearsal areas (small, large group)
- storage space (piano, risers, costumes, sound shells, instruments)
- dressing rooms
- ventilated room to build sets
- tech room (lights, sound)

- wings/backstage area
- fly space
- restrooms
- orchestra pit with lift
- lobby for ambiance, display areas for artwork, concessions, and tickets
- parking

Blackbox Theater

- production booth
- light booth
- storage

Valley Southwoods Freshman High School

- Theater/Staging Space

Junior Highs

- expanded stage
- expanded seating

Elementary Schools

- flexible space (not the gym or cafeteria)
- light/sound booth
- storage (risers, instruments, stands, props)

Use (e.g., music and/or drama, high school and/or district-wide)

"Big Hall"

- high school and maybe jr. high orchestra, band, vocal concerts (depending on location)
- high school & jr. high drama performances (depending on location)
- community events (speakers, guest artists, large group presentations)
- school assemblies (depending on location)
- youth orchestras
- dance school performances (e.g., School of Classical Ballet & Dance)
- all district teacher meetings
- large class groupings for special presentations (depending on location)
- Sixth Grade Honor Concerts

Blackbox Theater

- smaller drama productions
- speech
- Chamber Music
- classroom lectures

- TV/radio/video/movie production

Junior Highs

- larger space

Elementary Schools

- school groups
- community organizations (e.g., Scouts)

Question: Given these needs, what options might our district consider for remodeling or new construction?

Remodeling Options

"Big Hall"

- VHS Cafeteria/Auditorium/Foyer area

Blackbox Theater

- VHS Auditorium
- VHS North Gym
- VHS Cafeteria
- VHS Combined Orchestra and Vocal Music Rooms
- Rex Mathes Auditorium

Theater/Staging Space

- Valley Southwoods Freshman High School

Junior Highs

- expand stage and seating in current auditoriums

New Construction Options

"Big Hall"

- VHS Campus, tennis court area
- VSW Campus, green space toward pond

Elementary Schools

- green space