

Facility Task Force – Building Condition Subcommittee Report

Date: 10/4/2010

Tour Update

The committee completed tours of all the district's elementary schools and has prepared draft reports outlining their observations and findings. The various skills of the committee members will allow us to provide a comprehensive report. For example, Greg Hough was able to take note of the big picture items, while Tom Waechter mainly observed what space deficiencies existed. Marcel Harmon took note of the more detailed information of each space such as day-lighting and thermal comfort.

Gould Evans Work Vs. Committee Work

Gould Evans will be providing some more quantitative data on the facilities. The committee determined its work will de-emphasize physical condition as Gould Evans can provide that information (i.e. roof condition & mechanical systems), and instead focus on more qualitative information gathering.

Comparison to a "Model" Classroom

Gould Evans and the KU School of Architecture are both working on what a model classroom will look like. Once a realistic model is established, the committee can take its findings from the school tours and compare our classrooms to the model. District-wide, the median size classroom will be compared to the model size. We can then assess the range of deviation from the median to get an overall sense of the appropriateness of class size (in terms of square footage) for the district.

By comparing to the median we can determine what schools can be easily adapted to meet the specifications of a model classroom. Part of this process will be to understand what is an effective use of classroom space. Some minor modifications to existing classrooms may significantly increase the effective use of their space. On the other hand it may be determined that some classroom configurations may be too costly to adapt to fit the model. An important part of the comparison process is not just looking at the classroom's floor plan. Air quality, glazing/day lighting, and thermal comfort are also important features of an effective classroom environment.

Summary

1. Determine Model Classroom Size/Features
2. Compare district median classroom to model
3. Establish recommendations on what is and isn't feasible to adapt our classrooms to more closely mirror the model.