Freeman School Environmental Education Center Advisory Committee



Tonight's Presentation

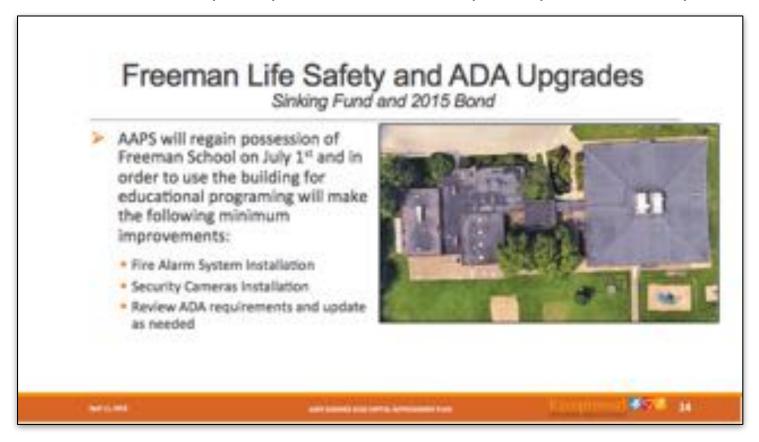
- Brief update on Phase I of Freeman School as an EE center
- Advisory Committee membership
- Advisory Committee process, timeline, products, and norms
- Challenges and next steps





Upcoming Facility Work to Freeman School

Presented to the BOE in April as part of the Summer Capital Improvement Plan presentation



Phase I Freeman Facility Use: 2018-19

- Rustic Camp Condition
- Students: Field Trip Activities
- Rec & Ed will assess potential use for youth camps and adult classes

- EE Field Trips:
 - 2nd Grade Plant Communities
 - 3rd Grade Habitat
 - 5th Grade Winter Survival
 - 7th Grade Climate Change and Forestry



Advisory Committee Membership

20 Members

- 8 current AAPS teachers
- 2 retired teachers
- 1 current building admin
- 1 retired building admin
- 5 parents of current students
- Will add students in the fall

Members represent:

- Great Lakes Commission
- Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition
- AAPS Farm to School Collaborative
- Farm at St. Joe
- Wyland Foundation
- UM, EMU, MSU



Informational Meeting - May 21

- Advisory Committee purpose, products, process, norms, timeline
- Roots and essential underpinnings of Environmental Education
- Commitment agreement



AAPS Environmental Educator Dave Szcyzgiel gave a presentation on the history and principles of Environmental Education



Advisory Group Purpose

The purpose of the Freeman Environmental Education Center Advisory Committee is to **engage** staff, parents and community members in a **collaborative process** to **envision programming** for a **future** Environmental Education Center facility and property



Advisory Committee Process for 2018-19

- Gain shared understanding of current reality of AAPS environmental education program
 → Situation Appraisal
- Identify potential opportunities and research exemplars → Potential Opportunity Analysis
- Decide on recommendations to the Superintendent (see next slide) → Decision Analysis



The Advisory Committee conducted part one of a Situation Appraisal on June 18

Advisory Group Products

- 1. List of **recommendations to the Superintendent** for leveraging the Freeman facility & grounds to enhance the AAPS pre-K 12th grade environmental education program
- A vision for an environmental learning center that will support and extend AAPS' existing environmental education curriculum and programs



District Advisory Committees: Expectations and Group Norms

Keep students first.

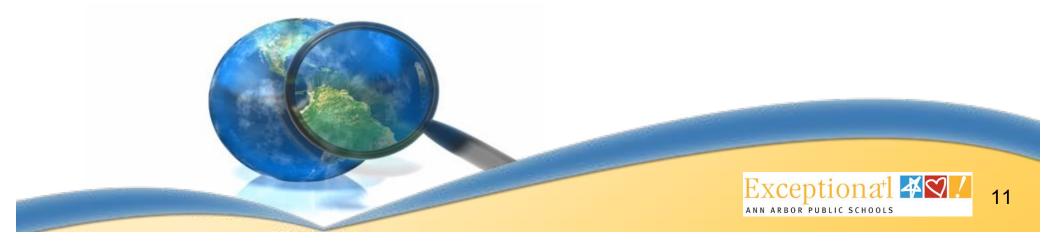
Use your **voice**. Stay **engaged** and **focused**. Defer **judgment**. Assume **positive** intentions. Encourage **creative** ideas. Monitor **air time**.

Build on the ideas of others. Be mindful. Be kind.



Challenges/Opportunities

- Facility needs lots of rehab
- Currently no ponds or other water on the grounds, limiting some Environmental Education programming
- Partnering with local, state and national environmental organizations to the fullest extent possible in service to students



Next Steps

- Establish and maintain connections with other district groups, e.g.
 Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Prepare for Phase I (field trips) at Freeman site
- Complete Situation Appraisal of current Environmental Education program
- Research Environmental Education opportunities, including exemplars



