

Freeman School Environmental Education Center Advisory Committee

Update to the Board of Education
June 27, 2018



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

Freeman Life Safety and ADA Upgrades
Sinking Fund and 2015 Bond

➤ AAPS will regain possession of Freeman School on July 1st and in order to use the building for educational programming will make the following minimum improvements:

- Fire Alarm System Installation
- Security Cameras Installation
- Review ADA requirements and update as needed



APR 23, 2014

2014 SUMMER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

14

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 Szczygiel 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**

TregoEd processes are in blue



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
2. 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



Questions?

