

April 30, 2011

**Input from staff, students and parents for Steller's short and long term facility needs
Compiled by Helen Sharratt**

(This document was compiled using a staff poll, an all community meeting tally, and input from parent group meetings and other correspondence with Steller community members. This information is available from Helen Sharratt)

To ensure that we have the most complete perspective from the Steller community, we could add to this summary at the beginning of the next school year (August 2011):

- ✓ Input from the new principal
- ✓ Input from incoming seventh grade/other new-to-Steller students via advisory groups
- ✓ Input from new parents via the Flash/Robocall announcement at the beginning of the next school year (August 2011)

This additional, beginning-of-the-year input could be submitted to Helen Sharratt hsharratt@mtaonline.net. A deadline for this additional input should be established, perhaps by October 1, 2011 to allow new families and the new principal some time to develop their opinion on what is needed? At that point, it would be time to determine our strategy to advocate for long term needs with the ASD administration.

Before the beginning of next year, however, the list of short-term items that has emerged has majority support so these needs could be advocated for without delay. We could request that at least some of these items be in place by the beginning of the new school year via letter/email/other communication with the district.

Note:

No one indicated an interest in having relocatables fill the need for extra teaching space however in the short-term this is probably the only way to expand space. No one suggested another alternative for additional teaching space in the short-term. There is however general agreement that it should be made clear to ASD that relocatables are not an acceptable long-term solution and do not replace the need for expansion of the school itself.

Summary of short term needs supported by the community:

- ✓ More teaching space (relocatable buildings in the short term?) for:

1. A dedicated art room (to be housed separately – not shared space with another classroom)
 2. Seminar classroom and space for seminar coaching groups
 3. PE (including a larger weight/workout room)
 4. A separate PE space for alternative classes like yoga and dance
- ✓ New PE equipment, including a climbing wall and running track – although these would likely have to be part of a longer term project to expand the gym.
 - ✓ Washer and dryer for science labs
 - ✓ Upgraded equipment, complete supplies and lab furniture for the science labs
 - ✓ A greenhouse off the science lab
 - ✓ Solid furniture designed for classrooms for the relocatables

Summary of long-term needs supported by the community, and based on a majority preference for expanding the school to include:

A clear majority prefers to see an expansion of the school, with rewiring where necessary. Some preference has been expressed for a complete rebuild but the majority wants to see expansion of the school. The overall consensus is that the school needs to be larger to accommodate the additional teaching space needed to deliver Steller's educational program. A summary of the community's wishes follows.

- ✓ A dedicated art room
- ✓ Seminar classroom and space for seminar coaching
- ✓ A new library, appropriate for MS and HS, cf. other schools
- ✓ Expansion of the gym and PE space for a climbing wall, better and bigger weight room and equipment
- ✓ A gardening/horticultural area
- ✓ An outdoor learning area
- ✓ Band and orchestra – Steller has now been notified that the music program will not be available to students next year due to ASD budget cuts. It is unknown how this information would affect the expressed interest by part of the community to have a dedicated band/orchestra room
- ✓ spaces or "pods" where smaller coaching groups could go and those could also serve multiple functions, like seminar, providing kids a space to practice instruments and practice drama.