The meeting began at 5:00 p.m., with chairman Martin Honigberg outlining the agenda and introducing Dan Cecil of Harriman Architects and Engineers. Mr. Honigberg mentioned that the committee would hear from Mr. Cecil on three key points that the firm has been reviewing with administrators. The first point is the “cost of doing nothing” with the facilities. The second focus is the cost to renovate/build additions to Conant and Kimball Schools. The third focus is the cost/savings recognized when the consolidation is complete.

Mr. Cecil presented a complex analytical spreadsheet model for these scenarios. Mr. Honigberg reminded the group that it is doing this work to improve the educational offerings and learning environments for students, to address health, safety and welfare issues in the facilities and to reduce operation and maintenance costs of the facilities.

Mr. Cecil introduced the master spreadsheet as a tool to evaluate financial aspects of the consolidation of schools. Projections on the sheets go out 20 years to show the impact of bonds on these costs. The spreadsheets carry a 3% inflation index year after year, to provide a reasonable futuristic look at what costs would look like. It was clearly explained that this model is a first draft, which will take further refinement. The model compares the aspects of doing nothing/maintaining status quo, construction time lines, bond payments, construction/renovation costs, maintenance and operational costs and overall savings the District will recognize through consolidation. The model is a very robust planning tool as consolidation of the elementary schools is studied.

The Superintendent reminded the group that the next Task Force II meeting is scheduled for November 12th, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Office.

Matt Cashman, Recorder