Having the opportunity to hear directly from top district administrators in Denton County, the purpose of this meeting was to brainstorm key issues affecting school facility planning in North Texas. The conversation was lively and informative for all. The intent is to share the discussion in fairly raw form, and encourage similar debate and discussion across our CEFPI Chapter, Region, and the entire organization, and to have it best inform planning insights for changes reshaping our industry.

ATTENDEES:
Advisory Council Members:
- Dr. Lynne Leuthard, Superintendent
  Little Elm ISD
- Dr. Stephen Waddell, Superintendent
  Lewisville ISD
- Dr. Jamie Wilson, Superintendent
  Denton ISD

CEFPI-NTX Board Members
- Mark Vander Voort, HKS
  President
- Kelly Horn, Irving ISD
  Vice President
- Patrick Glenn, Perkins + Will
  Programs
- Hudson Huff, Keller ISD
  Treasurer
- Briar Hannah, Corgan
  Secretary
- Rod Reeves, Little Elm ISD
  Past President
- Ray Castillo, AECOM
  Communications
- Ray Stringer, Armko
  Impact Award
- Wade Wimbish, Cadence McShane
  Membership
- Lisa Lamkin, BRW
  Past President

DISCUSSION NOTES:
1. What might be the impact of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and other forms of on-line learning? We need to be designing schools in such a way that addresses the dilemma of today’s needs vs future needs.
   a. We still need to build schools to accommodate everyday tasks of today’s students and teachers, but what can be done if and when school activities may not require the whole building or any building at all in fifty years?
   b. What kind of options can we have with school buildings? Is there a need for them in the future?

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c. How can school buildings readily transform over time to effectively address ever-changing needs?

d. Architects must help design buildings that still support the traditional style of learning but can pivot and change as needed for the future.

2. Greening school buildings, making them more efficient, durable, and sustainable, and making sure these buildings serve learning rather than inhibit learning is critical.
   a. District constituents are aware of the concerns for how school construction should evolve; over time it will create debate.

3. Most Districts have not done major roll outs with regard to portable and personal devices (handhelds, laptops, etc). It was shared that teachers are becoming more of a partner in the classroom instead of the traditional “teacher.”
   a. How can social media be used safely and productively in this environment?
   b. What impacts on facility needs and requirements?

4. Make classrooms conducive to the best learning environment. Many Superintendents are pushing the routine use of distance learning – the ability to learn across the district, state, country, and the globe.

5. Several teachers have participated in MOOC’s. Also a form of self-paced learning. There is positive feedback.
   a. SPOC’s – Small Private Online Courses are being developed for students who do not fare well in larger public environments.

6. Writeable tables, writeable walls, multiple projections, and interactive technologies are becoming very popular. Incorporation of these in classroom could be considered a new standard.

7. FLEXIBILITY of a school and/or classroom is critical to the long term success of the building.
   a. The four letter word OPEN is being replaced with FLEX. The idea of open plan concepts is not like it was in the 1970s.
   b. FLEXIBLE is the new OPEN.

8. How do you assure parity by balancing needs for older schools to be at the same level as new in terms of amenities, access, etc? There was overwhelming agreement to apply infrastructure resources to support all the schools equally, not just the new schools.

9. Superintendents want teachers to be more innovative but if the teachers/librarians don’t have the means, it won’t happen. Leadership districts have now outfitted all classrooms with wireless, powerful enough to support Handhelds, Airshare, Apple TV. Apple TV will make smart boards obsolete.

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10. AIRSHARE – students are uploading content from their devices to project on smartboards now. There tends to be greater interface with technology if the classroom environment has the infrastructure to support it.

11. Given the example of CEO of Harley Davidson – “You make your changes at the floor; let your people drive the change that needs to happen”. In schools, this applies to principals and teachers.

12. Future of school districts and buildings – do we become brokers? Do we become the experts of brokering learning - not the ones who deliver learning? What about joint venture opportunities? If less area is required in the future, do companies come in to lease space in the school?

13. When parent’s started being educated on what standardized testing was doing to our students, they became big advocates for change. Some leadership districts initiated “Parent University” to address topics that were imperative to their interest, involvement, and voice.
   a. What happens in the classroom if standardized tests go away?

14. Owens Corning – interactive glass. This will change how we design walls in the classrooms. View “A Day Made of Glass” on YouTube.

15. Learning is social. But what does social mean?
   a. Privacy is a new up and coming topic that school districts now have to address. New devices bring the ability to track student location and movement?
   b. Can be helpful tool, but where to draw the line?

16. Petroglyphs are rock engravings. How did they get there years ago, especially in high, unreachable places? A historic culture is still communicating with us present day. We didn’t have writing until people started living together in communities. Community leads to learning and learning needs community to evolve.

17. Provide for Anywhere/Anytime learning – technology allows for this to happen.

18. Net Zero buildings are based on use-formulas. How can collective building use be conjured for best results? What limits the use of a school building?
   a. How might school districts partner with private entities? When can they use the building? What about security?

19. We are not education students. We are educating people. This includes parents and the community at large - high quality learning for everyone.

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