



**December 17, 2013**

## **KFCS' District Newsletter**

### **Where Did the Stairways to Nowhere Go?**

By Paul Hillyer, KFCS' Superintendent

At the December 9<sup>th</sup> school board meeting, the KFCS' Board of Directors approved a school bond concept presented by a facility task force to [renovate KU](#). This proposal aligns closely with a long-term facility task force recommendation formally approved in January 2012. A citizen and parent task force formed and presented the 2012 plan. Below is the board-approved model.

First, the board agreed with the 2012 idea to remodel KU on the current site. This would cost about half what building a new school on another location would cost. It also would align with a great deal of feedback task force members have received from the community following the failed 2006 bond issue.

From a financial perspective, a remodel vs. building new also makes sense in the context of major facility needs at the other five district facilities. Putting too many resources into one building would make it difficult to address, over time, the problems of the other buildings. The KU renovation project needs to be seen as the first step in a long-term process, perhaps over 50 years, to replace or renovate all the other buildings as well.

A second key component of the proposal is to move KU's front entrance toward Monclaire Street and right size the building by demolishing the two sections of the building on that side. These sections were added in the 1930's (see attached plan). Also, part of this change would be the movement of administrative offices surrounding the front entry on Monclaire so that all visitors would need to go by those offices when they entered the facility.

This change would uncover the original building on the Monclaire side. Thus, the front and the back of the building would look very similar. The entire original outside building would be enhanced through structural strengthening, tuck pointing, and the addition of new windows. This would beautify the old structure and increase its useful life by 40 to 50 years. Another major improvement that would result is an increase in safety by reducing access points to the school and creating the conditions whereby all visitors would pass through an office area before entering the classroom area.

By right sizing the building to accommodate 950 students, many of the current spaces that are unused would be eliminated. Doing away with these obscure locations would also add to building safety and security. In other words: eliminating stairways to nowhere!

A third key component of this plan is updating the entire interior of the building. Mechanical, electrical, and heating systems would all be improved and, where necessary, replaced. Likewise, all classrooms and learning areas would be re-designed and enhanced to make them 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning spaces. This means they will be more flexible, technologically rich, and collaborative. This would make it possible for more team learning and more variations on a day-to-day basis driven by the needs of the students and by their units of study. These environments would also make it possible for teachers to work more closely together and create a more real life learning experience for students. 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning spaces would also create joint-use lab spaces and vocational education areas.

A fourth component of the plan would be to build a new larger second gym. This space would also be more flexible to accommodate performances by having pull-out seating available for concerts and plays. A new small theater would be created from a redesigned vocational education area near the current athletic offices. This would be used for theater classes and for small performances.

In our next newsletter, more information will be provided on the financing of this plan and will answer other questions that you pose after reading this initial overview. If you wish more information or if you wish to help the district get the word out on this proposal, please reply to this email or call me at [541-883-4700](tel:541-883-4700).

This is an exciting 2014 venture. The district will need many helpers to make this dream a reality. What a wonderful opportunity this presents to the children of our community for many years to come!

**Other News:**

1. Congratulations to Mills' teacher, Maureen Lundy, who was named Region 4 Elementary Science Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Lundy is not only an excellent teacher, but also a great advocate of science education throughout the district. Mrs. Lundy makes science interesting for students by providing a great deal of hands-on, real-life experiences both inside and outside of school.
2. The district is selling very nice 2014 calendars for \$8.00. Please let us know if you would like your own copy. These calendars are very attractive and all proceeds go toward promoting our volunteer programs in the schools. Calendars also are on sale in our school offices.
3. The Klamath Partner Initiative was started by KFCS in November 2012. Now the effort has grown exponentially in the city. If you would like to be a Klamath Promise Partner, please reply to this email. Partners are asked to support the effort in a number of ways and will be recognized in our media and through window displays for their efforts. Go to [Klamathpromise.org](http://Klamathpromise.org) to learn more.
4. A number of community businesses and organizations have donated significant monetary support for the Klamath Promise effort. This includes Sterling Bank, Sky Lakes Medical Center, Fred Meyer, and the Floyd A Boyd John Deere Company. Many thanks to these generous organizations.

5. After-school programs in our schools have more than doubled in enrollment since starting in November. Openings are still available. The cost is \$30 per year, per student or a maximum of \$50 per family. This provides academic supports, enrichment activities, transportation and a dinner each day as part of the 2.5 hours per-day service. Ask your school office for more information. Roosevelt families are now also able to participate.
6. A special note of thanks to the Klamath County Health Department who has been approved for a grant to provide a health clinic at KU next year.
7. KUHS' Associated Student Body was chosen last spring to be the distributors of a \$5,000 grant. Later this month the ASB class will be accepting applications from non-profit organizations.
8. Congratulations to KFCS' Board Chair, Bill Jennings, who is the 2013-14 recipient of the Klamath Community College President's Award. This is a well-deserved honor.

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you!**