

## Focus Groups Executive Summary ~ Fall 2017

Over the past 32 years, Hudsonville Schools has experienced student enrollment growth. On average, Hudsonville Schools has grown by approximately 110 students per year. With an acute awareness of facilities needs, the Hudsonville Board of Education continues to be strategic in acquiring and maintaining land and facilities. To this end, in 2017, the Board of Education purchased approximately 6 acres of land and two facilities (ARC Group Home and Carpenter's House Outreach Church) adjacent to Hudsonville High School property located on 32nd Avenue. Both organizations approached the school district to sell their properties as their plans included disbanding.

In an effort to understand the best possible use for these newly acquired buildings and land, our facilities study team worked with GMB Architects and Engineers to begin processing through possible options while focusing on addressing immediate facilities needs. Those options, along with some preliminary discussion around long term facilities plans, were presented to randomly selected parents and staff as well as business/ community leaders and students enrolled in the Hudsonville High School leadership class. The data from those focus groups is compiled and summarized in this report, accompanied by a recommended course of action.

Immediate facilities needs include elementary classroom space, Baldwin Middle School (BMS) classroom space, Hudsonville High School (HHS) weight room relocation, and HHS school store relocation. The rationale for each of the facilities needs are detailed in this report and were shared with focus group participants.

The recommendation from the focus group data is to raze the ARC Group Home and convert the Carpenter's House Outreach Church into a weight room and cardio room. The school store could then be relocated to the existing cardio room space, allowing for easier community access while maintaining a secure entrance into the academic portion of the school. This would address two of the four immediate needs and allow for the district to explore solutions to the district long-term facility needs.

There was strong desire on the part of the focus group participants to move forward with conversations and solutions to the long term facilities needs. Additional survey data and focus groups may be necessary to properly vet the concepts discussed.