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## Middle school design phase progressing

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FREMONT -- City school board members had an update Monday night on the progress of the new Fremont Middle School as it's in the schematic design phase waiting approval and comments from the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission.

Curt South, project manager and senior associate with Fanning-Howey, said the schematic design phase is basically everything put on paper that has been discussed with the school district's design committee since the bond issue passed in November.

He said the stages of the process include program of requirements -- which plans can fluctuate in this stage -- the schematic design, design development, construction documents and review bidding.

"POR (program of requirements) is a breathing document, and it can change at any time," South said, noting an example would be changing the number of classrooms.

The design development phase is expected to begin this summer, while construction documents will begin around September and reviewing bids will happen next year.

"Trust the process, sometimes it seems slow," he said.

South showed an aerial photo of the Ross High School and Vanguard area. He said the design committee, which has been meeting weekly, chose the south site of the two proposed sites, north and south of Cedar Street. The south site is where the practice soccer fields are located.

"We also looked at -- because both sites are long and narrow -- a two and three story classroom building," South said.

About 73 percent of design committee members were for the three story building while 27 percent preferred the two story building.

South also said all soils are soft on the site and they will need to do a typical foundation work to support the building.

Scott Miller, a design team committee member said with the middle school and high school being so close together, "The more likely there would be an opportunity to share human resources."

### **Breakdown of the floor plans**

There will be a main area where the main entrance is located in front with administrative offices on one side and public restrooms on the other. This main building will also include the cafeteria, media center with an open computer lab, two music rooms, a mechanical room, art rooms, technology labs and locker rooms next to the gym which will be 8,500 square feet. The stage will be in between the cafeteria and gym.

As for the classroom floors, instead of a hallway with lockers, teachers can share an extended learning area.

"It allows a middle school team teaching approach," South said.

The Fremont plans are similar to the Clyde Middle School plans. Classrooms will be around the extended learning area with one connecting hallway, three stair cases and one elevator. There will also be four special education rooms and a couple science labs along with a mechanical room in the middle with an area for lockers.

The extended learning areas will have operable partitions with windows instead of concrete walls, which can be opened between classrooms and can allow for larger space.

On the classroom floors there will be individual restrooms near the classrooms.

South will be back to the May 18 board meeting to present another update on the schematic design process.

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