

Dear Ms. Wurl,

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to us with your concerns. We are lucky to live in a district with parents such as yourself who go above and beyond with your time and money to support our students. As unpaid/volunteer elected officials and fellow parents and taxpayers, all of us on the Unit 4 Board share your commitment to our community's children and our schools.

At our January 25th meeting, the current Board officially created a Special Board Committee on Facilities to help create a long-term facilities plan for the district. Through the District's website and email announcements, through intensive use of social media, through notices in PTA newsletters, with extensive coverage in the local media, and with regular blog posts directly from Board members, we have worked very hard to encourage public involvement in this planning process.

That's why it's so important for people like you to let us know that we have not yet managed to update every interested member of our community, because as you will see, we are determined that this process shall be as inclusive and transparent as possible.

We would like to point you to the "Planning 4 the Future" section of the Unit 4 website, which contains a wealth of information about the make-up of the Tier Two committee that has been meeting all spring, as well as its charge, the agenda and minutes of each meeting so far (with links to all related documents discussed as well as videos of the meetings themselves): <http://facilityplanning.champaignschools.org/>.

You will be pleased to note, for example, that this committee consists of representatives from the Champaign City Council, the Champaign Park District, the Village of Savoy, the MTD, the Chamber of Commerce, as well as five at-large members of the community. We agree that facility planning requires community-wide cooperation. We have reached out to Neighborhood Services to assist us with meetings in the neighborhoods of all schools being discussed.

You will also be pleased to learn about the involvement of historical preservationists; about the multiple opportunities for public comment at every meeting; and about the thoughtful presentations by Unit 4 staff about the curriculum and capacity needs that new or renovated facilities will address.

We want to clarify that Unit 4 has not purchased any property as part of these discussions; we have only purchased options on several properties immediately surrounding Central, should voters approve a referendum to expand Central on-site.

In addition we recommend you follow the Board Corner blog (<http://u4boardcorner.blogspot.com/>) which will help you stay up-to-date not only with the facilities planning process but also with the business of the district as a whole.

Please let us know what other information would be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

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