

Catalog Subcommittee Report Out

April 15, 2010

The Task:

- (i) A catalog of the condition of school facilities at all Bureau-funded schools that—
 - (I) incorporates the findings from the Government Accountability Office study evaluating and comparing school systems of the Department of Defense and the Bureau of Indian Affairs;
 - (II) rates such facilities with respect to the rate of deterioration and useful life of structures and major systems;
 - (III) establishes a routine maintenance schedule for each facility;
 - (IV) identifies the complementary educational facilities that do not exist but that are needed; and
 - (V) makes projections on the amount of funds needed to keep each school viable, consistent with the accreditation standards required pursuant to this Act.

Responding to the Task:

- A statement about the Committee's interpretation and approach to the task, and limitations in completing the task
- A synopsis of conditions of the 184 schools
 - backlogs, estimated costs, etc
- A complete print-out of the condition of the 184 schools from FMIS, as an appendix

Recommended Changes to Improve FMIS

- Access
- Technical Issues
- Contractors
- Inconsistency in Roles and Responsibilities
- Accounting for Educational Needs

Recommended Changes to Improve FMIS

- ACCESS:
 - Statement about the responsibility of school administrators to ensure that FMIS is updated, in partnership with facility people. Requires a change in attitude at BIE
 - Development of Regional FMIS Support Groups:
 - Knowledgeable people on call to help
 - Compile models/examples of methods for managing FMIS entry workload in different school contexts
 - More available Regional FMIS training to respond to turnover

Recommended Changes to Improve FMIS

- ACCESS, con't
 - OFMC: Identify schools that are NOT updating FMIS, reach out and provide support
 - Add Staffing at ELO offices or at Regional offices to provide regular support and check-ins with all schools for FMIS

Recommended Changes to Improve FMIS

- TECHNICAL ISSUES:
 - Make it easily accessible via the Web
 - Respond to technical problems more efficiently
 - Warning if system is going to be down (e-mail)
 - Raise priority within IT
 - Responsibility of OFMC

Recommended Changes to Improve FMIS

- CONTRACTORS
 - Improving access for schools would reduce the role of contractors to confirmation/check & balance only
 - Improve communication between contractor and schools
 - Require entry and exit interviews
 - Provide copy of report
 - Recommend facility person accompany contractor during visit
 - Improve transparency of contractor role
 - Committee see SOW and RFP
 - Tribal school representation on selection committee?
 - Schools should get notification if backlog entries are changed by gatekeepers

Recommended Changes to Improve FMIS

- Inconsistency in Roles and Responsibilities:
 - Lack of clarity between BIE and OFMC about responsibility for supporting facilities
 - Unclear to schools what support we can get from Regions and Agencies
 - Every Region or Agency needs have facility management staff to support FMIS, in a consistent role
 - Recommendation to Assistant Secretary to clarify and rectify this systemic problem

Recommended Changes to Improve FMIS

- Accounting for Educational Needs
 - Compare existing schools against the Program of Requirements for a “Typical School”, record educational deficiencies into FMIS
 - Can use existing Space Guidelines and change later, or use newly created ones
 - Responsibility of OFMC to compile this information