

Catalog Subcommittee Report Out

July 12, 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

Problems with FMIS and Recommended Changes for Improvement

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Training and Support
- System Administration
- Transparency of Contractors
- Accounting for Educational Needs
- Accuracy of the Existing FMIS Data

Problems and Recommendations: Roles and Responsibilities

- **PROBLEM:** Lack of clarity about responsibility for supporting facilities, and FMIS in particular, between BIE and OFMC. It is unclear to schools what support is expected from Regions and Agencies. And school administrators often lack clear mandate to ensure that their school remains accurately represented in FMIS.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Develop a Responsibility and Communication Matrix that states the exact roles and responsibilities of all parties:
 - **OFMC – DC/Albuquerque, and Regional Offices**
 - Includes regularly Identifying schools that are NOT updating FMIS, reaching
 - Add Staffing at ELO offices or at Regional offices to provide regular support and check-ins with all schools for FMIS
 - Raise priority of FMIS Administrative / Technical support
 - **BIE – Albuquerque and Education Line Offices**
 - Improve communication, including IT department
 - Add Staffing at ELO offices or at Regional offices to provide regular support and check-ins with all schools for FMIS
 - **Schools**
 - Highlight responsibility of school administrators to ensure that FMIS is updated, in partnership with facility people

Problems and Recommendations: Training and Support

- Problem: High turnover of facility staff leads to gaps in school access to FMIS, and inexperience in using the system
- Recommendations:
 - Develop 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

Problems and Recommendations: System Administration

- Problem: Users experience frequent problems accessing the site or network. Few know where to turn for assistance. Problems may linger for long times without response.
- Recommendations:
 - Make FMIS easily accessible via the Web
 - Have clear contact person(s) for access questions
 - Respond to technical problems more efficiently
 - Warning if system is going to be down (e-mail)
 - Raise priority within IT

Problems and Recommendations: Transparency with Contractors

- Problem: The contractor's role is more critical than it should be given poor access/use of FMIS by schools. Some schools don't understand the role of the contractors, communication may be poor, and accountability to schools is limited.
- Recommendations:
 - Improve school-based FMIS access to 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

Problems and Recommendations: Accounting for Educational Needs

- Problem: FMIS does not account for facility and construction needs based on educational requirements.
- Recommendations:
 - 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

Problems and Recommendations: Accuracy of Data

- Problem: The subcommittee is not well positioned to identify how accurate the existing data in FMIS is.
- Recommendations:

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMITTEE??