

Meeting: Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee

Date: January 16, 2020

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Administration Building, Room 123B

Attendees:

Committee Members:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alicia Arnold	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nic Ashman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Clements*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margot Dahling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David FitzGerald
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Goings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Liwei (Amanda) Guo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne Hartman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caro Johnson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoe Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Weichelt			
Resource (non-voting) Members:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Koller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darryl Petersen	<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Nordin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Lyons	

*Chair

Guests: Heidi Neumann-Kneeland, Kurt Madsen

Notes: Jennifer Knutson

The meeting was called to order by Josh Clements at 4:36 p.m. Quorum was met.

- **Public Comment**
 - No comments.
- **Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2019**
 - The committee took time to read and review the minutes.

Mark Goings made a motion to add the following remarks into last month’s minutes. The motion was seconded by Alicia Arnold.

- It is important to look at the educational implications if the District chose to construct a new school. Would like to discuss this with the City and County as well. It is easy to discuss money, but it is also important to discuss school culture. There is a difference in culture between a 4-section school and a 3-section school. Would like to discuss this, along with the impact, need, and best practices with Teaching & Learning.

Heather Grant made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mark Goings.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Invite a representative from the City and County to the February meeting.
- Discuss best practices, impact of school size on students’ education, and need for educators, with the Department of Teaching & Learning as an agenda item in March.
- **Updated Information**
 - The committee discussed expansion on the southside. When do we need to have a recommendation? What information do we need to have in order to have an informed recommendation? As we progress, the hope is for people to volunteer new items/information as needed. Historically, working documents have not been shared publicly and minutes are a brief summarization of the meeting. We want our committee to be as transparent as possible to show that we have thoughtfully worked through every avenue before we make recommendations. The committee would like minutes to be more detailed and include working documents.

Should we vote to make working documents public? Let's wait to talk to the District to see what the policy is as such things as personnel, land purchases, and other information are confidential.

- Darryl shared the Buildings and Grounds' impact on south side elementary expansion through multiple working documents with cost estimations. The drawings provided are to represent impact as an estimate only and are related to current needs. These would be the costs for additions only. When coming down to the actual design, the real cost would be evaluated and reflected accordingly. Without the cost of land, we are anticipating \$30 million for a ready to go walk-in building. Based on some of the larger existing schools, 16 acres would be needed in order to build a new school. Land and utility cost could vary significantly depending on location.

If adding onto a school, we would want to address all of the school's needs. It is a vastly different cost between a new school and an add on. Is it even a realistic ask for us to pursue a new school? What is needed for current capacity concerns is to address Meadowview and Putnam Heights. Both are greater than 90% capacity. If we built a new 4-section school, how would that affect the other schools?

Parts of classrooms, resource space, and green space (playground) would be taken away in order to add onto Manz. Flynn cannot be considered for an add on as there is no space to expand. Robbins is already a 4-section school. What would it look like if we needed to expand up without disturbing green space? The building structures are not designed for adding another floor; additional costs would need to go into demolition and creating a foundational base for additional floors. What is the green space requirement? How much green space is needed per student? Does the district have any expectations? No, only that a 3-section school is the minimum. If we are going to impact any of these sites, we should look at everything and how it impacts students. Could we get the number of acres of green space per student, for future knowledge?

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Check District policy about making Demo and Trends' working documents public and adding more detail to the minutes going forward.
- Calculate the number of acres of green space per student.

Discussion of Options

- After the last committee meeting, we were given a new charge to move forward with elementary and leave 4k alone until a later charge. A remodel would happen quicker than getting a new school because of the timeline. Almost everyone won't be in their current elementary by the time this is done. The further out we look, the harder it is to look at the actual student count. We will need to look at households. Are we looking to add onto one school or two schools or build a new school? A decision tree would be helpful. First, we should decide brand new building or add on. If we add on to one, which one and why. If we add on to two of them, which ones and why. The earliest a referendum could take place is Spring of 2021 and would not be able to begin building until Fall of 2021. Temporary relief is within our charge. Do we need a relief option?

Where are they projecting the growth to occur in the city as it may help with future demand predictions? This is not just a city issue but a county issue. A lot of growth is occurring. Are we looking at Robbins being over capacity? Do we have a crisis at Meadowview where we need to look at temporary structures or a relief plan? This may help further promote the need for a referendum.

Do we need to be concerned about middle schools? Enrollment at DeLong is going up each year and is at 87% capacity. If you shift any students towards Putnam Heights, it will exacerbate capacity. Need to shift towards Manz and Meadowview to relieve the middle schools. Don't have enough demand to build a new school for the cost. Don't know what is going to happen beyond 5 years or 10 years. Most growth is occurring south of the interstate. It seems like we need to look at the space we have. It is almost really

shaping out to be that we are being led in a direction due to statistics. If we just added to Meadowview and redrew the boundaries, would that be enough to help Meadowview and take some pressure off of Manz?

What is our hard deadline? When do we have to have our recommendation to the Board? If we make a kindergarten recommendation, it needs to go before the Board by March. Timeline would need to be different if we include more grades or all grade levels. If it is mandatory, we need to give families a one-year notice. We need to be strategic about grade levels and make it voluntary if we want to implement by next school year. We would need to be strategic to operate by grade level per school versus whole school. We would need to provide transportation for voluntary options as well. Is a relief option our priority? Yes. Even if we choose to add on, we will still need to wait for a referendum. In terms of urgency, we need options in a matter of months. Maybe mobile units are the only way to go right now to prevent 3 schools from being over capacity.

Do we need to make a subcommittee to look at shifting the south boundary lines and to review the impact? When this committee was a boundary committee, outside the monthly meeting, there was a lot of behind the scenes work that was done in between monthly meetings. The subgroups were open to everyone. It was suggested that subgroups draw boundary maps options. The maps we have today are where we could add on to the buildings. For a fourth section we need a rough draft of 6 classrooms of up to 25 kids, totaling 150 kids to place. Part of this would be considering the social impact of moving fifth graders. It was discussed before the option of moving fifth graders to middle school. One thing we also talked about before was moving kindergarteners. Sometimes it is easier for a family to start in a new place rather than end in a different place. In the past, Student Transit has provided maps of student data.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Invite a representative from the City and County to the February meeting.
- Gather archived minutes and previous working documents from 2016 elementary discussion.
- Discuss best practices, impact of school size on students' education, and need for educators, with the Department of Teaching & Learning as an agenda item in March.

Anne Hartman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Margot Dahling. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.