

Meeting: Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee

Date: February 13, 2020

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Administration Building, Room 137

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 type="checkbox"/> Mark Goings	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Liwei (Amanda) Guo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne Hartman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caro Johnson
<input type="checkbox"/> Steven Lowry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Pohlen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travis Schroeder	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoe Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Weichert
Resource (non-voting) Members:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Koller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darryl Petersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Nordin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Lyons	

*Chair

Guests:

Notes: Jennifer Knutson

The meeting was called to order by Kim Koller at 4:33 p.m. Quorum was met.

The committee went around the table and introduced themselves to the new members and the public.

- **Introduce New Committee Members**
 - Jeremy and Travis introduced themselves to the committee. Welcome.
- **Public Comment**
 - No comments.
- **Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2020**
 - The committee took time to read and review the minutes.

Caro made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ryan. All in favor. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Jennifer will add Phil’s attendance to last month’s minutes.
- **Information Sharing**
 - District staff collected information specific to past relief plan discussions and provided documents to all members.
 - Regarding last month’s conversation requesting detailed minutes and asking to make working documents public, committee members are asked to stay tuned for further direction as we wait for Policy & Governance’s decision.
 - The committee was provided a spreadsheet that showed square footage calculations of outdoor space per student at all elementary schools. Square footage was separated out by field space, blacktop space, and playground equipment space per school. Square footage varied based on building lot size. Is there a corresponding guidance recommending a certain amount of playground space? DPI does not define requirements for outdoor space or school size.

- The next document provided shared information pulled from Hanover Research confirming that there is not a standard or requirement for school size. If you look across the nation, the research is split on whether a small or large school is best. Small elementary schools can be as cost effective as their larger counterparts. It suggests that elementary schools with populations between 400 (equivalent to a three-section school) and 750 are most cost effective. Do we have any insight on how our schools perform based on cost or from a staffing standpoint? Staffing would be efficient since only one principal, one primary custodian, one secretary, etc. would be needed regardless of the school size. Music, Art, and Physical Education (MAPE) teachers are shared between elementary schools.
- The remainder of the documents provided were copies of committee documents from 2016 that looked at (past) relief options for Roosevelt, including committee minutes from February, March, and April of 2016 a spreadsheet listing pros and cons of multiple relief options, and the presentation summary to the Board regarding relief options. What form have these recommendations taken in the past, so we know what information to provide to the Board? A PowerPoint presentation and speech are provided to the Board.
- Ryan shared the mapping software. Information was broken down by students per grade per school. For future forecasting, we would look at pre4K, 4K, and K. The K – 5 numbers provided are of ECASD students that ride a school bus. The numbers do not include open enrolled or private school students. The pre4K data is on census projections and may not be fully accounted for. The dots on the map may or may not mean one or more kids as the dots may overlay based on house location and if there is more than one student in the household. Clicking on individual dots show students' grade levels and should include the school's name. Adding more detail to the database would show more. With this mapping software we can draw out section to see how many students would switch schools.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Send out green space document in Xcel format to group for further manipulation or calculations.

Relief Plan for 2020-21

- Due to timeline projections, even if we made a decision today, our efforts would not take full effect for four years. It would potentially be 2023 before we could open doors on a new building or add on so a relief plan is needed for the interim. Families north of 312 in the previous relief plan zone were asked if they would go to Sherman instead of Roosevelt. If they chose Sherman, they were guaranteed a long-term commitment. If the family chooses our relief plan option, we will guarantee it for the long-term as well. If we choose a flexible boundary, could we implement this September? Students want to know which school they will be attending next year before this year is over. When offered the previous relief plan, some families chose the relief option by April and May but very few chose the new option over the summer. Do we understand what grade levels are in trouble at Meadowview and Manz? It won't be a relief plan if we ask the wrong grade level. Unless we could use their classroom for a different grade level. It may free up space to relieve pressure. Perhaps we ask what a specific age group looked like over the course of five years. To focus on south schools, it would be Flynn, Manz, Meadowview, Putnam, and Robbins.
- We are currently focused on elementary schools but looking at both high schools, they are on the cusp of overcapacity too. With how long it takes to make a change, we should be concerned. If we look at a referendum every four years, it would be 8 years before we get high school relief, and it could be too late. We should probably focus on that for the next charge for Demo to look at that problem, but the more urgent issue is elementary schools and the referendum.
- We are not going to get any slack in the next few years. What are we going to do regarding the immediate problems for the next one or two years? It seems to me that the crisis is at Meadowview. The relief option for Meadowview is Robbins. Maybe if we did a quick study, we could create a relief option for Meadowview and then look at the other south side elementary schools similar to what we did for Roosevelt with Sherman as the relief option and then move the boundary after. It requires a one-year notice to mandate new boundaries.
- We have to look at all components of growth. When we do a relief option, Manz may still be a problem due to continued growth. We will still be in the same situation after 5th graders leave, and kindergarteners enter.

Would schools Longfellow and Locust Lane be included in a boundary change? What is the district as a whole for capacity when reaching capacity? We really need the projections of what happens after the boundaries changed. Dual immersion is capped at 24 students in a class, but we don't know which schools those students are coming from. Next fall, we will see different numbers. It is a lottery, so no way to predict but did not really affect any one school in particular.

- Did we decide that Putnam was okay from last meeting? Putnam is definitely stressed. Putnam may be able to alleviate some that is east of State Street that was added to Putnam heights seems like a natural area to bring back, but where do you put those kids? It seems we would have to shift to the border to the west. Can we shift some of the kids to Sherman or not because it would change the high schools? May be able to shift rural west. We would need to look at Sherman's numbers because they are getting kids from Lakeshore.
- Attending a school near their home, transportation cost, and where growth is occurring are all important to consider. Where are new developments occurring? What are projections for the next year or two? What is the average class size by grade level? What are the available number percentages of classrooms? How many classrooms do the schools have? We need to make sure we are accounting for that fact that in some schools there is not a computer lab or special education class (i.e. negative five classrooms). Which student's education is being impacted the most on September 1 and how we can make it better? Which school will have greatest need? We also want to be committed to long term for families that are impacted by a change. A school's boundary change can only occur once every five years. It is important to focus on minimizing transportation costs, adding encore spaces, balancing the socio-economic makeup of our schools, and equitable programs and schools.
- Beginning about March, principals review school enrollment numbers every week until June 15. This is the time of year a family may move; they often tell us. The next time we get together the numbers will look different as they can change a lot.
- Next month, if we have a plan, then it goes to school board for vote, and then must be communicated to families. Should we add another meeting? Have some subcommittee work? Or extend next month's meeting to 7 p.m. Could we get this trend data go back five more years to capture trending? Robbins was added onto in 2008. County and City should be at the March meeting.

Alicia made a motion that we have one additional meeting on either February 27 or March 5 and to keep the March 19 meeting if we need more data. Caro seconded the motion. All in favor.

- Could we expand the projection data beyond 2020? Yes. If we focus on south side schools only for the data spreadsheet annual enrollment. There is a history as to why the addition to Robbins occurred and would like to see the population shift. There has been a tremendous amount of growth. Regarding the very southern borders, at what point do we bump kids to Eleva schools? Board action, families can petition the schools, both schools have to approve. When that happens the school district for the property change, the taxes change. No body wants to lose tax. Rock falls is split goofy too. Durand too. Students can always choose to open enroll.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Abby will be present as the district administrator at the March meeting as Kim will be gone.

Caro made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Margot. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.