

Meeting: Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee

Date: February 27, 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 type="checkbox"/> Margot Dahling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David FitzGerald
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Goings	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Liwei (Amanda) Guo	<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Hartman	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Phil Lyons	

*Chair

Guests:

Notes: Jennifer Knutson

The meeting was called to order by Josh Clements at 4:42 p.m. Quorum was not initially met.

- **Public Comment**
 - No comments.
- **Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2020**
 - The committee took time to read and review the minutes.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Cannot approve the minutes at this time. Will make motion to approve the minutes later upon arrival of another committee member.

Upon arrival of an additional committee member, Dave made a motion to approve last month's minutes. The motion was seconded by Alicia. All in favor.

- **Relief Plan Discussion**
 - Josh has been corresponding with Eau Claire County and City of Eau Claire. Both city and county are working on preparing information for committee. Plan to have materials in advance of our March 19th meeting. What can we do as early as next year to address the capacity concerns at Meadowview, Putnam Heights, and Manz? Some of the schools have been near or at capacity for quite some time. We need to learn from the school staff how best to handle this.
 - The updated spreadsheet now has 2020-21 projections. Meadowview and Putnam concerns remain. Manz will teeter around 90%. Robbins will be at 80%. Approximately 30 kids (another 5%) could go there to remain in our capacity comfort zone. Flynn's capacity looks okay. Flynn is a small school and could go up 10% but that would only be about 30 kids. The color coding on the sections portion of the spreadsheet was also changed based on the number of sections to reflect under, at, or over sections at each school. Flynn is a 2-section school. However, due to a grant and AGR, Flynn has 3 sections to offer smaller class sizes. Manz is above the number of sections in 2nd and 3rd grade Kindergarten this year. Grade 2 is also split at Meadowview and should be red on the spreadsheet. Over sections in 2nd and 3rd grade at Meadowview.

- Kim posted guidelines for the number of sections on the wall. In grades 4 and 5, more students are allowed per classroom, up to 29 students. Four sections is 91 or more students. This will help with projections for next year. As an example, Putnam's kindergarten is at 79. They will need to repurpose a space to upgrade from 3 to 4 sections for kindergarten. Do we have an idea across all our schools, how many are having classrooms in the hallway?
- On the provided document, it shares multiple questions that were answered by the south side principals. Elementary schools have an A, B, C schedule for MAPE teachers and two-three classrooms are needed for their space. When there are two gym spaces, and classes can be run side by side in some schools. Some schools, like Meadowview, have three physical education spaces but have four classes, so the fourth class is split among the three spaces. The provided document states what has been repurposed. For example, Manz' computer space and closets were repurposed. Some schools no longer have sick bays. At some point, we are starting to compromise on educational outcomes and staff retention. It does not help with staff morale. There are a lot of schools that have a lot of needs. Meadowview appears to be having the most concern. Next year, Manz will need more space. The two grade levels that are 4 sections this year are planned to be staffed only as 3 sections, so that will allow Manz to fit into the existing spaces for next year. If those groups grow and classrooms have to be added, Manz would not be able to accommodate more than 1 additional classroom. When we have enough children to have another section but not enough space, we may have to have larger class sizes than our guidelines state, we may have to have an additional aid. If we needed more classroom space?
- What would it look like to take the special education space to a north side school? If we move 30 students, could the regional hub be moved to another school? We would need to find out which school would have an empty classroom. In a cluster program you may only be shifting 10 students, but you could serve up to 30 students in that space. Does transportation become an issue? Private transportation is typically provided. If there is a swing in the room, there may be added costs to put in another swing at the new location. It would have to be one of the other schools that we just balanced. Even though we cannot change their boundaries for five years, added a class is a special circumstance and should not violate one of our stated principles.
- Do we have any flexibility with existing students to ask a selected grade at Meadowview that has 4 sections if they would be willing to go to Putnam or Manz? We did that with Roosevelt for several years. We offered those families busing to Sherman for the life of their time in elementary. We would need to look on the map and see where. We would need it to make sense for transportation. Would you do it by existing bus route? It would be a new bus route. We could tag onto an existing bus route. It would be best to have Student Transit here and use their expertise.
- Do we have a couple of work group sessions between now and the next meeting to work through some scenarios? The least amount of changes the better. We can impact some of the other grades with move ins. If someone moves in, we assign them to a school, such as all new families in this area go to Robbins. Meadowview is some of the members biggest concerns. Looking at trend analysis, Putnam Heights has gone up versus Meadowview which has gone down. Meadowview has exhausted all their space; whereas, Putnam has some flexible space. It is normal to have bubble years and find creative classrooms, but Meadowview has absorbed all their bubble space. We are trying to find some sort of patch for the immediate future. We have a crisis management issue and a long-term planning perspective.
- The Board approved a timeline for a referendum in 2021. The Board approved a facilities recommendation from Demo & Trends by March. Want to make recommendation before the start of school in September. Demographers project trends in enrollment. Do we want to recommend another study? We have a couple recommendations to take to the Board. Much more important to get the data from the city. Don't know if we would have the study results in time for a recommendation. The information from the city or county will be different and perhaps more precise. The demographers can look at current population, and how it is turning. The city is looking at housing units. What about the census data? We won't get the data for two years, 2022. Then we could get what the data was two years ago, 2018.
- Which schools are the most desirable? Are there people that say, hey I want my kids to go to Robbins? Would Robbins be enough of a draw to get people to switch? We don't want to force anyone's hands. Are there people looking to go to a particular school? Good question. Most people answer that if their kids are

already going to a school; their school is best. People coming to town are influenced by at least 2 things, 1. Test scores (reflective of socio-economic data of students going to this school) and 2. They are also asking people they meet here who tell them that it is their side of town that is better. It is hard to get people to move out of their school's boundary. Everyone knows what they have and are afraid of what they don't have. Fear is a great motivator. Appeal to people's desire for the common good. There is not much difference between the schools. A quality education is offered at all ECASD schools.

- Do we want to create a workgroup to find neighborhoods and utilize Ryan's mapping software to draw possible boundary lines? Are we focusing on trying to target kindergarteners or all grade levels? Maybe we need to focus on new families and kindergarten families or specifically primary kindergarten families without older siblings. Is Putnam Heights the only one that still has a computer lab? Robbins still has a computer lab. Flynn does not. If Putnam still has one can that become a classroom for a fourth section of kindergarten? Does that perhaps help open the door to a little bit for growth at Putnam? Two teachers already share one room and two other teachers share another room. This is what would probably be remedied by using the computer lab space.
- Typically, with open enrollment, we do not provide transportation. If we let people self-select Robbins, no transportation would be provided as it would be their choice. However, it does not allow equal access as some people could not provide their own transportation. Are we allowing all families equal opportunity to take advantage of the choice? What was the success rate for offering families the Roosevelt-Sherman choice? We were able to get them within the guidelines of the two sections. Next step would be to create a work group and some guidelines.
- We are looking at giving a charge to a subgroup. This group needs to meet before the next monthly Demo meeting on March 19th. Next week is spring break. Do we know, Ryan's availability? Are there any other concrete data points we can use? Kindergarten numbers are the least reliable as they change frequently. Flynn is at the cusp, for AGR funding. We won't have the City data until the 19th.
- Are we looking to shift in other directions beside Meadowview to Robbins? The general consensus is that there is worry all around; trying to plug holes right now until we can put a plan together. We might have to look at Putnam too if we are looking at the next couple years. Could we ask the principals if they had to come up with one more classroom what would that look like for their building? Kim will ask.
- Hopefully before the end of next week, we can get a work group together. We need to add space to a south side school, and we are going to need to re-district which may be a separate three to five year goal. Right now, looking to triage before fall and then focus on the three- to five-year goal. In our recommendation don't forget to defer maintenance at Roosevelt. South Middle School was deferred.

Alicia motioned to create a subcommittee workgroup to address population demographics and to provide information to the whole committee at the next meeting in March. The motion was seconded by Dave. All in favor.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Determine date of workgroup based on Ryan's availability. Quorum does not have to be met for subcommittee workgroups; however, all committee members are welcome to join. Invite Student Transit.
- Kim will ask the principals if they had to come up with one more classroom what would that look like for their building?

Jeremy moved to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.