

Meeting: Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee

Date: March 6, 2020

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Administration Building, Room 101

Attendees:

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

*Chair

Guests: Jim Fey, Student Transit

Notes: Jennifer Knutson

The meeting was called to order by Kim Koller at 2:05 p.m. This is a work session; therefore, quorum does not need to be met.

- **Public Comment**

- No comments.

- **Relief Plan Discussion**

- The goal is to bring a short-term relief plan back to the full committee. Looking at something similar to what was done north of 312 for Roosevelt-Sherman relief plan. If needed to repurpose classrooms to offer some sort of additional general education space, Putnam has some special education space they could collapse for general education classrooms, but it would be tight. Meadowview does not have room to collapse and is at their crisis point. Manz is waiting on staffing information. Based on predictions, they may have an additional section but would require creativity. Flynn's capacity number looks comfortable but an increase in one classroom would bring them up 10%. Flynn has AGR grant funding that has them at 3 sections where it would only take up 2 sections at another school without AGR. Kim talked to Mandy about regional special education. The response was that programmatically things that would make that difficult are that students that are clustered need life skills and the current cluster sites are the only sites with an instructional kitchen. It would be a big cost and need to find additional space if moved. Children's programming would change and/or increased cost to move.
- The group talked about moving some students to Robbins. Strategically, special education rooms are scattered around and could possibly be collapsed. In some ways it would be easier to add a section and be a 4-section school. Depending on the grade level, we could add a 5th section to a grade that is close already. If a neighborhood is off of 93, it would make more sense to look at that area, transporting a Meadowview area to a Robbins area. Probably the area just across 93 that has a high concentration of students. The other option would be to look at the Boardwalk area but then you would be taking kids that visibly see one school from their homes and busing them to another school. It does not make sense to bus students that are within walking distance of their current school. Another thought would be to take some kids from Manz and move them to Flynn, and then move some kids from Meadowview to Manz. Do we provide some relief to Manz through some options at Putnam?

- What is the number of students we are looking to move out of Meadowview? If we moved, 47 students that drops them 10% and that would be comfortable. They are currently at 474. If we have a way to mark the different grade levels, we could focus on Kindergarten, grade 2, and/or grade 3.
- Before we get too far, when Cleghorn closed, Robbins picked up Cleghorn and some kids were sent to Flynn. This dropped the free and reduced at Robbins. That was the same time Flynn was opening, that section was right across from Memorial. If we are trying to balance socio-economic demographics. We are needing a temporary plan. Do we have time to look into the free and reduced demographics? When we are talking about moving and shifting all of these kids, we need parents to buy into the move, so that they will make the choice. Prior to Flynn being built, the Blakely Ave/Scheels area used to be Robbins and may be closer to Robbins than Manz. As a temporary piece, we could move them for two or three years to free things up at Manz. The premise is that this is voluntary so we would ask kindergarten and new families. When we are talking temporary, we commit until the student moves into middle school.
- Some members like Jim's thought about some kids being in between enough to switch from Meadowview to Manz. Introducing to families that they are equal distance apart may get them to volunteer. This may also balance the free and reduced numbers. Primarily, Blakely is duplexes and rentals, which means opportunity to grab new families rather than a home that is purchased. Perhaps the turnover in that neighbor could be higher than single family homes. We may have more opportunities to say this is your option. We could work our way over to Fairfax, beginning with the east and expanding if we need to. If we do that, we will need to still move some kids from Meadowview to Manz, Cottonwood, Dogwood neighborhoods, etc. It may easier to take a little bigger geographic area and still not be an extra-long bus ride.
- If Putnam kids moved to Manz, it would change their middle school which may be an incentive. What is the walking limit? For elementary, it is 1 mile. Rudolph is hazardous and is the cut off. What percentage of families accepted to go to Sherman? It was a small number, around 12 families or 25%. If we are shooting for 40 kids, we need to shoot for 120. Are there situations where parents will say it is a lot easier to put my kids on the bus rather than driving them or having them walk? There might be some families that volunteer. Part of this is to be as accommodating to families as possible. Is it possible to cast a tiered net? One of the really tricky pieces with this is that this often takes multiple conversations and contacts with the families. Could the families know ahead of time that the net could go larger if needed. From the information we had last time, many schools need relief, but our number one priority is Meadowview students. Trying to move some of the Meadowview out as Meadowview lost another room in the interim due to an individual education need.
- May be able to sell a guaranteed bus ride to Manz versus a space-permitting ride to Meadowview. It can't hurt to ask people. What we are trying to do is help the students and families with their logistics. Does it make more sense to use the big roads? Yes; west of Hwy 93 and north of Golf Rd to State St. It is definitely easier to explain to families too. This is not a permanent solution. What we are trying to do is offer people choices that may work for their families and could temporarily resolve the situation to help principals and schools. A relief plan will need to stay for 2 or 3 years. How high of a percentage are we willing to push to Robbins? If we offer for 3 years to a family, it is a 9-year commitment for the family. In 8 or 9 years, we are already aware that Robbins is going to be getting a lot more houses. This makes more sense to use the rental area as a flex area.
- Given the shifts, we could pitch Meadowview to Manz and Manz to Robbins. It may be cleaner. A committee member suggested to leave the Putnam variable alone and just focus on Meadowview to Manz and Manz to Robbins.
- If my Kindergarten would get the option to Robbins, would my 1 year old get the Robbins option? Yes; concurrent enrollment with older sibling. The youngest child can follow until the oldest child moves to middle school.
- This could potentially increase free and reduced at Robbins and decrease it at Manz.
- From Hwy 93 west of Fairfax and from Clairemont Ave south to Golf Rd could be a choice area where families could opt into Robbins whether they are Manz or Meadowview. Also think about Arthur Street. Current Meadowview boundary south to cummings could be choice for Manz. Manz go to Robbins and Meadowview go to Manz. Could we offer both? No; that would be hard for Student Transit and would incur

an expense. What makes sense from a transportation aspect? Remember that start times for school would change. Would we take both sides of Fairfax or everything to the east? Student Transit all Fairfax stay.

- Are we starting with new families and kindergarteners or are we offering only to current families to give them a choice? What we have done in the past is to offer those new to neighborhood or school, but we could offer to all or any. We could expand with a tiered approach. We could have a system that could take care of that. Alternate school requests are only currently offered for four reasons, but we could add live in the choice area and we could look back at the alternate school requests that were declined and could now be able to approve it. East of Fairfax, West of 93, South of Clairemont to Arthur Street. North side of Golf Rd to Manz boundary, from 93 to East, Fairfax, west to cummings. Both sides of cummings would go to Putnam. The third tier would be south of Arthur to golf road west of 93 to Fairfax if needed. Will offer new and kindergarten and then alternate school request choice. Should be cost neutral for transportation.
- Robbins could accept 60 kids and still be under 90%. Would be curious, if Robbins becomes larger than Northstar, consider additional administrative and counselor support (salaries and benefits for personnel?) or introduce busing back to Montessori where it would cost less than administrative salaries. Do we have a backup plan? Mobile classrooms? Hopefully on the 19th there will be some sort of vote to accept and will then need to go to the Board. Would be beneficial to give the Board another option if crisis has not been solved. What if we present the option and the Board says that that is not an option we are interested in pursuing? Plan B would be mobile classrooms? We don't have time to start over. Mobile classrooms are considered exclusionary and no longer acceptable but necessary if no other option. Need something else to present to the Board. Mobile classrooms would cost more. The fastest would be to take south of interstate kids up the bypass to Northwoods. It is all voluntary at this point and would be a tougher sell than changing a few boundaries.
- As a board member, what would you want to see? Would like to see the options we considered. Are we going to hear it one time and then have some discussion? Perhaps hear it at the first April meeting and make a decision at second April meeting. Would like Demo & Trends to be prepared to answer what the plan is if Robbins becomes larger than Northstar. If we add 60 kids and they are larger now, but we may look at Robbins' growth 5 years out and Robbins may be there anyways. We would just add the staff two years earlier. If option B is to add mobile classrooms, maybe that has been an option in a lot of places. What if it becomes permanent? Could compare costs between staff and mobile classrooms. Cost, stigma, time on bus, etc. given the other things we thought and excluded, this is our recommendation. Would want to see at least those two options and a recommendation that Demo & Trends really supports but also another option if the Board does not accept the main option. The mobile classrooms would need to have accessibility to be offered to all students. Would it be more helpful to have a solution for September? We really need to start calling people May 1. In terms of adding additional staffing, do the socioeconomic of the school matter? Does Robbins have less of a need for additional student support? One principal could have many teachers. Robbins has the most staff, so the principal has more people to evaluate and grow. Counseling and behavioral needs would be something to consider too. Our secondary schools have TOSAs. Schools report out dollars per student per year. Grant funded schools aside, if you pull out district funding, how many dollars per child is spent on teachers or equipment to focus on equitable spending? Furthering the thought, we should look at Robbins with more free and reduced and the other two schools would have less. Would some of those dollars get shifted for those needs? You also have to include the children that live in the neighborhood that attend private school. Those children still count. Raw number wise if we take all the grant stuff out, what is the capacity of our buildings? Are we running into problems? How much grant money are we getting? Does that justify building a new school?
- Do we need money for other support stuff? As part of the reasoning, give a choice; we can't come up with X amount of dollars for a support person, but staff at Robbins would be overworked or having additional student would overcrowd the school. Need a plan for when Robbins is larger than Northstar. Come to the Board, recognize that this is going to push Robbins bigger, here is our suggestion. Board would like an estimate as to what the cost is of the options. At the same time, if the mobile classrooms are our plan B what is the cost? As part of option 1, in 5 years Robbins is going to be at this point anyways and may need to

look at Meadowview as well. To ease the sting, it is inevitable. We are up against CVTC's referendum this year. We intend that it could be up to this size and at least implies staffing to this much.

- We will be discussing city and county growth on the 19th and will be presenting to the Board on April 6th. Emphasize timeliness of this issue, problems need to be addressed in May or we won't be able to get this up and running for 2020-21 and will need to wait until 2021-22. Can present it as this year is optional but next year would be forced. Does the district, by law, have to go to referendum to build a building? No, but we don't have the money. What about doing an addition? If we need to borrow money, we need to go to referendum. Interest rates are cheap right now, which could be a good push for the referendum.
- Would the Exec Team, have a chance to think about if Robbins does get big, would we be leaning towards how much or how many people they need? Is there a way to call an emergency recommendation from Demo and Trends at the Board meeting next week? No, the agenda is already set.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Kim and Jen will create maps of choice areas and have done by March 19th meeting.
- Would it be possible for Ryan to let us know how many kids are in each section? Ryan could try and Jim could help.
- On the 19th, as we are filling up Robbins, how full are we willing to push that? We need it for 3 years, but it could go past 3 years. Discuss capacity for how big we will let Robbins get.
- Kim ask Darryl will provide preliminary costs for mobile classrooms.
- Prep for a Plan A and B. For plan B, what is the cost and legal concerns? Pros and Cons for both plans needed for the board meeting but not necessarily for the next committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.