

Meeting: Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee

Date: April 16, 2020

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: WebEx

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 type="checkbox"/> Steven Lowry	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Pohlen	<input type="checkbox"/> Travis Schroeder	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoe Roberts	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Weichert
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 4:57 p.m. Quorum was met.

- **Public Comment**
 - No comments.
- **Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2020**

Alicia motioned to approve the April 2nd minutes. Caro seconded the motion. All in favor.

- **Election of New Chairperson**
 - Josh stepped down as chairperson. The committee thanked Josh for his service and congratulated him on becoming a member of the School Board.
 - Margot Dahling volunteered to be the new chairperson.

Alicia Motioned to elect Margot Dahling as the next chairperson for Demographics Trends & Facility Planning Committee. Caro seconded the motion. All in favor.

- **Update on Short-Term Relief Recommendation to Board**
 - Josh and Kim presented to the Board at their April 6th meeting. The Board will vote on the committee’s recommendation at their upcoming meeting on April 20th. The Board asked how the decision was arrived at and whether school staff were included in the decision-making process, which they were. The Board also asked if parents were surveyed, which they were not. The recommendation would not affect current parents and students unless they choose to opt in. We are not seeking to move kids unless the families want to move. If the Board approves our recommendation, we will move ahead and send letters to the families in Option Areas 1, 2, and possibly 3 (if needed), with an explanation of the situation, recommendation, and option to move by filling out an alternate school request form. If the Board approves the committee’s short-term relief recommendation, then a long-term recommendation plan becomes the next focus.

- **Initial Review of Development Information**

- The City sent a list of permits issued in 2019. The committee reviewed the permit map provided by the City. Construction was likely initiated last year, but developments may not be ready for move in until fall. The committee is waiting on information from the County. Before making a well-informed, long-term facility recommendation, we should get a better idea of where growth is to know where to expand facilities.

- **Long Term Recommendation Discussion**

- Do we want to focus district-wide or just the south side schools that we have been charged with for facility recommendation? To make an educated facility recommendation, we should look at all growth and information district wide. The next piece from the City that we need are the planned developments. So far, we just have the permits. We also need the information from the City.
- What would the approximate cost be to add onto Manz, Meadowview, and Putnam Heights? Have we determined that we won't be exploring a new facility? We should look at all available options. If we build a new school, what would that cost be in comparison to add-ons? There may be concerns about adding onto an existing school. Darryl and Kim are currently working on capital improvements and deferred maintenance. Knowing which schools can or cannot be added onto would be helpful for the committee.
- Is the consensus still that we would be looking at a 3-section school and not a 4-section school? Demographics plays a role in that decision. The predominate factors of 3-section versus 4-section school is location, funding, and how many kids are attending the school overall. Therefore, the research and precedence would be lower on the priority list as the logistics for our community is more important.
- Should we look at middle school and high school capacity as well, so we do not need to go back to the community in 2 or 3 years with another referendum? The 2008 referendum was the last time the district added capacity, and the project took place in 2009-2010. The population growth in the city (the number of new residents) in the last 10 years has been significant. We can work on enrollment projections and could code new houses by school path to see which schools are affected by the growth.
- Do we need to have a finalized plan by August of 2020 to present to the Board? Yes. The referendum question needs to be finalized this fall for the referendum listening sessions which can also double as the listening sessions for our recommendation.
- Would it make more sense to build additions onto a school(s) or build a new school? How could we get the following information—if we look at additions or look at building another school, can we project what will happen to the overall enrollment at other schools? Can we be confident that by adding a 3-section school we would get everyone down to 75% or 80% capacity? To explore this, we would need Ryan's help mapping out the location of facilities and location of students. This could potentially have a domino effect. Some will be impacted more than others. Not much may change for schools that are situated close to each other. A new school would dramatically affect the neighborhood where it is built.
- It will likely be a more expensive option to build a 3-section building with upfront costs (i.e. land, construction, plumbing, wiring) and additional staff. Additional staff costs may be lower for adding onto two or three buildings compared to adding a new school. When explaining to the Board in August, this may be helpful to calculate and adds to the rationale that will ultimately be shared with the community.
- Does the city have data reflecting how many kids are in each home? The City does not track homes under 5 years of age or the demographics. The census should state the average number of households with kids. It will not be precise, but it would give us an idea. Generally, 1 in 4 households have kids. To complicate this is the size of the housing unit and what type of unit it is. We can try to guess; we just have to recognize that it won't be a precise number.
- Potentially, we need to vote in June, with July as a backup date, if we can bring all of the research to the May meeting. Do you think we should have another workgroup? The short-term relief workgroup was very helpful. Our goal will be to have the researched ready for the workgroup so that our main meeting can be about options and recommendations for June.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Jennifer will send out a Doodle Poll with some dates and times for another workgroup session.
- Josh will reach out to the City and ask for planned developments.
- Kim and Jennifer will create a district-wide spreadsheet of 2019 permits, color-coded by school.
- Jennifer will convert the previous meeting posters to electronic documents if needed virtually.
- Darryl will work on drawings and approximate costs for existing school(s) add-ons, determine which schools can or cannot be added onto, and approximate costs if a new school was built.
- Committee to determine how elementary capacity restraints are going to impact middle and high schools. Kim and Jennifer will track enrollment projections through 2025.
- Kim and Jen will work with the Enrollment Office to determine number of students living in current apartment complexes.
- Kim will ask Human Resources to answer the committee's staffing questions around adding onto existing schools or building a new school.

The next committee meeting is on May 21st from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will be a WebEx virtual meeting.

Caro motioned to adjourn. Nic seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.