

Bond Oversight Committee

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Oversight Attendees: Kendra Black, Mary Brice, Luchia Brown, Doug Elenowitz, Bev Haddon, Roger Kilgore, Kelly Leid, Monique Lovato, Michelle Moss, Anne Rowe, Karen Taylor

DPS Staff: JT Allen, Trena Deane, Benita Duran, Brian Eschbacher, David Hart, Dustin Kress, Will Lee-Ashley, David Suppes, Antwan Wilson

Agenda:

- FNE Capacity Needs and Proposed Solutions
- SW Capacity Needs and Proposed Solutions
- Discussion of Committee Roles and Responsibilities and 2014 Planning

Meeting Notes:

FNE Capacity Needs and Proposed Solutions – Antwan Wilson, Assistant Superintendent Post-Secondary Readiness; Brian Eschbacher, Director of Planning and Analysis;

Brian provided an overview of growth in the FNE, how it is a combination of residential development and greater capture rates (i.e., as schools in the FNE improve, more FNE residents are choosing to go to school in the FNE). Antwan then described the proposed solution to address unmet Middle School demand by adding capacity to the Montbello campus.

- Roger Kilgore requested description of how the district plans for a ‘bubble’ and take that risk into account. Brian responded that the currently proposed projects are addressing the forecasted regional need through 2018. Additionally, the factors present during the 1970’s that led to a precipitous decline in enrollment are no longer present today (desegregation and busing). Lastly, JT Allen the Director of Facilities, explained how these new projects are being built flexibly where possible, meaning that there are more K-8s and 6-12s that can flex capacity within those schools based on demand.
- Mary Brice asked about separating development population growth from capture increase. Brian explained that with the census, we can accurately gauge how many school age children are in a neighborhood, how many are new and how many are going to a DPS school.
- Several questions regarding the recommendation to relocate the STRIVE middle school that currently shares the Samsonite building with High Tech to the Montbello campus. The driving rationale for this decision is to locate High Tech Early College Middle and High School on the same campus; there would no longer be capacity for STRIVE at this shared Samsonite campus. Note that the new capacity at Montbello will not necessarily be for STRIVE, but that the school leaders will work with district staff to help allocate facility space to best meet student’s needs, such as a new gym and new arts and performance spaces.
- Roger Kilgore asked what other options were considered. DPS evaluated the opportunity to introduce a shared campus at several other facilities in the FNE, but those were not feasible due to land constraints (not enough room on the campus to handle a 400-seat addition) or transportation constraints (i.e., they would be too far away from the neighborhoods of need)

- Question regarding unified district athletic participation vs. participation at school-sponsored athletics. Members will be provided with a report detailing these participation rates

SW Capacity Needs and Proposed Solutions – Brian Eschbacher, Director of Planning and Analysis

Brian provided an overview of the current over-crowding at a number of SW Elementary schools and how DPS has and will continue to address that: through LeDoux Academy, through Godsman Elementary and through a new proposed elementary at 2626 W. Evans

- The schools surrounding 2626 W. Evans are at or over capacity: Gust (119% capacity), Johnson (102%), College View (105%), and Schmitt (97%)
- Michelle Moss asked question regarding development of enrollment zones to ensure new solution addresses capacity constraints. Response that DPS is not planning to redraw boundaries in the area as we feel student choice will address the capacity constraints for the surrounding schools. If after a year DPS sees that certain schools are not seeing class size relief, then we can consider the process of redesigning boundaries. Since redrawing boundaries can be very disruptive to both families and school communities, and since a series of several boundaries would need to be redrawn in this area, the preference is to monitor the choice process results.
- Roger Kilgore asked a question regarding alternatives in the SW: David Suppes responded that we have been evaluating sites for over a year, but that this facility is a clear winner due to its location in the area of need and the cost-effectiveness of a retrofit vs. a new build
- Bev Haddon asked a question regarding how long the proposed solution will address the increasing need; this view of the data is one that staff will try to pull in the future
- Michelle Moss asked a question regarding providing facilities for charter schools. David Suppes explained that DPS has worked with the Board to look at three conditions for providing facility support to charters: clear enrollment capacity constraint, where the school has a track record of high performance and where there is community demand for the specific program.

Funding Recommendations – David Suppes, Chief Operating Officer

David explained that there are two options to fund the FNE and SW solutions in addition to Special Education Center Program Needs: we can either issue the remaining money under the 2012 Bond Authorization or use some of the reserve fund from the 2012 issuance. While construction costs and interest rate increases have remained in line with expectations, the recommendation is to refrain from opening the reserves until we are further into this 4 year process

Upcoming Meetings:

- Committee members had a discussion of the committees role going forward into 2014
- Survey sent out to committee to determine exact timing for upcoming meetings.