

FACT Sheet

SCCS Facilities Planning Committee Recommendation

- **BOE charge to the committee:** use the education plan and assess the facilities for current and future use. The education plan was reviewed the first night.
- **Enrollment Study** reviewed. Committee recommends using the high end estimate over the next ten years that includes spaces to provide support services for 703 students.
- **Grade level configuration** assessed. Recommends continuing to support an elementary, middle and high school with a decision on placement of grade 5 needing more discussion and input.
- **Educational delivery** reviewed with considerations for current instructional practices and vision for future practices as they might influence facilities planning. The education plan can be implemented in existing facilities, will be enhanced with facilities upgrades.
- **Space utilization and programming** for both Poplar Ridge and Emily Howland were assessed. At PR there are seven empty classrooms, the Planetarium is used minimally, and the pool is used approximately 14 out of 40 weeks during the instructional year. At EH the modular classrooms have not been used for daily instruction this year. Good meeting space is lacking at EH and the highest level of the west end of the building is not handicapped accessible. Considerations included tours of both campuses and efficiency of operations.
- **Design Options** were developed and narrowed to four. Two were ruled out using facts from above.
 - Option A – One PreK- 12 campus @ PR with additions (Existing space can be modified, some classroom spaces added to the current MS wing needed, connecting classroom spaces to the Planetarium making the space aidable, making schools within-a-school a priority.)
 - Option B – One PreK- 12 campus @ PR without additions (Ruled out as the program needs for the general population and the needs for special education, support services and technology cannot be met without additions.)
 - Option C – Maintain both buildings and do the work identified on the Five Year Building Conditions Survey that is required for both maintenance, health and safety.
 - Option D – Maintain both buildings and move grade 5 back to EH, the elementary building. (Ruled out as there is insufficient room to add grade 5.)

- **Cost** (estimates) for the two design options were reviewed with educational benefits. Large maintenance type items identified in Five Year Building Conditions Survey need to be addressed routinely through capital projects in order to generate building aid (81.2% for SCCS). Maintenance done outside of a capital project becomes total local responsibility. The EXCEL project addressed some efficiency health and safety needs. Poplar Ridge is decades newer than EH.

Another Five Year Building Conditions Survey is required for SED standards again next year. The SCCS voters approved the establishment of a 1.5 million dollar, five-year capital reserve with authorization to fund up to \$300,000 per year. This reserve is intended for use towards the local share of options under consideration here.

- Option A – One PreK-12 campus @ PR with additions provides increased educational benefit in sharing staff, staff collaboration, auditorium access, pool access and planetarium access. Flexibility is gained in the decision about whether grade 5 could align with elementary again or stay with the middle school. Schools within-the-school model is achieved keeping elementary, middle and high school students separate for as much of the day as is practical and reasonable. There are efficiencies gained in maintenance of square footage inside and outside, but there would be continued costs at EH for minimum heating, insurance, and maintenance until the building is sold or demolished.

The local share for Option A, including borrowing, nets out to be approximately 1% on the tax levy for the years of borrowing.

- Option C – Maintain both buildings that will address the priority needs left on the Five Year Building Conditions survey and provides no educational enhancements. The local share for Option C, including borrowing, would be approximately 2% on the tax levy for the years of borrowing.

- **Recommendation for the Board of Education** – proceed with Option A.

Notes: SCCS Facilities Community Input Survey is available in either hard copy or electronic format. Community members are invited to complete this survey only ONE TIME, either in hard copy or electronic format through a link on the District web page available on June 10. Hard copy submissions should be returned to the District Office by June 19. Electronic copies should be completed no later than June 19.

BOE meeting June 22 will include a presentation of the facilities committee recommendations and a summary of the community input survey. The BOE will likely make a decision with the next steps identified.