

## Summary of January 24, 2019 meeting of the Enrollment and Capacity Management Advisory Committee (ECMAC)

At the January 24 ECMAC meeting, staff shared administration's determination that it is necessary for the committee's work on elementary capacity solutions to shift from a two-stage approach to a single, longer-term solution to capacity concerns at both elementary and secondary levels. Reorienting toward a longer-term solution means that plans to implement elementary boundary changes and building additions in fall 2020 will be wrapped into a more comprehensive solution for phased-in implementation over the next few years.

The factors that contributed to the change in approach are:

- Insufficient time to thoroughly vet and seek community feedback on two short-term solution options prior to recommending a final solution to the superintendent this spring in order to meet construction deadlines. Meeting this timeline is simply not feasible.
- Feedback from some ECMAC members who questioned the wisdom of a two-stage approach (short-term focused on elementary, followed by longer-term focused on high schools) vs. one single comprehensive solution.
- Staff concerns that while the capacity calculations are clear, accurate and compelling, the negative impact on children is hard to quantify because staff are effectively managing the over-capacity conditions at each school. It's therefore challenging—at least at this time—to present a compelling case to parents for a disruptive boundary change.
- Staff concerns that the disruption caused by short-term action on boundary changes and building additions could have a long-term negative impact on future requests requiring voter approval.

Staff shared the above thinking with the rest of the ECMAC committee and received feedback that raised several strong concerns:

- Concern about whether all community voices have equal weight; some members wondered if the district is reacting to a small number of voices in an area likely to be affected by an elementary boundary change where families have more resources to resist change.
- Concern that this updated thinking about a long-term approach was a surprise to members; some wondered why this information wasn't discussed earlier.
- Concern that staff were taking political matters (future financial elections) into consideration, when prior discussions had focused only on capacity calculations and impact on buildings.
- Concern that the revised approach essentially abandons a short-term funding option (lease levy) that would have paid for two building additions without requiring voter approval.

Committee members were invited to indicate their support for either:

- continuing with a two-stage plan involving elementary boundary changes and building additions in the short term (which would be followed by a request for requesting voter approval of a bond referendum in fall 2020 to build additional facility space), or
- refocusing attention to a single, comprehensive approach over the next few years to address attendance boundaries and facilities space at the elementary and secondary levels, which would also require a bond referendum.

Each approach drew approximately equal amounts of support. Some committee members felt that staff responses weighted the longer-term comprehensive approach more heavily, while community members were more supportive of the two-stage approach.

Because staff believes the short-term approach (vetting two potential solutions and getting sufficient community feedback on each by spring 2019) is simply not possible, the committee's work will continue but will be oriented to the longer-term comprehensive approach.

As noted in the committee charge and reviewed at new member orientation, ECMAC's work is advisory to administration versus being in a decision-making role. At the same time, staff recognizes and sincerely regrets that for some committee members, trust has been damaged by staff's determination that it is necessary to shift from short-term planning to a longer-term approach.