



Blue Valley Schools
2018 Facility Planning Committee
Meeting Notes

Meeting 1: October 23, 2018

The first meeting of the Facility Planning Committee (FPC) began with a review of the key documents that guide the committee’s process and methods of evaluation, along with the current utilization of district schools. This was followed by a brief overview of current development trends. The main focus of the development trends discussion was the reduced rate of single-family housing construction.

The main task of the FPC at this meeting was to review the projections for each school, and determine whether it was a “Category 1” (in need of further review) or “Category 2” (no review needed) school. For those schools that were flagged for further review, specific questions were noted so staff could conduct research and provide analysis to be reviewed at the next meeting. In all, ten schools were listed in this category. At the completion of the exercise, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting 2: October 30, 2018

The FPC picked up the conversation where it left off at the end of the previous meeting, beginning with a brief review of development data that was used to inform the current projections. This was followed by a school-by-school discussion of those buildings that had been identified as “Category 1,” or needing further inspection. Those schools, and a summary of the committee’s consensus is as follows:

Cedar Hills Elementary

The enrollment at Cedar Hills Elementary has exceeded its capacity for a few years. **The consensus of the FPC has been, and continues to be that a boundary change was not necessary**, as the enrollment was expected to subside as the school’s newer neighborhoods fell into their “true enrollment” number. This strategy has proven to be a good one, as the projected numbers for Cedar Hills are expected to continue to drop over the 5-year projection period.

Wolf Springs Elementary

It is clear that Wolf Springs will need enrollment relief in the near future. Current mid-range projections suggest the school will exceed its capacity by 2021. There was some discussion that the relocation of programs currently within the school (Early Childhood) could increase their capacity for K-5 students and push the date of exceeded capacity to 2022, but ultimately relief should come from the opening of Blue Valley’s next elementary school, ES24. **The FPC recommended that ES24 be included in the next bond issue.**

Aubry Bend Middle School

Aubry Bend is expected to exceed its capacity during the projection period. The phased boundary change that was implemented a few years ago between Aubry Bend and Blue Valley Middle was helpful in slowing the influx of students from new subdivisions, but more development activity on the west side of the district has resulted in Aubry Bend growing slightly faster than previously projected, while Blue Valley Middle is growing but at a slower rate. Like Wolf Springs Elementary, enrollment pressure is expected to exceed capacity by 2022. **Based on the projected enrollment growth in this area, the FPC recommended that MS11 be considered in the next bond issue.**

Blue Valley High School

The capacity and enrollment at Blue Valley High has been the subject of discussion for several years. Currently the projections suggest that the school will soon hit a peak enrollment and then begin to draw down slowly, but that it will remain above capacity for the duration of the 5-year projection period. It was noted that if one counts the 10 mobile classrooms in the school's capacity, it drops from about 120% utilization down to approximately 102% utilization. It was also noted that if necessary the school could be closed to incoming transfers, which would have a moderate effect on their enrollment of about 20 fewer students in the first year, and approximately 80 fewer students by the fourth year. **There is no recommendation for immediate changes, and the FPC expects to continue monitoring the enrollment.**

Prairie Star Elementary

Prairie Star has been declining moderately, but projections suggest that this will begin to turn around. A few subdivisions are still producing new homes, and they are not major contributors. Two years of small Kindergarten classes have caused the drop, but this year showed a rebound. **No changes are recommended at this time.**

Stilwell Elementary

Last year it was observed that Stilwell's anticipated rate of student enrollment growth would be similar to Wolf Springs'. As the development on the east side has been slower to materialize than that on the west side, Stilwell is growing but not expected to exceed capacity during the five-year projection period. **The FPC will continue to monitor this for any changes.**

Sunset Ridge Elementary

Sunset Ridge has been declining in enrollment and that is expected to continue for the next couple of years before leveling off in about 2022. This school relies entirely on the turnover of established single-family subdivisions. **The FPC is not recommending any immediate changes, and notes that the change could provide needed space for district programs.**

Prairie Star Middle School

Prairie Star Middle is somewhat underutilized as a facility and has been declining in enrollment. Projections do not show this rebounding quickly, but the presence of an emerging subdivision means that there is a chance for their enrollment to exceed what are currently low expectations for the pace of new home building. **The FPC recommends that this enrollment continue to be monitored, but no changes are proposed.**

Lakewood Middle School

This school is expected to continue a moderate decline in enrollment. It hovers just under the target utilization range (75%). A slight positive turn in attendance area retention rates (turnover of existing homes bringing new students) could change this. **The FPC recommends no changes at this time.**

Blue Valley Southwest High School

Blue Valley Southwest has a great deal of capacity and is not expected to grow considerably in the next five years. The FPC noted that the capacity at this school could play a role in future decisions to bring enrollment relief to Aubry Bend, Southwest's lone feeder middle school. **The FPC recommends no changes at this time.**

Oxford Estates Request

The FPC also reviewed a request by a group of four families within the Oxford Estates neighborhood to consider reassigning those 24 homes from Timber Creek Elementary to Morse Elementary. It was agreed that Blue Valley staff would study the impact and engage with the residents before any recommendations would be made to the Board of Education.

Conclusion

At the end of the October 30th meeting, the FPC determined that the necessary evaluation for this year had been completed and no further meetings are necessary. Ultimately there were no recommended changes to the current configuration of schools and boundaries. Several facilities, as noted above, are expected to be part of future discussions.
