



JCPS Board of Education and Jackson County Board of Commissioners Joint Meeting

Fairview Elementary School
February 8, 2024

Meeting Agenda



**JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND
JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

February 8, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
Fairview Elementary School
Media Center

Joint Meeting/Work Session – JCPS School Operations

AGENDA

- I. JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**
 - A. Call to Order – Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson
 - B. Approve Agenda – Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson
 - C. Pledge of Allegiance – Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

- II. JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
 - A. Call to Order – Mr. Mark Letson, Board Chairman
 - B. Approve Agenda – Mr. Mark Letson, Board Chairman

- III. PRESENTATION**
 - A. Introductions – Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent
 - B. Priority List of Capital Projects and Presentation
 - C. Presentation from Architect (Chad Roberson, ClarkNexsen)
 - D. Discussion, Questions and Comments

Announcements:

No Action Will Be Taken in Open Session

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is February 27, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at Board of Education Administrative Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC.

- IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Operations Budget Information



What is the total operations budget for JCPS ?
\$9,417,613

Who provides this money—funding source?
**Jackson County and the Board of
Commissioners**

What is the most costly item that we expend
money?
Salaries

Capital Budget Information

What is the total capital budget for JCPS ?

\$1,585,700

By Category:

- Capital Outlay- \$335,000
- C.O. Preventative Maintenance-\$ 375,000
- Capital Outlay Technology- \$400,000
- Capital Outlay One to One- \$320,700
- Capital Outlay Security-\$25,000
- Capital Outlay Masterplan \$130,000

Who provides this money—funding source?

Jackson County and the Board of
Commissioners

What is the single most costly item that we
expend money on for capital?

One-to-One devices

Priorities and Discussion

The JCPS Board of Education members created an updated priority list last winter.

1. Cafeteria and Classrooms at Fairview
2. Traditional Middle School
3. ADA Upgrades/Concession Stand at SMHS stadium
4. Track on Jones Street Property
5. New Bus garage on current site
6. Erosion Control at Scotts Creek*
7. Blue Ridge Gym with Performance Space
8. Softball Field Upgrades at Webster*

*These projects could be removed from the priority list if a traditional middle school became a reality.

Jackson County Requested Information



After the joint meeting on January 31, 2023 and my follow up meeting with County Manager Don Adams, a letter of requested information was provided to JCPS.

The following briefly summarizes the requested next steps:

1. Put together a comprehensive student (ADM) count / projection analysis report.
2. Create a new athletic field master plan for the Smoky Mountain High School campus.
3. Put together a more comprehensive justification proposal for the Fairview Elementary project. This should take into consideration the middle school discussions.
4. Put together a more comprehensive plan regarding the middle school project.

JCPS Current and Past Enrollment Information

School	Enrollment 2019-2020	Enrollment 2020-2021	Enrollment 2021-2022	Enrollment 2022-2023	Enrollment 2023-2024
Blue Ridge School	171	158	153	172	153
Blue Ridge Early College	159	133	130	131	135
Cullowhee Valley School	588	619	614	616	609
Fairview School	805	761	728	762	780
Jackson County Early College	122	117	100	101	109
Jackson Community School	79	70	80	73	68
Scotts Creek School	506	492	457	452	441
Smokey Mountain Elementary School	311	325	364	350	354
Smoky Mountain High School	894	896	883	899	898
JCPS District Total	3635	3571	3509	3556	3547

JCPS Projected Enrollment Information

School	Projection 2024-2025	Projection 2025-2026	Projection 2026-2027	Projection 2027-2028	Projection 2028-2029
Blue Ridge School	147	145	149	154	155
Blue Ridge Early College	132	130	135	133	137
Cullowhee Valley School	620	612	622	635	639
Fairview School	775	763	763	769	770
Jackson County Early College	117	120	125	125	125
Jackson Community School	70	72	74	76	78
Scotts Creek School	439	441	446	439	434
Smokey Mountain Elementary School	344	349	352	348	360
Smoky Mountain High School	928	948	950	952	960
JCPS District Total	3572	3580	3616	3631	3658

Priority #1:

Cafeteria and Classrooms at Fairview School

Fairview's cafeteria is undersized and underequipped. Access to the cafeteria is problematic.

- Students who have mobility challenges cannot navigate the stairwell.
- Those who are unable to use the stairwell, must exit outside and navigate the steep ramp outdoors in the elements (rain, snow, cold temps)



Priority #1:

Cafeteria and Classrooms at Fairview School (cont.)

- Fairview's cafeteria serves the whole school population of 795 students.
- The cafeteria can currently only seat 300 students at any given time.



Priority #2:

Traditional Middle School

Across the district (excluding Blue Ridge grades 6-8), there are 698 middle grades students.

- FVS 265
- CVS 187
- SMES 112
- SCS 134

Without a traditional middle school, students lack opportunities in academics, the arts, Career and Technical Education and athletics. The equitable access to these offerings is marked differently across the district's current middle grades at the elementary schools.

Priority #2:

Traditional Middle School

What can a traditional middle school offer?

- Advanced Coursework
 - Because of the size of our smaller PK-8 schools, many of our 7th/8th grade students do not have access to the high school course Math I (formerly known as Algebra I) and other high school courses allowable in middle school. These include Eng I, Earth Science and World History. A middle school would allow access to higher level coursework for all.
 - AIG is different in each school as well. A middle school would help remedy this to provide differentiated and accelerated learning opportunities across multiple subjects.
- Students with Disabilities/Students at risk
 - Currently, our students with disabilities and our students at risk are spread throughout the district. This means that our resources for these students are also spread throughout the district. A middle school option would place all these resources in one place in order to help students achieve IEP goals as well as provide options for students who are at-risk.
 - JCS middle grades students in the behavior class do not have access to their grade level peers and are isolated from all middle school peers and coursework opportunities.
- Access to Career and Technical Options
 - We have four middle schools that have a different CTE structure. Three schools have STEM CTE coursework and the other had an agriculture program until December 2023. This disbursement of offerings doesn't provide student choice and exploration opportunities.
 - New state requirements for computer science in middle school limits opportunities for offerings. We may lose other program areas such as agriculture and business marketing.

Priority #2:

Traditional Middle School

What can a traditional middle school offer? (cont.)



- Access to Arts (visual, performing arts, band)
 - We have had successful programs in band at FES and at CVS. We have growing band programs at SMES and SC.
 - Currently, some PK-8 schools have performing arts programs in theater and some do not.
 - Music teachers prepare lessons for kindergarten through 8th grade. There is not a lot of concentration on one area or grade level. This is a great deal of planning for teachers and often results in little extra time for teachers for advanced choral or music productions.
- Teacher Collaboration
 - Throughout John Hattie's research, every new study lists "collective teacher efficacy" as the single most important determinant of student achievement. Collective teacher efficacy refers to the idea that when teachers collaborate, work together collectively, co-plan, and approach problem-solving within a team environment, students perform better.
 - Our PK-8 schools middle grade teachers in each content area do not have a "same-grade, same-content" team member to collaborate with. If a certain teacher teaches 8th grade Science at FES, then he/she is the only 8th grade science teacher at FES.

Priority #2:

Traditional Middle School

What can a traditional middle school offer? (cont.)

- Student Transitions
 - Currently, the only transition that our students have after entering kindergarten is that of leaving 8th grade and going to high school. This has always left our students as having a harder time than most other districts having a middle school. A middle school would expose our students to additional peers, support, and other adults that would be specially trained to work with those students.
- Staff Training/Expertise

Considering that our support staff, administrators, and many other professionals in our buildings cater to students from ages 3-14, they have to know and be equipped with so much. Consider the following:

 - School Counselors counsel 3 to 14 year olds.
 - Media coordinators equip libraries and create lessons for students ages 3 to 14. They plan for 10 grade levels.
 - Social workers work with families of 3-14 year olds. Considering the developmental needs of families across the developmental ages, this is a strain.
 - Art and music teachers plan for 10 grade levels each week!
 - Health/PE teachers plan and integrate lessons for K-8th grade.
 - Administrators, lead teachers, and assistant principals have to know 10 grade levels of curriculum to include at least 50 different sets of standards across all curriculum levels.
 - The creation of a traditional middle school would help BOTH our elementary and middle school staff to become experts in their field and not be stretched among the unique developmental levels of all students.

Priority #2:

Traditional Middle School

What can a traditional middle school offer? (cont.)

- Athletics would be a huge, positive extracurricular for our middle school students. Currently, district team student-athletes have to travel to be part of these teams.
- Other extracurricular activities such as robotics could provide opportunities that all elementary schools don't currently have.



What happens with vacated school spaces?

Pulling middle grades students out of elementary schools will create space availability for other opportunities. The potential for these vacated spaces at elementary schools after the opening of a traditional new middle school includes:

- At Fairview, the kindergarten building could become a full childcare and preschool wing. This would be 6 classrooms. Currently, there are two preschool and four kindergarten classrooms in the building.
- Also at Fairview, pods could be remodeled to be appropriately-sized classrooms. This would decrease the current “amount of classrooms spaces.”
- Empty middle grades spaces at all schools would allow for creation of career exploration spaces as early as 4th and 5th grade.
- True science labs can be created, especially for 5th grade which is an EOG tested area.

Discussion, Questions and Comments



What's next.....

ClarkNexsen presentation (next) will address other requested pieces of information.