

The Board Brief

This edition of *The Board Brief* is a summary of the information presented at the Board of Education's Work Session on November 9, 2017.

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Information

Board Receives Information on Five-Year Facilities Process

On Thursday, November 9, Board members held a Board Work Session to discuss the long-term facilities plan for the District. The information presented included data related to student enrollment, building utilization, facility age, facility condition and operational data.

To view the PowerPoint presentation shared with Board members, [click here](#).

Following the presentation by Executive Director of Capital Programs Jason Daniel, Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones highlighted some of his concerns based on the data presented. These concerns are listed below.

- Excess classroom capacity at the elementary level. Georgia Department of Education projections indicate a surplus of 91 elementary classrooms, equating to an 11 percent surplus of elementary classrooms.
- Building utilization under 70 percent and 50 percent. Schools with building utilization under 70 percent include Brookdale, Riley, Williams, Ingram-Pye and Union Elementary, Appling Middle, and Northeast and Southwest High. Middle and high school utilization will be greatly improved with the construction of the new Northeast High / Appling Middle project, and the relocation of the GNETS program to Southwest High will result in a better utilized facility at Southwest.
- Which schools students will leave to attend charter schools.
- Schools not meeting SWSS targets in their contract (2016-2021).
- Cost to operate schools that exceed \$8,000 per FTE. Schools exceeding \$8,000 per FTE based on estimates include Brookdale and Williams Elementary.

Based on the data, the Superintendent highlighted the following options as potential considerations for the Board to review:

- Maintaining the current status of operations with District facilities;
- Merging Riley Elementary into bordering schools; and
- The consolidation of Williams Elementary into Brookdale Elementary.

Board members then discussed the options and various alternatives. A community information session will be held on Tuesday, November 28, in order for the information to be presented to stakeholders. Stakeholders also will have an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns during this meeting. The meeting will be 6-7 p.m. at Vineville Academy of the Arts.

The timeline for the process of renewing the long-term facilities plan is below.

- August 18, 2017: Classroom inventory completed for the District.
- October 1, 2017: Cost estimates completed for the recommended renovation, modifications and additions for each facility.
- October 19-31, 2017: Facility organization strategy developed with recommendations related to new schools, additions, zoning or consolidation.
- November 9, 2017: Work Session conducted with Board members to review a draft version of the local facilities plan.
- November 28, 2017: Hold a community information session to update stakeholders on the long-range facilities plan process. The session will be held 6-7 p.m. at Southwest High School, 1775 Williamson Road, Macon.
- December 2017: Request the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) survey team to visit the District, review proposed plan, and validate as required by Georgia Law.
- December 2017: Local Board votes to adopt validated local facilities plan. This will occur in January if the December schedule does not allow for time.
- January 2018: Submit plan to GaDOE for final approval.