



State College Area School District

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To: Curtis Johnson
From: Danielle Yoder and Randy Brown
Subject: Facility and Attendance Boundary Analysis
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Since the [June 5, 2023 Board meeting](#), the administration and Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates Architects (CRA) have continued our facility capacity and attendance boundary analysis. As discussed previously, this study has been largely driven by the increased enrollment at Mount Nittany Elementary over the past several years.

Projections

CRA has provided an updated enrollment projection which is compared to those prepared by Decision Insite in the attached presentation. The projections predict ample space for student enrollments in all buildings with the exception of the Mount Nittany Elementary School as has been the case. The projections consider recent enrollment trends and expected new residential housing development scheduled to occur in the next several years.

Available capacity in all elementary schools has been updated to reflect the classrooms for regular education. As we have discussed, over the last several years, the number of instructional support spaces for gifted, Title, special education, ESL, MTSS and the additional special STEM. The increased demand for these spaces continue to constrain the available spaces for classrooms.

Notes related to the enrollment projections for each attendance area include:

- Enrollment projections have been updated to reflect the recent action by the Ferguson Township supervisors to not approve the Pine Hall residential plan.
- The timeline for the residential development of the Toftrees West project has not been confirmed, therefore was not included in the enrollment projections.
- Corl St. currently houses HEARTS and preschool, which decreases available capacity.
- Easterly Parkway's location in the Borough of State College does not lend to increased enrollment growth due to residential development. Trends turning rental units away from university student housing could lead to an increase in student enrollment. If the multiple disability classroom is moved to MNE, classroom capacity would increase.

- Gray's Woods new residential housing hasn't generated elementary students as new residents don't have children or homes are used for partial residency. Also, Halfmoon Township supervisors have focused on slowing growth in the township through density restrictions and limits on sewer service.
- Radio Park currently utilizes all classrooms. A portion of those classrooms are occupied by district-wide programs which could be relocated for additional capacity. Neighboring Corl St. and Park Forest also provide potential capacity in the event of Radio Park growth.
- Spring Creek enrollment has grown higher than expected since the new building opened resulting from new workforce housing and families moving into attractive priced homes.

Recommendation

The administration recommends a potential project at MNE to include the following:

1. Construction of six regular education classrooms in addition to multiple small group instruction rooms
2. Relocate multiple disability classroom from Easterly Parkway along with establishing a sensory classroom to also support the autistic services located at MNE
3. Establish a separate gymnasium and cafeteria through construction along with a possible new kitchen
4. Establish an instrumental music classroom

This recommendation would not only alleviate space issues at MNE, but also serve as a potential solution should capacity become insufficient at neighboring Easterly Parkway and Spring Creek.

The administration recommends appointing CRA as architect for the project. This relates to their experience and knowledge of school district buildings, especially the high school, Delta, Radio Park, Spring Creek and Corl St projects. The administration has benefited from excellent working relationships. By appointing CRA to this project, this project would start almost immediately after the appointment.

The Board and community, including stakeholders, would have an opportunity to provide input into the design through a process comparable to our previous elementary projects. CRA will provide an introduction to a project design. The Board would formally approve the final design prior to taking the project to bid.

Future presentations and discussion with the Board, staff and the community includes:

- August 21 Board discussion and potential authorization of administration
- August/September opportunities for staff and community input
- September 18 approval by Board for design development of additions and renovations project at MNE

Process

The design process is estimated to require one year with the administration, Board and community. Once a design is approved, estimated construction could take one year based upon estimates from the project components suggested at this time.

CRA representatives will be present to discuss their work and findings as well as interest and ability to join the district in this project.

Related Project

As has been discussed, a district-wide facility master plan (DWFMP) process will be recommended to begin this fall in order to plan for, among other things, a project for the Park Forest Middle School. During the DWFMP process, district-wide enrollment projections will be updated again allowing for further analysis of the elementary enrollment and facilities. The DWFMP process will be discussed at the August 21 board meeting.