



Elementary Facility Plan Citizen Task Force Outcomes from Meeting 5 – September 25, 2024

39 Task Force members in attendance

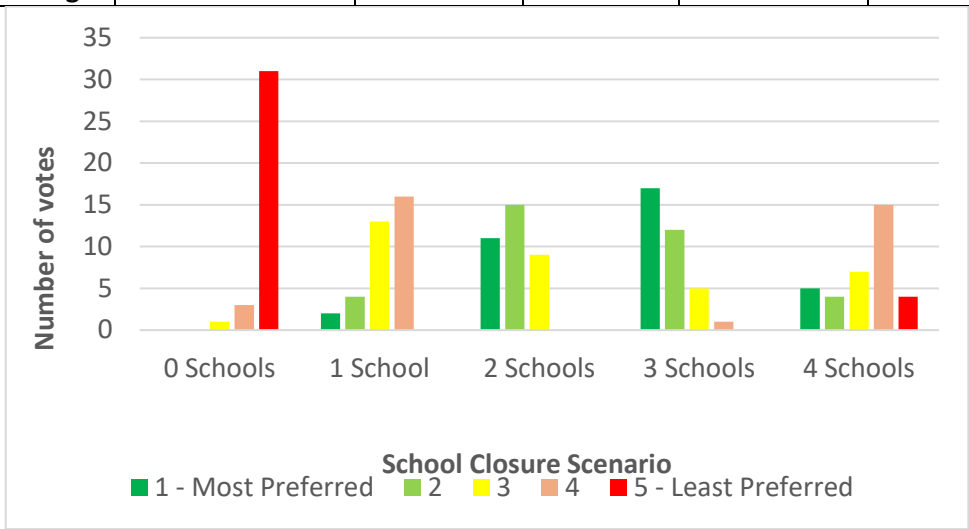
Planning/Facilitation consultants in attendance: Mark Roffers and Nick Johnson

District staff in attendance: Diana White, Coordinator of Communications & Marketing; Joshua Viegut, Assistant Superintendent of Operations; Julie Schell, Director of Elementary Education; Jon Euting, Assistant Superintendent of Academics; Kara Rakowski, 4K Principal and Early Childhood Coordinator; Tabatha Gundrum, Director of Human Services; Ralph Williams, Director of Technology & Media Services

Presentations: Consultants reviewed option elevation criteria, facilitated exercises reported on below including discussing other facility components the Task Force could rank, and presented elementary schools that could be consolidated fully into another school if that was the preferred direction. He noted that such possibilities are limited. Kara Rakowski and Tabatha Gundrum also presented on 4K-based wrap-around care and how it may relate to the Task Force’s charge.

Broad Scenario Ranking Exercise Results: The following are a table and chart summarizing individual responses to a Task Force broad scenario preference ranking exercise. Task Force members were asked to rank the broad elementary school closure scenarios discussed at length at the September 11th meeting, from 1 (“most preferred”) to 5 (“least preferred”). The broad 3-school-closure scenario appeared to be the preference, followed closely by the 2-school-closure. These results reaffirmed the general outcome from the September 11th meeting. There were four ranking exercise forms that were not completed per instructions, so they could not be included in the table and chart below.

Broad Scenario	Number of Task Force Member Votes				
	1 (Most Preferred)	2	3	4	5 (Least Preferred)
0 schools closing	0	0	1	3	31
1 school closing	2	4	13	16	0
2 schools closing	11	15	9	0	0
3 schools closing	17	12	5	1	0
4 schools closing	5	4	7	15	4

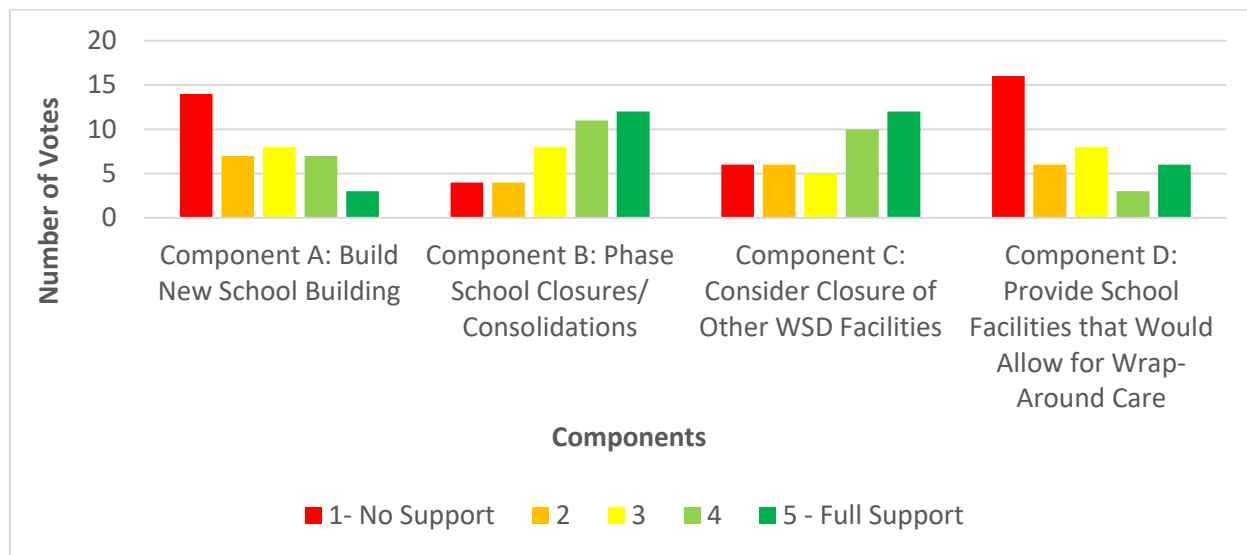




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During the September 11th Task Force meeting, the Task Force was asked to identify other broad components to consider in future facility scenarios. The Task Force identified four facility-focused components, on which individual members could vote their level of support during the September 25th Task Force meeting. Task Force members were asked to assign each component a value of 1 (“no support”) through 5 (“full support”). The following table and chart include all individual votes.

Component	Number of Votes				
	1 (No Support)	2	3	4	5 (Full Support)
Component A: Build a new school building to house students from closed schools	14	7	8	7	3
Component B: Phase the closure/consolidation of elementary schools over a period of years	4	4	8	11	12
Component C: Consider closure/consolidation of other WSD facilities that are not schools (e.g., Longfellow)	6	6	5	10	12
Component D: Provide 4K school facilities that would also allow for wrap-around care	16	6	8	3	6



Most Task Force members expressed support for Component B (phase school closures/consolidations) and Component C (consider closure/consolidation of other non-school WSD facilities), which will be considered in future discussions. The other two components did not receive enough support to be



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included in future discussions, though in response to a question the consultant noted that they could be brought back later if majority agreed.

Small group exercise results: The following table summarizes results of the small group exercise conducted later in the meeting, in which nine small groups of Task Force members placed each of the 13 elementary schools into one of three categories for potential future closure consideration: “candidates”, “question marks”, “unlikelies”. Each “X” in the table below represents the category in which a small group placed that school. The goal of this exercise was to narrow the range of potential schools for at least initial consideration as the fall meetings progress.

There were three elementary schools for which a majority of groups placed them in the “candidates” category: Hewitt-Texas, Grant, and Rib Mountain. All nine small groups placed G.D. Jones, Jefferson, Riverview, South Mountain, and Stettin in the “unlikelies” category. A majority of groups placed Franklin, Hawthorn Hills, Lincoln, and Maine in the “question mark” category.

Elementary School	“Candidate”	“Question Mark”	“Unlikely”
Franklin		XXXXX	XXXX
G.D. Jones (4K)			XXXXXXXXXX
Grant	XXXXXX	XX	X
Hawthorn Hills (4K)	XXX	XXXXX	X
Hewitt-Texas	XXXXXXXXXX	X	
Jefferson (4K)			XXXXXXXXXX
John Marshall	XXX	XXX	XXX
Lincoln	XX	XXXXX	XX
Maine		XXXXX	XXXX
Rib Mountain	XXXXX	XXX	X
Riverview (4K)			XXXXXXXXXX
South Mountain			XXXXXXXXXX
Stettin			XXXXXXXXXX

The following is a complete list of all small group placements of schools, small notes indicating rationale where provided, and potential “landing spots” particularly for students in “candidate” schools (typically indicated by arrows connecting one school to another school(s)).

Group 1:

- Candidates:
 - Hawthorn Hills: saleable property, one way in/out, centrally located on east side for facility splitting up population
 - Arrows drawn to Franklin and to John Marshall
 - Expansion would be necessary at Marshall for 4K, Franklin too
 - Rib Mountain: saleable? (location), older of the two, can split population (like HH) to South Mountain/Jones



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- Arrows drawn to South Mountain and G.D. Jones
- Hewitt-Texas: makes most sense
 - Arrow drawn to Riverview
- Grant
 - Arrows drawn to Lincoln and Jefferson
- Question Marks:
 - Franklin
 - Maine
- Unlikelies:
 - John Marshall (with expansion; need to accommodate 4K!)
 - South Mountain
 - Riverview, with arrow drawn to Franklin
 - G.D. Jones
 - Stettin
 - Jefferson
 - Lincoln

Group 2:

- Candidates:
 - Rib Mountain
 - Hewitt-Texas
- Question Marks:
 - Maine
 - Lincoln
 - John Marshall
 - Hawthorn Hills
- Unlikelies:
 - Grant
 - Jefferson
 - G.D. Jones
 - South Mountain
 - Stettin
 - Franklin
 - Riverview

Group 3:

- Candidates:
 - Hewitt-Texas: 100% to Riverview, arrow to Riverview
 - Grant: split? Lincoln and Jefferson
 - Lincoln: to G.D. Jones, portion of G.D. Jones and Rib Mountain, arrows to G.D. Jones and Rib Mountain



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- Question Marks:
 - More information needed... building costs, replacement expenses, and maintenance for each school
 - Maine (not hooked up to City infrastructure)
 - Franklin
 - Hawthorn Hills
 - John Marshall
- Unlikelies:
 - Rib Mountain
 - Stettin
 - South Mountain (Red Granite)
 - G.D. Jones
 - Jefferson
 - Riverview

Group 4:

- Candidates:
 - Grant: Core, cost, limited
 - Lincoln: limited
 - Hawthorn Hills: no room to expand
 - Longfellow to East
 - Thom Field: additional seating to east and west, both have new fields, don't do East/West games, a lot of cost
- Question Marks:
 - Rib Mountain: potential development
 - Maine: to Jefferson and Stettin; why: operating cost
 - Hewitt-Texas: could students be shifted to lower operating costs? Already lots of bussing
 - Franklin: losing kids and land locked
 - John Marshall: a lot of bussing, location
- Unlikelies:
 - G.D. Jones
 - South Mountain
 - Riverview
 - Stettin
 - Jefferson

Group 5:

- Candidates:
 - Hewitt-Texas
 - Rib Mountain
- Question Marks:



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- Maine
- Lincoln
- Hawthorn
- Grant
- Franklin
- Unlikelies:
 - Stettin
 - Riverview
 - South Mountain
 - G.D. Jones
 - John Marshall
 - Jefferson

Group 6:

- Candidates:
 - Hawthorn Hills
 - Arrows drawn to Franklin and John Marshall
 - Hewitt-Texas
 - Arrows drawn to Franklin and Riverview
- Question Marks:
 - Rib Mountain: increased enrollment
 - Grant
 - Lincoln
- Unlikelies:
 - Franklin
 - John Marshall
 - G.D. Jones
 - South Mountain
 - Jefferson
 - Stettin
 - Riverview
 - Maine

Group 7:

- Candidates:
 - Rib Mountain
 - Arrows drawn to G.D. Jones (4K, AGR, separate gym and cafeteria) and South Mountain
 - Grant (AGR)
 - Hewitt-Texas



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- Arrows drawn to Hawthorn Hills (4K), Riverview (4K, separate gym/cafeteria), and Franklin (AGR, separate gym/cafeteria)
- John Marshall (separate gym and cafeteria)
 - Arrows drawn to Franklin (AGR, separate gym/cafeteria) and Jefferson (4K, AGR, separate gym/cafeteria)
- Question Marks:
 - Hawthorn Hills (4K)
 - Lincoln (AGR)
- Unlikelies:
 - South Mountain
 - G.D. Jones (4K, AGR, separate gym/cafeteria)
 - Maine
 - Stettin (separate gym/cafeteria)
 - Riverview (4K, separate gym/cafeteria)
 - Franklin (AGR, separate gym/cafeteria)
 - Jefferson (4K, AGR, separate gym/cafeteria)
- Note: more cohesive district, no river, river not a barrier to attendance. Completely redo boundaries.

Group 8:

- Candidates:
 - Hewitt-Texas (E): 1
 - Arrow drawn to Riverview (4K, E)
 - Rib Mountain (W): 2/3
 - Arrows drawn to South Mountain (W), G. D. Jones (W), and Stettin (W)
 - Grant (W): 2/3 AGR & Title 1
 - Arrows drawn to Jefferson (AGR, T1, 4K, W) and Lincoln (AGR, T1, W)
 - John Marshall (E): 4, Title 1
 - Arrows drawn to Franklin (E, AGR, T1) and Hawthorn Hills (E, AGR, T1, 4K0)
- Question Marks: None
- Unlikelies:
 - Franklin (E, AGR, T1)
 - Arrow drawn to Hawthorn Hills, flow to each other
 - Hawthorn Hills (E, AGR, T1, 4K)
 - Arrow drawn to Franklin, flow to each other
 - South Mountain (W)
 - Stettin (W)
 - G.D. Jones (W, AGR, T1, 4K)
 - Riverview (E, 4K)
 - Jefferson (W, AGR, T1, 4K)
 - Lincoln (W, AGR, T1)



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- Maine (W)
- Keep 4Ks where they are to save money

Group 9:

- Candidates:
 - Hewitt-Texas: move Red Granite, move to Riverview
 - John Marshall: Hawthorn Hills, excess/overflow to Franklin
 - Grant: AGR, move to Lincoln and Jefferson
 - Thom Field
 - Longfellow Admin: potentially moving to East, shows community that admin is a part of the solution
 - All at once, no phasing
- Question Marks:
 - Hawthorn Hills: AGR, flooding, rock based, difficult to expand
 - Franklin: AGR
 - Lincoln: AGR
 - Rib Mountain: expanding area
- Unlikelies:
 - Stettin
 - South Mountain: expanding area
 - Maine: student already travel over 30-45 minutes
 - Riverview
 - Jefferson: AGR
 - G.D. Jones: AGR

Other meeting comments provided in large group setting and in “parking lot” during meeting:

- Do we have behavior data for each elementary school?

Individual member written meeting evaluation responses (following meeting):

1. What do you think went well at this meeting?
 - Organized, well thought out reasons for choices, no one got nasty
 - Group break out session
 - Like democratic vote
 - Good discussion, informative
 - The reporting results
 - Move quickly to group work
 - Small group time
 - Group meeting
 - I like the organization of how we made candidates/questions/unlikelies
 - Voting and post it note charts
 - Keeping the discussion focused



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- Good process for looking at potential closings. It was all well-done!
- The new location is a better fit for a group this size. This meeting felt the most productive. I appreciate the vote with immediate results.
- We took some things off the table – success!
- The small group time and getting to more concrete decisions
- I like the voting
- I really appreciated the voting. I think you get the most honest and reliable feedback that way.
- I liked having more discussion

2. What could have gone better? How?

- More time in breakout
- Less talk about 4K
- Too much time off task on non-charge topics
- Small group time too short. Also very hard to write choices without having maintenance costs. Some may see these options and assume they will stay. The questions at the end were the best part.
- Needed, but we spent too much time on wrap-around discussion.
- I think it went well
- Lost time discussion 4K wrap around care. Talking at 1 grade compared to 6 others with too much focus. I appreciate your democratic way to shut it down though.
- Stay on task, one person utilizing the time

3. Any questions we can answer before or at the next meeting?

- I had the thought a few weeks ago – if you were to look at the WSD area, population, and projections, where would you recommend elementary schools be placed? Just curious to see what that would look like overlaid our current footprint.
- Feasibility of building on/construction on current sites.
- Remove 4K from the ongoing conversation
- How is marketing handled? Do we assume parents will send their kids? What makes each school special? Hard marketing? Comparisons?
- Do we have statistics for which neighborhood schools already have left the district %? And how much we think that we may lose.
- Feedback from Board about questions related to 4K may speed that lingering question along
- This is a heavy Euro-American group. It's wise to ask questions with that in mind.
- Are we going to finalize our decision on 2 or 3 schools? Feels like we are dragging it out.
- Do the teachers and administrative staff have opinions on the changes? They should add any opinions on potential changes. They will have to live with the changes.
- The childcare/wrap around care issue is huge. But I think this is a topic for another group.



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- Our group didn't name one for Marshall, Hawthorn, Franklin, but 1 needs to close. I strongly believe 2 on east side need to be on the list.
- Voting vs calling consensus. It's nice to have time to digest the information between meetings. Like the voting method!
- Personally I prefer consensus decision-making. However, I think the numbers are preferable for school board decision-making/sharing.
- With Hewitt-Texas, is it true that the school was donated by the Kell family? With the plan to keep it as a public school?
- Also, Red Granite Charter School within Hewitt-Texas, how is it sustainable? Currently they have 51 students, 4 teachers, a para, a new position for special ed aide and health aide. Only three students are open enrolled, otherwise they are students within the district or should be within the district. How is this charter school saving us any money?
- Can we get digital files of all the handouts to reduce paper waste?
- Have you talked to DC Everest about their desire to look at combined needs with WSD and DCE SD?
- Who is bussing (which neighborhoods)?
- Building reports of money needed to update
- How much would the addition of a gym or cafeteria cost?
- Why consider wrap around care? Should this fall on the district? Shouldn't this be on the community?