

Meeting: Demographic Trends and Facility Planning Committee Meeting

Date: April 24, 2025

Time: 4:30p.m. – 6:00p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angie Funk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashley O’Brien	<input type="checkbox"/> Caro Johnson*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Koller	<input type="checkbox"/> Kate Day
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Sideri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margot Dahling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Goings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ray French	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Petrie
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Weichelt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yiliu Yang	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Voting Resource Members				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Koller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Nestor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Committee Chair

Notes: The meeting is being recorded for note-taking purposes.

The regular meeting of the Demographic Trends and Facility Planning Committee was called to order by Kim Koller at 4:30p.m. on April 24, 2025. Quorum was met.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes from March 27, 2025, were reviewed.

Katie Sideri made a motion to approve the March 24, 2025, Demo & Trends Committee minutes. The motion was seconded by Ashley O’Brien. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Continue Elementary Discussion

- Kim reminded the committee of their focus on efficiently utilizing district facilities in an era of declining enrollment while maintaining access to equitable programming.
- Kim presented enrollment versus capacity data, highlighting targeted capacity at 80% and explaining implications for various schools.
- Kim shared enrollment projections for elementary, middle, and high schools, indicating stable numbers for elementary and middle schools, and a slight decline for high schools.
- Kim discussed the possibility of moving 5th grade to middle school; Mandy Van Vleet from Teaching and Learning expressed concerns about the capacity to implement such a change given the current programmatic needs.
- Kim and Jeff discussed the potential absorption of Longfellow students into other schools like Flynn and Northwoods, considering the capacity and targeted capacity of surrounding schools.
- Jeff explained the feasibility of housing Montessori at Longfellow, noting that it would require modifications (structural changes to classrooms and updates to facilities) and could potentially accommodate 60 additional students.
- Kim and the committee discussed the possibility of housing both Dual Immersion and Montessori at Longfellow, concluding that it would not be feasible, due to space limitations and the need for significant modifications to accommodate both programs effectively.
- Kim presented data on residential permits in the Longfellow area, showing limited new construction and indicating a small portion of the city’s growth.
- Ryan Weichelt explained the use of geocoded addresses to analyze the distribution of Longfellow students and the potential impact of boundary changes.
- Kim presented the option of repurposing Northstar Middle School into a large elementary school, but the committee ultimately decided not to recommend this option due to the significant impact on other schools.
- Mark Elworthy from Business Services proposed exploring the repurposing of a second elementary school as Montessori 2 and Dual Immersion, considering the capacity and adaptability of various buildings.

Action Items / Next Steps

- **Explore repurposing options:** Explore the feasibility of repurposing a second elementary school as Montessori 2 and Dual Immersion, considering buildings like Northwoods and others that may be more adaptable.
- **Analyze Longfellow absorption:** Analyze the impact of absorbing Longfellow students into other schools, including the potential domino effect on other schools and the capacity to accommodate Dual Immersion students.
- **Evaluate building costs:** Evaluate the costs and benefits of maintaining the current Montessori building versus moving Montessori to a newer building, considering the long-term maintenance costs.
- **Prepare absorption scenarios:** Prepare detailed scenarios for absorbing Longfellow students into other schools, including potential boundary shifts and the impact on receiving schools.
- **Review Dual Immersion placement:** Review the feasibility of placing Dual Immersion students at Northstar or another suitable location to minimize the impact on other schools.

Wrap-up Meeting

- Next meeting May 15, 2025

Ashley O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kim Koller. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:00p.m.