

Meeting: Demographic Trends and Facility Planning Committee Meeting

Date: March 19, 2026

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Location:** Administration Building, Conference Center Room 123C

☒ Angie Funk (joined at 4:48 p.m.)	☒ Ashley O'Brien	☒ Caro Johnson*	☒ Joe Koller	☐ Kate Day
☒ Katie Sideri	☒ Margot Dahling	☒ Jeremy Traynor	☒ Ray French	☐ Ryan Petrie
☐ Ryan Weichelt	☐ Yiliu Yang	☐	☐	☐
Non-Voting Resource Members				
☒ Kim Koller	☒ Jeff Nestor	☐ Mike Johnson	☐	☐

* Committee Chair

The regular meeting of the Demographic Trends and Facility Planning Committee was called to order by Caro Johnson at 4:37 p.m. on March 19, 2026. Quorum was met at 4:48 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes (done once quorum was met)

- The minutes from November 20, 2025, were reviewed.
 - Katie Sideri made a motion to approve the November 20, 2025, Demo & Trends Committee minutes. The motion was seconded by Ashley O'Brien. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Continue Elementary Discussion

- Committee members discussed the Board's directive to expand the Montessori program to a second location, reviewed the tentative multi-year timeline, and examined facility and enrollment data to identify suitable schools for expansion.
- Kim presented updated enrollment and capacity data for elementary schools, highlighting declining enrollment, the impact of special programs on capacity calculations, and the need for a new population study, with committee members raising questions about implications for facility planning.
- Committee members discussed how Montessori expansion charge fits within the broader, multi-phase district planning process for addressing enrollment decline and facility utilization, clarifying that both short-term and long-term planning efforts will proceed in parallel.
- Committee members explored creative approaches to facility utilization, such as repurposing underused classrooms for specialized programs or support spaces and discussed the potential for innovation grants and external funding to support expansion and remodeling.
- Committee members discussed the importance of engaging the community before finalizing recommendations, considering the potential impact of program changes on families, and the need for clear communication about the rationale and benefits of proposed facility and program adjustments.

Updates and Next Steps

- Montessori Expansion Feasibility:** Compile data for five schools (Northwoods, Flynn, Locust Lane, Sam Davey, Longfellow) addressing classroom availability, classroom sizes, potential remodeling needs, and transportation impact for Montessori expansion.
- Montessori Waitlist and Enrollment Analysis:** Gather information on current open enrollment numbers into Montessori, waitlist composition (including neighborhood schools of waitlisted students), and determine if students denied Montessori enrollment leave the District.
- Montessori Classroom Capacity Assessment:** Determine how many students can be accommodated in a Montessori classroom based on available square footage and clarify how many classrooms are needed to serve 150 students.
- Community Support for Montessori:** Investigate whether neighborhood communities would support Montessori expansion and if there is data on families' preferences regarding traditional vs. Montessori schooling.
- Montessori Lottery Impact:** Review the impact of the lottery system on open enrollment and neighborhood students and assess if expanding Montessori would allow more open enrollment students to participate.

- **Montessori Expansion Grants:** Identify available grant funding for Montessori expansion and outline requirements for materials and furniture needed for a new location.
- **School Board Parallel Conversation:** Clarify with Superintendent Johnson the status of the multi-phase approach to address enrollment decline and how it relates to the current Montessori expansion charge.

Wrap-up Meeting

- Next meeting scheduled for April.

Katie Sideri moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ashley O'Brien. All were in favor.
The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.