

Long-Range Planning Committee

August 22, 2023

4:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

ESC Board Room

Attendees: Crysti Copp, Dave Culp, Terry Davis, Brad Leitner, Betty Timmer, Sonja Nix, Jennifer Hicks, Maria Alacron, Jack Reutzel, and Lucie Stanish

Absent: Bob Colwell

Ad hoc attendees: Clay Abla, Shannon Bingham, Amanda Clark, Melissa Cooper, Linda Jones, Diane Leiker, Marcy Phelps, and Mike Porter

Minutes:

1. Welcome and introductions, and approve minutes
 - a. Introductions of community guests attending the meeting.
 - b. Explanation of voting members and district employees present and were reintroduced.
 - c. Minutes approved by committee (motion by Betty; second by Dave).
2. Update on capacity and first week enrollment data
 - a. School capacities based on square footage and class sizes were also discussed, with concerns about class ratios and the availability of three and four-round schools. Capital planning initiatives for the past five years have aimed to achieve high-level service schools with large numbers of kids in three or four-round facilities. The current enrollment and capacity of different schools in the district were reviewed, along with concerns about housing affordability for young families.
 - b. Open enrollment limitation was discussed. It was noted that Lenski has more than Sandburg in open enrollment.
 - i. Members asked for open enrollment numbers to be pulled vs. non-open enrollment.
 - c. Lenski's current capacity has three sections at some grade levels and four at other grade levels, and there is an asterisk on slide 3 for Lenski because that is how they have functioned for years.
 - d. Shannon with Western Demographics acknowledges that expecting a perfect implementation of the desired class ratios is not realistic.
 - e. Shannon is concerned that the price bracket for housing in Littleton's geographic area will make it difficult for young families to qualify for a house in that price range. This is due to the increasing housing market.
3. [Western Demographics](#) - Review proposed elementary scenarios in no particular order of importance
 - a. Option (Robin Slide #7)
 - i. Move the section of 160 (K-5) students (Highland 460) to Sandburg
 - ii. Move the section with 114 (K-5) students from Sandburg to Gaskill and the sections with 73 (K-5) students from Sandburg to Hopkins
 1. Move roughly 160 students to Sandburg and remove about 190 students from Sandburg in order to manage the school's population downward

- iii. Discussion about the grade levels and what the impacts will be for each level for boundaries were discussed
 - b. Option (Starling Slide #8)
 - i. Move the section in the circle of 164 (K-5) students area north of Ford to Sandburg
 - ii. Move the section in the circle with 114 (K-5) students from Sandburg to Gaskill and the sections in the circle with 73 (K-5) students from Sandburg to Hopkins in order to balance the sizes of the schools and increase overall enrollment in the buildings
 - c. Transportation challenges and limitations were discussed for these options; Director Marcy Phelps will pull the number on cost and how many buses would be used
 - d. Keeping neighborhoods together was discussed
- 4. Western Demographics - Review proposed middle school scenarios in no particular order of importance were discussed to address the imbalance between Newton and Powell, with a concern about potential exodus from the area if kids are pulled out from Newton. The demographics of specific student neighborhoods were compared, with a concern about discussing the overall decline in enrollment affecting most schools. The decline in enrollment was mentioned to be a widespread issue, but there is an expectation of future child production in certain neighborhoods.
 - a. Option (Chickadee Slide #11)
 - i. Move the section in the circle with 83 students out of Newton to Powell
 - b. Option (Raven Slide #12)
 - i. Move the section in the circle with 87 students out of Newton to Powell
 - c. Option (Sparrow Slide # 13)
 - i. Move the two sections in the circles with 62 and 87 students out of Newton to Powell.
 - ii. A unanimous vote to remove this option (Sparrow slide 13) stated it took too many students out of Newton. There is concern that pulling that many students from Newton might result in too much exodus from the area.
- 5. Western Demographics – Elementary and Middle School workspace review and live GIS scenario building
 - a. Shannon showed the committee live views of the areas for all options, and he was tasked to color-code the neighborhoods instead of using a circle for the neighborhoods that could move boundaries.
- 6. Consensus process to select final scenarios and final vote for what will be on the boards for town hall community outreach nights
 - a. There is a concern about discussing the overall decline in enrollment and whether it should be mentioned in the meetings. The decline in enrollment is not just specific to LPS, but it is a widespread issue affecting the majority of school districts along the front range.
 - b. Committee agreed to use the Robin and Starling options for elementary schools and the Chickadee and Raven options for middle schools for the community outreach that Shannon, with Western Demographics, presented
 - c. Town hall objectives are to focus on the importance of the long-range planning committee's recommendations during the decision-making process with a focus on concrete numbers and the feedback related to the board's content. However,

there is an emotional aspect to consider, especially for the community members and their children.

- d. The committee tasked Terry and Amanda to work alongside Shannon and the communication team to put together communication and the boards showing the committee's recommended options, LRPC charge, values, and questions for the three community town hall events and provide the drafts of the boards to the committee for approval. Will also gather supplemental information the committee members have requested for those nights and have them review it beforehand for approval.

7. Adjourn