



Harness the Power of a Long-Range Planning Committee to Inform Board Decisions

CASB Conference
Colorado Springs, CO
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LITTLETON
PUBLIC 
SCHOOLS

Who We Are



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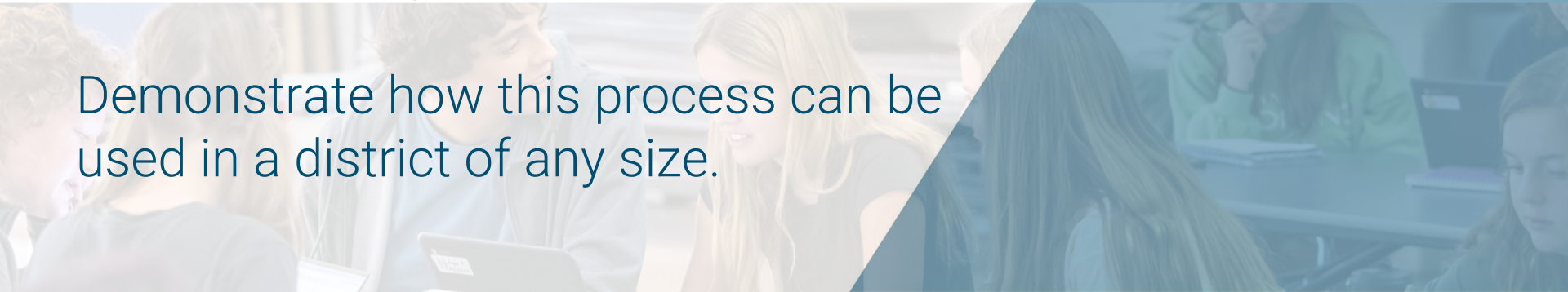


The Long-Range Planning Committee “Think Tank”

Why are we talking about Long-Range Planning Committees?

Share the LPS process.

Demonstrate how this process can be used in a district of any size.



Why would your district want to form a Long-Range Planning Committee?

Involve stakeholders in the process; provide Board with data analysis; help Board make a decision

- Passing bonds/mill levy overrides
- Demographic study
- Changing school start times
- Transportation study and boundaries
- Closing schools
- Meeting changing instructional and programming needs



Characteristics of Successful Long-Range Planning Committees

- Represent all stakeholders
- Long-term commitment - become experts
- Meet regularly or sporadically; depending on the Board's needs
- Receive a specific charge from the Board of Education
- Are provided with the necessary resources to complete the work
- Have a defined and adequate time frame
- Serve in an advisory role - make recommendations to the Board
- Establish norms and protocols - expectations for respectful discourse
- Intentionally practice transparency - all documents, research, data, agendas, minutes, etc. are easily available to the public
- Work with the goal in mind - fulfill the Board's charge

Board Charge

- Needs to be clear and concise
- Includes an adequate time frame
- Needs to specify Board expectations
 - What does the Board need?
 - How much/what kind of data?
 - What kind of community input?



Board's Charge to the LRPC in 2017

The Littleton Public Schools Long-Range Planning Committee will operate under the following charge:

“To review the district physical plant, program capacity, enrollment boundaries, transportation routing, and major capital equipment requirements, and determine what improvements to efficiency, sustainability, and infrastructure needs may be required during the next five to ten years.”

The Long-Range Planning Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Education on capacity needs, attendance boundaries, and facility capital needs through an updated Capital Plan.

Board's Charge to the LRPC in 2023

“To begin a review/study of the LPS projected enrollment numbers and the preliminary demographic study provided by Western Demographics for Newton Middle School, Powell Middle School, and Euclid Middle School catchments and all elementary school catchments east of Broadway (Field, Gaskill, Hopkins, Sandburg, Lenski, Ford). The charge for this blended group is to bring 2–3 recommendations to the Board of Education in October that will better balance (right-size) enrollment at NMS, PMS, and EMS and all elementary schools east of Broadway using the Board’s standards and values when possible in determining school catchments (boundaries) and bus routing. Prior to the Board receiving the recommendations, actual 23/24 enrollment numbers will be reviewed, and a community engagement and input process will occur and be documented. Note: Recommendations could be made for the 24/25 school year or the 25/26 school year.”

Board's Charge to the LRPC in January 2021

“Vet, validate and report to the Board of Education the district leadership recommendations for a third elementary school, and the possibilities of combining elementary schools based on declining student enrollment.”



Who should serve on the Long-Range Planning Committee?

- Representatives from other district Board advisory committees
- Parents (including a representative from charter schools)
- Senior citizens within the community (70% of LPS voters do not have a direct connection to our schools)
- Former Board members
- Local municipalities
- Community members via application process

Have district experts in the room but not on the committee itself to answer questions and provide context

Agenda:

- 4:30-4:35 Welcome and introductions review charge and agenda
- 4:35-4:40 Select a Chair and Co-Chair
- 4:40-4:45 Discuss schedule of meetings and process milestones
- 4:45-5:30 [Western Demographics – Projections / Demographics / Housing Market](#)
- Review/summary of district study and updated conditions after summer
 - Elementary Schools – Focus on Field, Gaskill, Hopkins, Sandburg, Lenski, Ford
 - Middle Schools – Focus on: Newton, Powell, and Euclid Middle
- 5:30-5:45 Enrollment expectations at challenged schools
- 5:45-6:00 Generated scenarios – Elementary and Middle
- 6:00-6:30 Committee evaluation of generated scenarios
- Counter proposals
 - Additional requests for data and additional scenarios
 - Discussion of final evaluation process and potential for recommendations at next meeting
- 6:30-7:00 Next steps
- Community engagement plan update, times for each
 - Potential committee member role in engagement events
- 7:00 Adjourn

Upcoming meetings:

- August 22, 2023
- Tentative, September 5, 2023
- Community Outreach Meeting –Dates, time to be determined
- October 12, 2023 Board of Education Presentation
- October 26, 2023 Board Decision

Set the Committee Up for Success

First meeting:

- Review the Board's charge
- Establish norms
- Set meeting schedule (dates, times, locations, scope of work for each meeting)
- Choose co-chairs

Set the Committee Up for Success

Determine the resources available to the LRPC:

- Staff time
 - Administrative assistant
 - Point person, meeting organizer, data collection, website content
 - Communication, Operations, Finance, and Learning Services
- Contracted services
 - Demographer
 - Survey/pollsters
 - Specialists
- Incidentals
 - Materials
 - Refreshments for volunteers



Set the Committee Up for Success

Determine the data that you will need. Examples:

- Demographic study to determine areas of student growth or decline
- Economic study
- Review of all educational programs in the district
- Current educational program deficiencies
- Vision of the educational programming future for the district
- Service delivery systems –what are the current service delivery system deficiencies and future needs (nutrition, transportation, IT, professional development, operations, central office, etc.)
- Community feedback/surveys/open houses

Timely Communication & Transparency



Be Transparent About the Work

- Create a page on your district website for the LRPC
 - Charge
 - Meeting schedule
 - Meeting agendas, minutes, and summaries
 - All materials, data collections, and studies
- Provide updates through emails, newsletters, updates to the Board
- Superintendent and a Board member can “go on the road” with a presentation to parents, staff, and community members to provide the vision for the future and an update on the LRPC work. Great opportunity for community questions and feedback.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee Charge

The Littleton Public Schools Long-Range Planning Committee will operate under the following charge:

"Move to direct the superintendent to immediately create a committee of senior administrators (e.g., Terry Davis, Melissa Cooper, Mike Porter, Clay Abia, Linda Jones, Marcy Phelps) and Western Demographics, and include 7-8 members of the previous LRPC and/or other community members, to begin a review/study of the LPS projected enrollment numbers and the preliminary demographic study provided by Western Demographics for Newton Middle School, Powell Middle School, and Euclid Middle School catchments and all elementary school catchments east of Broadway (Field, Gaskill, Hopkins, Sandburg, Lenski, Ford). The charge for this blended group is to bring 2-3 recommendations to the Board of Education in October that will better balance (right-size) enrollment at NMS, PMS, and EMS and all elementary schools east of Broadway, using the Board's standards and values when possible in determining school catchments (boundaries) and bus routing. Prior to the Board receiving the recommendations, actual 23/24 enrollment numbers will be reviewed, and a community engagement and input process will occur and be documented. Note: Recommendations could be made for the 24/25 school year or the 25/26 school year."

Community Town Hall Input Sessions

Display Boards (click each to expand)

LITTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOUNDARY IDEAS
DOING WHAT'S BEST FOR ALL LPS STUDENTS

CURRENT ELEMENTARY BOUNDARIES EAST OF BROADWAY

The number of students shown on the elementary boundary idea map represents the number of elementary-age children living in these neighborhoods regardless of whether or not they attend school in LPS.

ROBIN SCENARIO **STARLING SCENARIO**

COMMITTEE VALUES PER ELEMENTARY SCENARIO

	Robin	Starling
Create schools of optimal size	✓	✓
Meet neighborhood requests	✓	✓
Align with business requests	✓	✓
Consider school feeder patterns	✓	✓
Address the community's needs	✓	✓
Substantive balance	✓	✓
Transportation efficiency	✓	✓

LITTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOUNDARY IDEAS
DOING WHAT'S BEST FOR ALL LPS STUDENTS

CURRENT MIDDLE SCHOOL BOUNDARIES EAST OF SANTA FE

The number of students shown on the middle school boundary idea map represents the number of middle school-aged children living in these neighborhoods regardless of whether or not they attend school in LPS.

RAVEN SCENARIO **CHICKADEE SCENARIO**

COMMITTEE VALUES PER MIDDLE SCHOOL SCENARIO

	Raven	Chickadee
Create schools of optimal size	✓	✓
Meet neighborhood requests	✓	✓
Align with business requests	✓	✓
Consider school feeder patterns	✓	✓
Address the community's needs	✓	✓
Substantive balance	✓	✓
Transportation efficiency	✓	✓

LITTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOUNDARY IDEAS
DOING WHAT'S BEST FOR ALL LPS STUDENTS

DECISION TIMELINE

- May 23: Board approves boundary ideas including demographic, Western Demographics, and another school of LRPC to study district data and boundaries
- Aug 15: Board of LRPC and demographics begin studying data and scenarios
- Sept 19-21: LRPC brings potential scenarios to Community Input Sessions for feedback
- Oct 7: LRPC analyzes community feedback and drafts recommendations
- Oct 12: LRPC presents findings and recommendations to board of Education
- Oct 26: Board of Education may make decisions regarding boundaries

SUPPLEMENTAL INFO **SUBMIT FEEDBACK**

THANK YOU!

tinyurl.com/LPS-LongRangePlanning

Fall 2023 Committee Work

The issue of school boundaries and the extensive, thorough work of the Long-Range Planning Committee has been ongoing for several years. The Committee continues to gather data, seek input, and investigate potential solutions to existing boundary challenges while planning for future enrollment fluctuations and population shifts.

Potential school boundary changes are a significant issue for LPS families and the community. Families build powerful bonds with their schools and teachers. Changing boundaries, even on a somewhat small scale, is a big deal.

Where we've been, where we are now, and where we are going

A year ago, the Board of Education charged the Long-Range Planning Committee to "review current elementary school boundaries east of Broadway and consider possible options to alleviate overcrowding at Dr. Justina Ford Elementary School."

Long-Range Planning Committee members met from mid-August through mid-October in 2022. They reviewed Committee values, previous research and data, previous recommendations and Board decisions. They held two community open houses, which were well attended with about 100 community members each night. They reviewed emails, comment cards, and all of the feedback gathered from open house attendees.

They studied the feasibility of community member suggestions, the effects of different possible boundary change scenarios, actual enrollment, class size in elementary schools across the district, the impacts of open enrollment, and square foot per student comparisons.

All of this information was presented to the Board in the Committee's report October 27, 2022.

2023 Meeting Dates

The Board of Education reconvened the LRPC at the Board meeting on May 23, 2023.

Meetings will be held from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the Education Services Center

August 9, 2023	Agenda / Minutes
August 22, 2023	Agenda / Minutes
September 28, 2023-Rescheduled to Monday, October 2, 2023	Agenda / Minutes

For information or other questions about the committee, please contact us:

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2022 Meeting Dates

The Board of Education reconvened the LRPC at the Board meeting on August 11, 2022

Superintendent Roadshow

In 15... 25.... 50 years
What will our legacy
be for future
generations of LPS
families and students?

Colorado's lack of funding
for K-12 education has denied
an entire generation of students
the education they deserve.

If these funding solutions
could be realized,
LET'S IMAGINE
What LPS could do...

- Spring, 2018**
- Staff, parent and community feedback gathered through presentations and surveys
 - Legislative Session continues
 - Long Range Planning Committee continues to study the issues and makes recommendations to the Board of Education

Summer, 2018
Board of Education decides whether or not to put a ballot question before LPS voters

November 2018
Statewide citizens initiative tax increase

Concerns at Newton Middle School:
Failing Foundation (unrecoverable)



Be Transparent About the Work

Gather Community Input

Committee members host community input sessions and invite staff, parents, and taxpayers.

Committee members talk about the work with the community.



Invite people to take an exit survey.

Questions Responses **132** Settings

Boundary Ideas: Doing What's Best for ALL LPS Students - Exit Survey

Thank you for attending the Long-Range Planning Committee's Community Input Session! Your feedback is valuable to the Committee. It's important to remember that the boundary scenarios are possible options only. The Long-Range Planning Committee will take all feedback into account before finalizing its recommendations and presenting them to the Board of Education October 12, 2023.

Gracias por asistir a la Sesión de Opinión del Comité de Planificación a Largo Plazo. Sus contribuciones son valiosas para el Comité. Es importante recordar que los escenarios de límites son sólo posibles opciones. El Comité de Planificación a Largo Plazo tendrá en cuenta todos los comentarios antes de finalizar sus recomendaciones y presentarlas a la Junta de Educación el 12 de octubre de 2023.



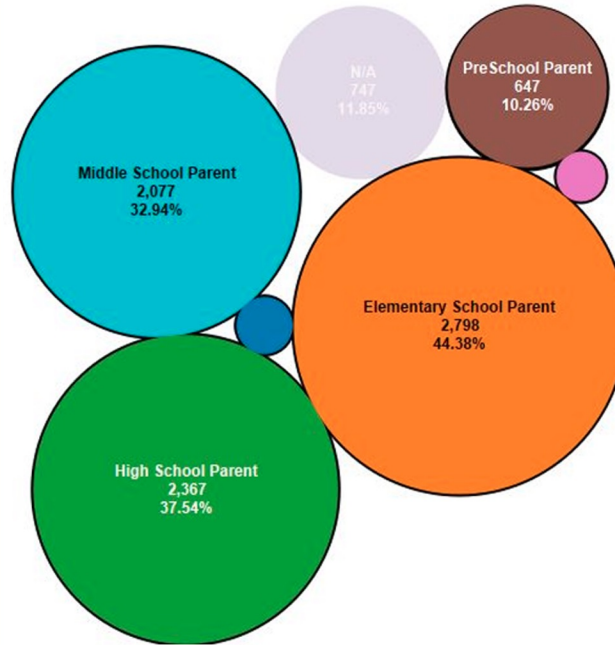
What do the Taxpayers Think?

- Conduct a community survey and present the findings to the LRPC and the Board.
- If testing sample ballot language, hire a pollster. Involve bond counsel and investment banker in crafting the ballot language.

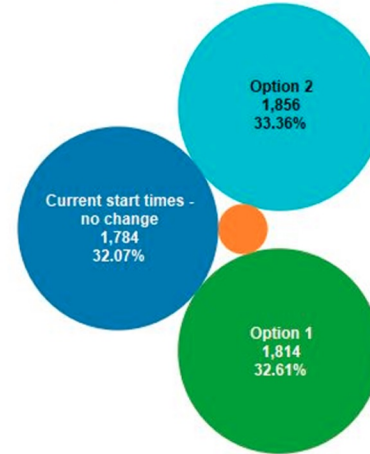


All Parents

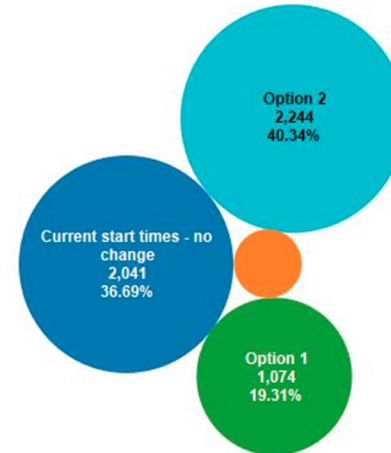
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First Choice



Second Choice



More than 66% of all parents prefer a change to school start times.

Parents who prefer a change are fairly evenly split between Option 1 and Option 2 as their first preference.

Among all parents, first preference for Option 1, Option 2, or No Change are almost the same.

About 40% of parents chose Option 2 as their second preference.

If the LRPC is considering recommending a local election:

Presentation from CFO and investment bankers

- Available resources from general fund, matching BEST grant, or ask voters for bond funding, bond refunding, debt-free schools mill levy, certificate of purchase, or mill levy override.



If the LRPC is considering recommending a local election:

Determine construction packages to fix deficiencies

- Estimate cost of packages from facility condition assessments and future cost of new builds.
- Use current square footage costs and make sure you account for inflation in your estimates.



LRPC Presents Findings to Board

Committee's Recommendations by Rank Order for Elementary Schools

- Data suggests the short-term overcrowding at Ford could be best managed at the district level as it is currently
- Modifying boundaries to move only 40 students out of Ford is disproportionate to the harm done to the impacted school communities and neighborhoods
- If the data projections are right, the district may need to consider boundary changes by 2026

Recommendation #1

Board of Education makes no adjustments to elementary school boundaries at this time

Recommendation #2

Robin

Recommendation #3

Starling

Next Steps

- Board of Education adopts LRPC recommendations
- LRPC members are experts; put them to work on the next steps of recommendation implementation
- Ask them to talk about the work in the community; help sell it



Resources

[Long-Range Planning Committee website](#)

[Capital Needs Assessment Report](#)

[Demographic Study Report](#)

[Bond Financing Models](#)

[Long-Range Planning Committee Master Plan \(report to BOE\)](#)

[LRPC Recommendations to BOE \(Changing School Start Times\)](#)

[LRPC Recommendations to BOE \(boundaries\)](#)

[LRPC Recommendations to BOE \(admin. plan for ele, preschool\)](#)

[Superintendent Roadshow](#)

[Press Release - Board places bond issue on November ballot](#)

Questions?



