

Amendment to motion directing the superintendent to evaluate buildings



From: Director Sherry Carr For introduction June 17, 2009
Date: June 17, 2009 For action June 17, 2009

Proposed Revision to ‘Issue’ statement included in the Board motion (full text including proposed revisions in blue font):

ISSUE

Seattle Public Schools is experiencing enrollment growth in multiple areas of the district, and this growth is projected to continue. While some areas have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional students, other areas have little to no excess capacity. In those areas we must evaluate our existing buildings, even those that are currently closed, as well as other options for increasing capacity.

Options for increasing capacity include adding portables, changing class size, leasing space, opening currently closed buildings, renovating existing open buildings to accommodate more students, and/or building larger replacement buildings for existing buildings. Each of these options are on different timelines—for example, a decision to renovate a building has implications for the upcoming capital levies and is therefore a longer-term decision, while adding portables can occur relatively quickly.

In order to make an informed decision about which option(s) to adopt, significant analysis must be completed. Analysis work includes evaluating current and projected enrollment against our currently open and closed buildings, and against our planning process for the upcoming BTA III and BEX IV levies. We have enrollment projections based on data through the 2008-09 school year, but early 2009-10 information suggests the possibility of a significant increase in enrollment beyond what is already projected. Enrollment data for the 2009-10 year will not be complete until after October 1 (our official student count date); that that point we will have a clearer idea of where the current and future needs are for additional capacity.

It appears clear at this point that additional elementary and middle school capacity will need to be added over the next five years; the evaluation contemplated by this motion will enable a thorough analysis of enrollment (including projected enrollment) in

relationship to capacity. This analysis will identify options to increase capacity that staff can provide to the Board.

It is very likely that this analysis will result in the recommendation to open one or more buildings currently in the district closed building inventory. Closed buildings, including [Wilson-Pacific](#), [John Marshall](#), Old Hay, Sand Point, Viewlands and McDonald Elementary Schools will be analyzed for capacity, timeline and capital costs since there is significant interrelationship between drawing boundary lines for the new student assignment plan and the identification of what specific building(s) should be re-opened.

Proposed Revision to ‘Recommended Motion’ statement included in the Board motion (full text including proposed revisions in blue font):

I move that the Superintendent be directed to evaluate elementary and middle school capacity [across the district](#) and to make recommendations to add capacity, including opening one or more schools (including [at least Wilson-Pacific, John Marshall, Sand Point, McDonald, Viewlands and/or Old Hay](#)) if necessary. [The evaluation of elementary school capacity, including any necessary board action, would be complete in time for dissemination of information prior to open enrollment for 2010—11 school year. The evaluation of middle school and K-8 capacity and facilities, including Jane Addams, will be included in the BEX IV capital program planning. Therefore, there would be no change to the Jane Addams K-8 program prior to completion of BEX IV levy planning in 2013.](#)