

Capacity Management – Building Closure Community Workshop December 4, 2008

Group Report-Out Highlights:

- Take one fte out of each building vs. closing schools
- Idea for additional revenue: charge for busing outside of cluster
- Don't move programs with good academics (RB)
- Combine Garfield with RB and AKI (1/2 to RB; 1/2 to another place)
- APP split should be more geographically diverse
- Help control population of schools by limiting choice
- Gang issues and safety are important
- There should be a preliminary student assignment projection
- Why are there new criteria for this round of closures?
- What are the integration impacts?
- Centrally locate all-city draw schools to save transportation costs
- How does standard curriculum affect alternative schools?
- How, at the end of this process, do we evaluate our goals?
- What are the measures to determine our fiscal health?
- Is there a budget target?
- We would prefer Pathfinder go to Cooper
- Agreement that school closing is not the way to address financial management
- There are hidden costs and students lost
- Programs should be stronger to draw more students
- Washington state is 47 in the nation for funding
- We need to address the state legislature
- Student assignment plans should be addressed clearly
- Divide the city into quadrants with each having a high school, alternative...
- Concerned about the cultural competence of SPS
- Important that we speak to those affected by this
- Would like to see some marketing for our school district
- Concerned that we are pitting ourselves against each other
- When we close schools, match them better to blend students and provide support
- \$3.6MM is a lot of money, but not enough for our pain & suffering
- Community should receive a greater information to give suggestions
- Amount of money seems to be very high – perhaps everybody could have some payment
- Concern over the arrangements of the schools – cultures and racial groups
- Maybe with payment by families, it would help all parents and the district in a cooperative way
- We want the district to clarify its commitment to alternative schools
- Displaced students should have priority in assignment
- Pathfinder should go to the Denny building
- SPS should ensure that non-traditional learners get their needs met
- Are there any other cost-saving measures each school could adopt?
- Summit K-12 seniors should be allowed to stay and graduate
- Preference for registering Van Asselt students to keep them together
- Concern that transportation won't be adequate for Lowell students
- We should consider waiting a year before deciding the fate of Lowell
- We feel we are losing a sense of community
- Bailey Gatzert is a good school, with a good principal
- Ask the district to educate us on how to lobby for more funding
- Hawthorne folks felt that getting access to APP is important if integrated

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- A fully integrated APP and general ed program is important for success
- Guidelines for closure are not adequate for alternative schools
- Alternative schools need to be supported and stronger to draw students
- Assignment/transportation changes need to be seen in action before closures
- Taking away all-city busing will take away students from some schools and we need to see it before school closures
- We should have the right to sit down with other closure schools to identify other solutions
- Criteria of AYP should be applied to all schools
- AAA has a lost cost per student and the building is in good shape
- Reconstitution can be any change
- We need to define equity
- Only Title schools are on the radar
- We should SPS should rethink the split of APP – we don't think the cohort can be sustained in a smaller group
- The students expected to be added in the next 5 years means there will be 16 students added
- We think the district should look at the waiting lists in the area
- Move Nova to Marshall; SBOC belongs in a southern location (like Meany)
- There should be an accounting of programs – we should value programs
- Want to make sure the SE initiative money is not lost – the communities need it
- Don't like to pit one section against another – it was presented in a rush
- If 728 money is lost, it should be shared around the whole district, not one region
- Where there is no school, there are no children
- Keep Lowell together because the building is large and recently renovated – need to know the building score now and re-evaluate
- If Lowell is split, it risks crippling a gifted program
- It's cynical to expect the APP program will lose students
- We could invite another school to join APP at Lowell – possibly Mount Lake
- Lowell is a magnet to draw families out of the North End
- Building score does not include recent improvements
- A split could move to BF Day
- Could move southern students to Hawthorne
- Want locations where APP program could grow
- Would like to understand the plan of the co-location of APP
- Current plan does not address north end issues
- Cost of closing is not addressed in the plan

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- Split Pathfinder into schools throughout West Seattle
- Split Pathfinder into K5 and send to Cooper or West Seattle
- Pathfinder move to West Seattle
- All city draws centrally located – and alternative schools in every cluster
- Define alternative schools better
- Summit and Nova need urban & central access
- Summit, AS1 and Lowell closing/moving will exacerbate North end capacity issues
- Under capacity in south end reflects lack of attractive choices
- Meany – serves important role as comprehensive middle school
- Pathfinder/Arbor Heights – moving to Cooper or Arbor Heights; more room at Cooper b/ not as much of a neighborhood school
- Lowell – BF Day as potential location for north half of Lowell
- Lowell – keep SPED children at Lowell, cost effective, central location
- Close Montlake – send students to Lowell, keep SPED students, move TT Minor students to Lowell as well
- OR keep half of APP, SPED and Montlake at Lowell – move other half to Marshall OR to BF Day
- Question – how to not close schools?
- Make students #1 criteria
- Not enough time for feedback
- Address Student Assignment before closure
- Don't use WASL to address success of programs
- Don't close AAA (performance has been 'misrepresented')
- Bring Meany to AAA
- Arbor Hts – neighborhood school, performing well – look at Cooper
- TT Minor – lots of support for
- Cost savings from closing schools is small compared to shortfall
- What about cost of moving programs and students (esp. SPED students)
- Not confident that guidelines have been consistently applied – fear that alternative schools have been disproportionately affected
- Lowell – building condition is not accurate
- Move Pathfinder to Cooper not Arbor Hts
- New revenue-generating strategies instead of closures
- Redistrict within SPS before closures (particularly in north end)
- Lowell – concerned about cost of closure and splitting vs. savings; worried about going back to what happened with APP in 1990s
- If Lowell needs to split – fear of unequal split if it's north-south – keep it central like at Meany
- Need more information about future changes to student assignment
- Wanted community input earlier
- Fear that alternative schools are being disproportionately affected
- Need to include metric of how 'consumers' feel about closures
- Thriving programs/communities are being disrupted (AAA)
- Transition plans not clearly articulated – need to see these
- Lowell – program is working, building at capacity, parents are happy, no clear plan for SPED students
- Most programs were created by educators and staff and they can't be moved so easily
- Work in clusters of areas and include parents, teachers, administrators, principals to come up with solutions for their clusters
- Look at data of how many families left SPS after last closure and do outreach/data collecting on potential impact from these proposals

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- Money saved from closures is 15% or less of budget gap SPS faces
- School is more than a building – it's a community
- Lowell – student assignment plan needs to address decisions affecting schools
- Building condition – data doesn't reflect recent upgrades (Lowell)
- Arbor Hts – need to explore other alternatives for Pathfinder
- High schools – most serious under capacity but they are not on the table for closure or consolidation
- Arbor Hts – highly successful neighborhood school, look at other good options (Cooper or old Denny)
- APP – keep it together – if it does need to move, move it to Meany and share it with SBOC
- Workout student assignment plan first – before closures
- Process – not enough time at a table to work out issues and listen to all participants
- Process – it's too short and too fast – can't get good feedback without time
- Lowell – leave it along (major investment has been made – rescore the building condition)
- Lowell – if need to close – relocate as a whole to Meany with TTMinor
- Cooper – leave it where it is, SPED program there, have federal grant funding
- Student assignment – needs to happen simultaneously or before closures
- District needs to assure that program moves have 3-5 year road map and guarantee that no future moves will be made
- Lowell – keep cohorts intact – move to Meany and merge with TT Minor
- Lowell – move SBOC to Meany with Meany
- Move Pathfinder to Cooper, WSeattle or Roxhill
- TT Minor – move as a whole with Lowell to Meany
- Close Montlake not TT Minor – Montlake meets same criteria
- Attract neighborhood growth in CD to TT Minor, central location and easy to access
- Meany – 140 kids live in reference area, Washington is oversubscribed – where do the children go; what about cost of moving medically fragile students at Meany
- TT Minor – closing it leaves a big hole in that part of city, strong PTA, current demographic info
from SPS is not current
- What happens to the Southeast Education Initiative? Will SPS cut extra IAs helping bilingual students
- What happens to students and staff at Van Asselt and AAA for the proposed move?
- Why close schools as we're building them?
- Closures are only 15% of total budget shortfall
- Arbor Hts – doesn't make sense to close, look at Cooper for Pathfinder
- Lowell – building condition is not accurate
- Lowell – keep cohort together in central location
- APP/Madrona merging – didn't work, fear about how it would work in proposal
- Worry that capacities presented are not accurate
- Time pressure
- Arbor Hts – neighborhood program, look at Roxhill as option for Pathfinder
- Lowell – savings don't justify cost of closing and splitting program
- Lowell- Hawthorne doesn't have enough room
- Do more financial analysis for Lowell splitting