

Seattle Public Schools is currently evaluating options to respond to capacity concerns in the North. This document is a summary of the comments received at community meetings held on September 15th (at Blaine K-8 school) and September 16th (at Roosevelt High School), as well as comments received via email and U.S. Mail as of September 25th.

Community members were presented with five proposed options to discuss and provide feedback to staff on their preferences for resolving the capacity concerns. The comments received are summarized by the options originally provided.

Conduct Space Efficiency Evaluations

- Visit and evaluate every school to determine efficiency
- Look at underutilized spaces (e.g. Summit K-12)
- Space efficiency study is a waste of time and money
- Increasing efficiencies diminishes the quality of the school (space could be sacrificed - art, music, science, PE, PCP)
- Use storage rooms (full of surplus items)
- Every attempt should be made to distribute kids evenly. No school should have classes of 30 but certainly not if another school has classes of 25 or less

Create New Classrooms within existing Buildings

- Consider open concept classrooms
- Remodel four classrooms at BF Day
- Add new classrooms at Sacajawea
- Consider low cost classroom split (Blaine has done this before)
- Create new classrooms at Blaine with capital investment for long term use
- Consider installing movable walls to create temporary additional classrooms and allows future flexibility
- play court spaces are essential for health and morale and should not be converted to classrooms

Revise Student Assignment Plan

- Make BF Day part of Queen Anne/Magnolia cluster
- Proximity rather than sibling as first tiebreaker
- Assignments in NE cluster all go to NE cluster residents until class sizes come down to optimal instructional levels
- Re-draw boundaries including those for secondary schools
- Turn Summit into neighborhood school and subject to neighborhood draw
- No mandatory busing
- Kindergarten families given "contingency" assignment for 2009-10
- Condense reference areas and guarantee reference school

Add Portables/Modular Classrooms

- Add portables only if they can be maintained properly
- Use new less costly portables for office/ancillary space rather than classroom space
- Consider leasing portables with windows and bathrooms as one to three year temporary solution in conjunction with permanent solution
- Portables can be moves as enrollment patterns change over time
- Prefer portables vs. moving out of reference area
- Concern about IAQ and lack of connection to main school
- Portables should only be used for programs, e.g. art, computers, etc. not all day classrooms (homerooms). The youngest kids should not be in portables
- Add portables to Rogers and Sacajawea

Relocate Programs

- Move low-enrollment schools to smaller buildings
- Move LASER to Laurelhurst Community Center/Laurelhurst school cafeteria
- Open Wilson-Pacific as an elementary school. Relocate the programs currently at Wilson-Pacific to John Marshall or to unused portions of Summit.
- Move John Stanford Int'l School to one of the buildings slated for closure or Rogers/Summit. Turn J. Stanford School back to a neighborhood school.
- Reconfigure grades, e.g. Blaine as K-5 (move 6th/7th spectrum to McClure), Lawton 6-8, Ballard 10-12 to accommodate high school capacity needs, Salmon Bay K-9
- Relocate Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center (SBOC) to make Old Hay a K-5 school
- Relocate pre-K programs
- Relocate under-capacity alternative schools to under-capacity central district then use those buildings to accommodate capacity needs
- Relocate Summit to Sand Point
- Create a new kindergarten school in rented or a closed school (Viewlands or Sand Point)
- Co-house Summit K-12, Salmon Bay, AS#1 or any combination of the alternative schools at Salmon Bay to open another facility for a traditional elementary school
- Create traditional school at Jane Addams building, co-exist with Summit K-12 or move AS#1 to Addams building and open Pinehurst for traditional program
- Move Summit to Lincoln permanently
- Move Summit to John Marshall so there would be space for a K-8 school and it would relieve the pressure in N and NE clusters elementary schools and solve the middle dilemma
- Move Spectrum program to John Rogers
- Move AS#1 to Viewlands
- Combine Thornton Creek (at Decatur building) with Summit and make Decatur building a regular elementary school
- Relocating programs is too disruptive
- Special education kids should not be "shuffled" off to other schools
- Locate new programs in schools less attractive, e.g. gifted, language immersion
- Use before and after school program space

Other Ideas

- Rent spaces for short term use from Magnolia Community Center, Queen Anne Community Center, Seattle Center, Seattle Pacific University, North Seattle Community College, University of Washington, commercial spaces, churches, private schools
- Find space at Wilson-Pacific
- Close/consolidate schools in south end and use those savings to pay for a new school in the NE cluster
- Start the planning process now for new middle/high schools
- More special education seats will be needed in NE cluster
- Open the "mothballed" facilities but lease part of them to other users
- Open new schools in NE cluster, e.g. Sand Point and start applying for occupancy permits now. Start Sand Point Elementary in a leased space until the permanent space is ready.
- Start a new elementary school with next year's kindergarten class and transport them together to a temporary location for one to three years and move them back to the new school
- The City Council, School Board, and School Administration work together so that homeless families with school age children living in Discovery Park can be accommodated in their neighborhood schools. In addition, if there is a need for special academic programs, that these be provided so that there is equal opportunity education for all our public school children
- QA/Magnolia cluster needs new elementary school, e.g. Old Hay, and a high school. Start the planning now. Expand the existing high school at Seattle Center
- Long term solution for NE cluster - Open a new general education K-8 school in NE cluster at Addams or Sand Point
Short term solution – Add more half-day kindergartens for one to two years starting 2009-10 to increase capacity, reduce K class size and not cost additional money
- Reopen McDonald school as a temporary solution
- Green Ideas to addressing capacity needs
 - Embrace walk/bike-to-school idea by assigning student to their closest school
 - Recycling/repurposing of decommissioned school buildings
 - Empower students with greener portables (modular made out of repurposed shipping containers)
 - Create a new green elementary school campus in the N/NE cluster by putting PTAs to work on funding a flexi-school that can adapt and grow with population needs and interact with environment in a completely different way
- Reopen Magnolia school as K-5
- Sell Magnolia school and use the profits to build/renovate facilities
- If class sizes become large, add instructional assistants
- Consider offering to buy homes that are immediate neighbors of Lawton Elementary to add annexed property
- Create another TOPS in the north end to alleviate elementary and middle school capacity issues
- Look at Bagley model for co-locating two programs
- Create K-2 and 3-5 schools so you don't have to look for such a large space

- Expand Green Lake and Olympic Hills
- Funding from private corporations - form teams to meet with local companies to renovate existing space to bring up to code, build new facility or take over corporate space
- Utilize Magnuson Park complex
- Borrow money from the City. They have \$9M to combat youth violence, ask for some of that for portables
- Raise standards of "less desirable" schools district-wide
- Give an all-city draw school in the area an incentive to move ASAP – laptops, swimming pool, something from Gates Foundations. NE cluster PTA's could donate \$\$\$ for a foundation of the displaced school
- Use John Marshall as overflow K-5 or K-8 for NE/N clusters
- Open Jane Addams in 2010-11 and enroll kids at Addams now and start building that community while waiting for 2011 to open
- Work with the City to fast track permits
- Reopen ML King
- Year-round school and staged school day schedules
- Move some students to Shoreline through a reciprocal agreement
- Use e-polling (Zoomerang or Survey Monkey) to get everyone to vote on the ideas
- Do not invest in short term fix without a long term plan
- Take a systemic approach to look at elementary, middle and high schools
- January is not soon enough to talk about the long term
- Think outside the box, have that "can do" attitude – the "what if we could reopen a school quicker"
- Focus on all children and not just NE cluster, QA and magnolia
- Monitor building permits and live births to estimate student growth or keep a consultant looking at this each year so you don't get surprised again
- Do not create "mega" schools and no increase in class size - funding for extra staff, safety issues on playground, lunchroom, recess etc.
- Short term fixes should be based on our core values (inclusion, excellence, neighborhood focus, play areas, adequate facilities)
- There is enough capacity. We have the schools, we need the draw, e.g. immersion program, or bilingual, fine arts etc. Create magnets

Community Proposed Solutions for QA/Magnolia Elementary School Capacity Shortages

It is important to note here that these proposed solutions were generated by community members at the September 15th meeting at Blaine K-8 and have not been evaluated by staff. In addition, these proposals are only for Queen Anne and Magnolia. The Northeast Cluster has a different set of constraints and potential solutions that the community at Blaine did not discuss.

1. **Move the SBOC**, Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center located at the Old John Hay to a new location such as a recently closed building south of downtown.
Pros: This would free up approximately 260 seats in the Old John Hay
Cons: It is the perception of the community that the board is very sensitive to the needs of each school community and will not force the

SBOC to move without including them in discussions on this topic. It's important to be fair to each school community by allowing them to have input on significant actions that affect them. This process is not likely to happen in the next 2 weeks, by October 1st.

2. **Rent classroom space** for 3 or 4 years until a long term solution can be found. Potential locations are:

- Queen Anne Community Center abutting the McClure Middle School
- Magnolia Community Center abutting Blaine K-8
- Seattle Center
 - Center School High School is in rented space above the food court
 - Pacific Science Center
 - Children's Museum
 - Children's Theater
- Public Libraries
- Other city owned space
- Commercial space
- Church space
- Seattle Pacific University
- Private Schools
 - St. Anne School in Queen Anne
 - Our Lady of Fatima in Magnolia
 - Seattle Country Day in Queen Anne

Pros: Renting space would be a short term temporary solution. This contrasts with the temporary solution that becomes the permanent solution.

Cons: Suitable rental space may not be available within the 11 month implementation time frame. If the rental space is not located nearby an existing public school there could be additional administrative and other expenses incurred.

3. **Add portable classrooms**

Pros: Probably no more expensive than other potential solutions. Can probably be purchased and installed within the 11 month time constraint.

Cons: Blaine K-8 is the only elementary school that has enough lot space per city school building code to accept portable classrooms. Portables are expected to last 25 years and become a permanent solution. It is the perception of the community that the board members are generally opposed to portables except as a last resort for a variety of reasons that make sense. The locations that can take portables may not be in the neighborhoods where the greatest demand for classrooms exists.

4. **Create new classrooms within existing buildings.** In the QA/Magnolia Cluster, only Blaine K-8 has the space to do this by taking 6 existing classrooms, tearing out the walls, and re-partitioning them into 9 classrooms.

Pros: Can probably be implemented within the 11 month time constraint.

Cons: Blaine K-8 is the only elementary school that has enough classroom space to subdivide existing classrooms. Making smaller classrooms with same number of kids becomes the permanent solution for that location. The locations that can subdivide existing classrooms may not be in the neighborhoods where the greatest demand for classrooms exists.