

## Brookfield Facilities Planning

### FOCUS GROUP RESULTS BY QUESTION

1. What changes in current programs are expected or desired over the next 5-10 years?
  - ELL growth – need services – growing into bilingual – newcomer program – dedicated language lab space
  - Birth-3 population unknown from year to year – need more flexible space (CS) – bring in more peer models
  - PreK - daycare for employees – early childhood at (HS)
  - Parent resource center
  - More in-district SPED programs (currently at capacity) – enrich the model – office space, etc. – shared services
  - World language lab – HS - MS – ES (office spaces)
  - Maker spaces – science labs MS – ES – STEM
  - Common spaces for classroom clusters
  - Professional Development space - model classes
  - HS – STEM & Career spaces – mastery learning
  - ELL students increasing – need for support space – technology supports (some equipment issues, space for set up)
  - Improved space design to accommodate needs
  - Increased special needs population; behavioral issues; need space modifications – support staff & materials
  - More adults in classrooms working with students (co-teaching)
  - Additional preschool classes needed
  - Multiple use SPED rooms – room sharing presents scheduling and instructional issues
  - Modular classrooms at Huckleberry closed this year; pushed classes into building
  - Life skills classroom needed; more space needed; more equipment needed
  - HES: security & safety – needs to be redesigned, set up better; an issue for all schools
  - Transitioning of students to office by disciplinary or other reasons – space is inadequate – needs redesign; no place for students who may be having an issue
  - CES: security issues, any one can get in
  - Program changes have outpaced building modifications; schools were not built as inclusive schools
  - Closing HES modular classrooms has impacted space use & flexibility; rooms now overcrowded
  - SBAC will pose issues as diverse needs of students need to be accommodated – need different rooms

- SPED population will increase; not sure enrollment will decline
- Replacing boilers
- Underground fuel tanks
- Power supply needs to be upgraded
- CS has adequate panels -99% wood – should be converted to other use
- Huckleberry ES – needs significant electrical upgrades; safety issues – wiring needs to be upgraded – the most in need of replacement of the whole system [energy efficient compound – geothermal] – an all electric heated school
- Redesign access points for outlets (3 phase panels)

2. What new programs or services do you envision over the next 5-10 years?

- HS – professional learning spaces needed (PLC)
- Increasing clubs & activities (robotics, math team, etc.)
- Computer labs – infrastructure improvements – testing – as programs/services added overload is occurring
- Lavatories (ES) – hand washing (allergies) – gender issues
- HS – life skills programs – bring students back
- NEASCC visitation coming soon – need to review facility needs
- World language; ES needs office & room– scheduling
- Enrichment programs dropped; should be restored; no services for G/T students; space needed at ES
- STEM/STEAM
- More PreK support
- Daycare; used to do that at HS in child development classes; larger number of teachers going out on maternity leave
- Applied courses in history & science
- Vocabulary development programs; study skills and test prep
- Literacy & math coaches (not pulled to cover classes); they need space to work
- ELL population increasing
- Technology; more access, more integrated
- World languages for all ES students
- Designated world language rooms
- Secure storage for confidential files
- Protocols for school volunteers
- Work space needs to be more secure; parents/volunteers workroom; PTO meeting areas
- Need teacher workspace
- Meeting spaces for staff & PD needed
- Cafeteria/gym issues of scheduling

- HES: Limited storage space – stuff stored in lunchrooms – instruction in rooms not suited for classrooms
- Outside storage for flammable materials
- CES: old locker room used as office; 1938 built
- CES: decide alternate use for the building
- Not sure of property at HES; not sure if school can be added to

3. Do you expect any programs to be reduced in scope or eliminated?

- Too many programs have been reduced in the past
- Program at BHS has become too academic for a larger number of students; need more Voc-Tech experiences

4. What demographic changes are you experiencing?

- More ELL students attending all schools
- Enrollment declining somewhat – some indications of more students than expected – new apartments being built
- Fewer students in class facilitates instruction (20 ideal)
- Demographics are changing; more ELL students & more children living in poverty
- Enrollment does not seem to be declining at the rate of other school districts
- More ELL
- Increasing population
- More SPED
- Handicapped accessibility is an issue
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5. To what extent or current space assets a help or hindrance in implementing instructional programs?

- Lavatories needed
- Play space & outdoor playgrounds; need stuff for kids to interact with and not just walk around; everyone should be playing
- Storage shortage
- Modular classrooms: most are in bad shape; smell moldy; they are outmoded – get rid of them

- Cafeteria/gym at Huckleberry is a problem; team teaching with 50 students in main gym an issue; location of gym disrupts classrooms because of noise; space cannot accommodate the whole school; cafeteria scheduling impeded by gym
- Modular classrooms
- MS – entry needed to separate vehicular (parent) traffic from busses – keep cars away from the buildings
- Study how people enter & exit the premises
- Safety glass
- Parking – need multiple evenings to accommodate participants
- HES leaking badly; whole school needs considerable attention/renovation; air controls an issue; rodents in the school
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6. What are your preferences for school organization?

- Consider two elementary schools; prefer two K-5 schools
- Schools seem very large
- Move grade 5 to elementary school; social & academic environment is an issue.
- Transition from grade 1 to Huckleberry difficult; continuity lost
- Need grade 5 at ES level
- Prefer K-5 schools; transitioning difficult for students; continuity
- Grades 5-8 to 6-8; some grade 5/6 in modular classrooms
- Parents prefer 6-8 vs. 5-8; prefer grade 5 in ES
- K-1 isolates teachers; parents engage for two years, prefer longer term
- Fewer transitions the better
- What are challenges of a larger school

7. What are the community sentiments about possible school closings?

- CS not viable as a K-5; Huckleberry also difficult
- CES mixed opinion
- Some community sentiment re: Center School – historical sentiments/value - not rationale for school needs

8. What are the best means of communicating with stakeholders and community?

- Parents: dual language notices/messages
- Teachers:
- Residents: need viable tools for communicating with non-parents
- Public Officials:
- Other groups: need to better engage senior citizens

9. What other planning issues should the task force be aware of?

- HS water intrusion issues in auditorium
- Check water intrusion at all schools
- Meeting rooms – professional development space – needed at all schools
- Teacher workroom separate from break rooms
- PPT meeting rooms – private spaces to meet with parents
- Redesign office spaces
- Safety & security seems well-managed; afterschool programs pose issues with possible exposure
- Infrastructure design for flexibility & ease of use
- Rolling closets taking away floor space in classrooms
- Need bathrooms in lower grade classrooms
- Security & safety; cameras on outside of the building; all maintenance need communication tools (walkie-talkies); much already done; exterior lighting in parking areas
- Energy efficiencies needed; need to invest in this area
- Parking lots and sidewalks need to be addressed
- Long-term capital projects plan needs to address many issues
- Handicapped accessibility at all schools should be addressed; wheel chairs present
- Clean air act; air exchange
- Summer camp at HES
- After school activities for ED Connection – could use the space for the school
- Town does not do what they say
- Large percentage of seniors do not support the schools – consistency & credibility is an issues of storage an issue at all schools