

## Brookfield Facilities Planning

### INTERNAL FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

***DRAFT***

#### **Administrators:**

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
  
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
  
3. Do you expect any programs to be reduced in scope or eliminated?
  - NONE
  
4. What demographic changes are you experiencing?
  - 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
5. To what extent or current space assets a help or hindrance in implementing instructional programs?
    - Modular classrooms; Poor functionality; Poor condition
    - 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
  
  6. What are your preferences for school organization?
    - 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; transitions negatively impact students, faculty, parent/school relationships
    - There is some concern about the challenges of a larger school
  
  7. What are the community sentiments about possible school closings?
    - 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?
    - Not addressed – time constraints
  
  9. What other planning issues should the task force be aware of?
    - Not addressed – time constraints

## **Teachers:**

1. What changes in current programs are expected or desired over the next 5-10 years?
  - 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
2. What new programs or services do you envision over the next 5-10 years?
- 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
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)
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
  - Need space for indoor recess
  - Science labs needed at ES
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
7. What are the community sentiments about possible school closings?
- CS not viable as a K-5; Huckleberry also difficult
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

### **Custodial/Maintenance:**

1. What changes are expected or desired over the next 5-10 years?
- 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 added services do you envision over the next 5-10 years?
    - 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. What are the community sentiments about possible school closings?
    - CES mixed opinion
  4. What other planning issues should the task force be aware of?
    - 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

### **Classified Employees:**

1. What changes in current programs are expected or desired over the next 5-10 years?
  - 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, anyone 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
2. What new programs or services do you envision over the next 5-10 years?
- 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
3. Do you expect any programs to be reduced in scope or eliminated?
- Not addressed
4. What demographic changes are you experiencing?
- More ELL
  - Increasing population
  - More SPED
  - Handicapped accessibility is an issue
5. To what extent or current space assets a help or hindrance in implementing instructional programs?
- HES leaking badly; whole school needs considerable attention/renovation; air controls an issue; rodents in the school
6. What are your preferences for school organization?
- Need grade 5 at ES level
  - Prefer K-5 schools; transitioning difficult for students; continuity
7. What are the community sentiments about possible school closings?

- Not addressed – time constraints
8. What are the best means of communicating with stakeholders and community?
    - Not addressed – time constraints
  9. What other planning issues should the task force be aware of?
    - 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