



Small Schools Study

MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting:	January 17, 2008	Minutes Prepared By:
Location:	ITC Conference Room B	Sonja Ballstadt
Time:	3:30pm to 5:30pm	

In Attendance

- Kevin Hahn
- Dave Montoya
- Sonja Ballstadt
- Bryce Hach
- Sabine De Voe
- Lucin Gilliland
- Jasmine Faulkner
- Carmen Carmack
- Sam Aldern
- Mark Eversole
- Cathy Kipp
- Sandra Lundt
- Karen Martin
- Justin Silverstein
- Mike Grigg
- Brian Williams
- Rita Brozka
- Brian Carpenter
- Brian Olver
- Leslie Shaner

Welcome - Introductions

Agenda & Meeting Notes

Review Committee Charge & Work to Date:

- Recommend cost implications to affect 2008-09 student based budgeting (SBB), the funding formula that allocates funds to schools each year.
- Analyze different size schools for program offerings, scheduling implications and cost ramifications.
- Determine consistencies and what essential classes can be offered through the analysis of prototypical models.
- **Identify school sizes at which closure may be considered. (Focus of this meeting)**

Review Recommendation to the Student-Based Budgeting Committee – Dave Montoya:

- **Elementary:** Panel's Curve, Blended Curve and an alternative Panel's Curve.
- **Junior High:** Blended Curve and Panel's Curve.
 - Handouts: "**Elementary** Size Curves Discussed in Small School Committee and **Junior High** Curves Discussed in Small School Committee".
 - The Junior High handout also included an alternative Panel's curve like the elementary. This curve added 1.7% to small size.

Present the Approach to Identify School Sizes at Which Closure May Be Considered – Kevin Hahn:

- **Financial Component**
 - Identify criteria
 - What are the true savings?

- **Programmatic Component**
 - Identify criteria and questions that schools would need to address in order to stay in operation or merge and do something different.

Questions Raised:

- What is the legality of if a school closes; must the building be offered as a charter school first?
- Cost implications for the building if used by a charter school?
- Is there a direction the school building could go in for a program that could save money for the community?
- Is the school small because of School Choice, program availability or neighborhood?
- What legalities are there if we were to sell the building?
- Geographic location into consideration.
- Would you want to retain the building for future use (growth)?

Denver Public Schools Plan – Justin Silverstein:

- Recommendation and criteria to closing schools
- Student focused decisions
- Committee reviewed criteria

Break into 2 Groups to Identify Criteria for the Financial and Programmatic Components:

- **Financial Component:**
 - Transportation (wash/savings?)
 - Food Service – self sustaining?
 - Selling the building? (More research on this)
 - Pay rent?
 - Geographic considerations
 - If building closes, could lose some students to outside of the district?
 - Office space/lease space? Depends what building, location, need?
 - Need to know the laws
 - How can money be spent if building is sold?
 - Staff utilized in a more efficient manner? (Multi-aging, special education)
 - Capacity charts of schools
 - School choice – what is the community choosing to? Data on school choice OUT of district. Where are students coming from?
 - Special Education program – If we move students, is there cost to retrofit building?
 - ELA Population – training involved?
 - Reduction in staffing – administration, office manager, bookkeeper.
 - Assets in buildings (computers, etc. – cost of moving?)
 - What are values of small schools? Efficiencies?
 - Mill levy impact?
- **Programmatic Component:**
 - Achievement (what data points?) Longitudinally
 - Interventions/Remedial Supports
 - Choice/In-Out (analysis) Why choosing out? (profile students)
 - Mobility
 - Highly qualified specials
 - Ability to meet planning time (master agreement) (individual/team)
 - Media/Tech – Counselors
 - Look at 3 different 3 tracks (small/medium/large) Perhaps schools represented on committee.
 - Ability to keep qualified staff.
 - Revise Elementary Resource List in FTE/Junior High

- Analysis of staff workload
- Did Denver Public Schools consider anything programmatically?
- Demographic challenges (geographic considerations)
- Principal/Office Manager – fixed cost? (Assumption – option?)
- Extra-curricular offerings/extensions/enrichment
- Student profile of choice
- A suggestion from some committee members was for the criteria (both financial and programmatic) to have “weights” to help identify the size of school in which closure may be considered.

Next Steps:

- Work on finalizing the criteria and determine how to identify the size of school in which closure may be considered.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, January 31st, 3:30pm to 5:30pm, **Boardroom** in the Johannsen Support Services Center at 2407 LaPorte Ave. (Please note location change – previously meeting to be held in the ITC Conference Room B).

Small School Study Committee Time Line

- Dates of **FUTURE** meetings

Date	Time	Location	Address
January 17	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	ITC Conference Room B	2413 LaPorte Ave.
January 31	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Boardroom	2407 LaPorte Ave.
February 7	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	ITC Conference Room A	2413 LaPorte Ave.
February 21	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	ITC Conference Room A	2413 LaPorte Ave.
March 6	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	JSSC Boardroom	2407 LaPorte Ave.
March 13	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	ITC Multi-Purpose Room	2413 LaPorte Ave.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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