



# Resolution

of the Poudre School District Board of Education

## Regarding Guiding Principles for Facilities Planning Steering Committee

**WHEREAS**, Poudre School District R-1 (the “District” or “PSD”) believes in offering innovative programming and educational choice for our students and their families. PSD believes that all students should have opportunities to pursue their interests and passions while experiencing a strong sense of belonging and connection with others; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts nationwide are experiencing and adjusting to declining enrollment, and PSD is no exception. According to demographers, birth rates and fertility rates in PSD have been declining for several years, and they are projected to continue declining. As a result, PSD’s enrollment has also been declining in recent years. Another contributing factor to the enrollment decline are elevated housing costs that make it difficult for staff and families to buy homes within our District boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, these shifts in enrollment are impacting parts of our District disproportionately. Some communities in PSD, such as Timnath and Wellington, are growing and may even need more space for students in the years to come. Meanwhile, some schools in our community are seeing smaller enrollment numbers each year, which results in reduced funding; and

**WHEREAS**, to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars, the District must offer opportunities and programs while using available space in our school buildings as effectively as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, the District, with the support of the Board of Education, has developed a Facilities Planning Steering Committee (the “Committee”) to support the District’s long-range planning efforts and address challenges related to the District’s declining student enrollment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee is charged with evaluating data and engaging the community to develop its recommendation about how the District should move forward in the years ahead; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee is charged with developing two to three scenarios to present to the Board of Education that address: (1) modification to school attendance areas, including consolidation of schools; (2) buildings in which PSD should not invest more capital dollars; and (3) the placement of educational programs; and



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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Poudre School District Board of Education adopts the following principles to frame the Committee's work, as it develops recommendations for consideration by the Board of Education. The Board asks the Committee to use these principles to guide its work:

- Start discussion about consolidation with school buildings that have building utilization around 60-70%.
- Aim for enrollment optimization to minimize the budget size factor. On average, that is about 400 students in an elementary school and 700 students in a middle school, with an average class size of 25. These enrollment totals do not fit all schools or programs.
- Maximize access for all students to schools and educational programs, including integrated services (IS). Consider physical access and proximity to other schools, geographic location, ADA, and curricular demand.
- Maximize program continuity K-12 in terms of school location and at each level.
- Consider data about current and previous school waitlists and be curious about why those waitlists exist. Keep in mind, the reasons a family chooses a school are vast and varied. Consider whether there is potential for program expansion.
- Consider all creative grade configurations (i.e. K-6, K-8 or other school models) to address program demand, create greater building efficiency, and address growing enrollment on the east side of the district.
- Using data from the McKinstry studies, PSD, and other sources, consider all aspects and costs associated with continued use of current district facilities (i.e. efficiency score, ADA compliance, overall condition, operations and maintenance needs, cost to install air conditioning, early childhood, flexibility of space inside building, curricular and IS programming demands).
- Consider how existing schools, particularly on the west side of the district, can be used in a way that increases their building utilization.
- Consider how boundary modifications could address growing enrollment on the east side of the district, now and in the next five years in lieu of constructing new facilities, which takes time and requires passage of a ballot measure. Ballot measures are outside the scope of this committee.

Approved and adopted this 6th day of February 2024.

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATTEST:

  
Secretary, Board of Education

By:   
President, Board of Education