



Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Presentation: Comprehensive Planning Committee Update – Dr. Julie Chaplain, Assistant Superintendent

Presentation:

- Committee Charge and Scope – The committee supports long-range facilities planning but operates strictly as a recommending body, not a decision-making body. The committee looks at facility utilization, attendance area boundaries, facility needs, and is working to develop specific metrics for closure, consolidation, or expansion discussions.
- Progress to Date:
 - April 2025 – Establishment - established Comprehensive Planning Committee
 - June 2025 – Governance – co-chair selected, enrollment projections analyzed
 - August 2025 – Analysis – budget vs enrollment, per pupil allocation
 - December 2025 – Consensus – final data review and committee alignment
 - May 2026 – next milestone – criteria recommendation to BOE
- Data Informed Process - The committee analyzes grade level sizes, school-of-choice patterns, housing development patterns, and state demographer data.
- Declining Enrollment – PSD is projected to have a 2% decline in enrollment over the next 5 years. There is a \$6 million revenue loss with every 2% drop. Boundary changes are insufficient to address this issue.
- Principal Survey – Principals shared in a survey that the impact of enrollment trends is seen in an erosion of essential support services, reduced programming, increased student-to-teacher ratios, and note that increased enrollment in their schools (via consolidation) would provide them with a “growth” advantage to stabilize staffing and expand services.
- Conclusion – The committee concluded that PSD has too many vacant seats in their buildings and this needs to be remedied by consolidating schools. Empty buildings could have alternative uses.
- Next Steps – The committee will review utilization data and draft specific criteria for a consolidation process. The recommended criteria will be presented to the Board of Education for consideration in May 2026
- Criteria in Neighboring Districts – The committee will examine approaches from neighboring districts dealing with similar challenges.

Discussion:

- See the 2.18.26 [Action Letter](#) for SEAC’s recommendations to developing an approach to school consolidation.