



Enrollment Task Force Report: BOE Review of Recommendations

October 29, 2019

Agenda

- Background
- Task Force Report recommendations
- Public comment/audience participation
- Board of Education discussion of next steps
- Timeline (if necessary)
- Expectations for communication



Background

- Between 2010 and 2017 the overall student school population of Mamaroneck UFSD increased by 650 students or 13%, equivalent to the population of one elementary school.
- Enrollment growth combined with elementary space utilization pressures prompted the administration and Board of Education to study and plan for the impact of enrollment fluctuations.
- The Board of Education commissioned a forty-member community Task Force Committee in October 2017 to study long-term strategies that would address enrollment fluctuations and space utilization challenges.



Background

- Over an eighteen-month period, the Task Force studied new approaches in the design and use of learning spaces and their impact on teaching and learning; discussed relevant education policy issues; and analyzed district data as a means to prepare to assess the potential of various long-term strategies.
- Seven long-term strategies were assessed against evaluation criteria. Each option presented positives as well as challenges, and many questions surfaced that warranted further investigation.
- The Task Force submitted a formal report to the Board of Education in May, 2019
- The report recommended an approach that moved beyond a mathematics exercise and included general conclusions and several recommended next steps.



Long Term Strategies Reviewed by the Task Force

Long Term Strategies	Description
Preserve Current Elementary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the current neighborhood schools without any expansion
Expand Current Elementary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore opportunities and impacts with the physical expansion of the existing elementary schools
Reconfigure by School Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess the opportunity of implementing either an operational or program design model
Early Childhood Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate and assess the idea of establishing a Pre-K to grade one early learning center
Paired Elementary Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the idea of creating two sets of two elementary schools
Princeton Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the implementation of a Princeton Plan
5-8 Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess a grade 5-8 middle school model without building expansion

Evaluation Criteria

- Durability - ability to withstand enrollment increases and/or decreases
- Financial Impact - the extent to which the model obligates financial resources
- Educational Impact - the extent to which the model affects educational outcomes (e.g. curriculum consistency)
- Equity of Opportunity - results in classes balanced by students of all backgrounds
- Class Size - the extent to which the model results in class sizes near the district guidelines
- Overall Value - what is the value proposition on the strategy holistically based on the above criteria



Conclusions

- Developing a sound approach is more than a mathematics exercise and involves assessing possible options against a broad range of criteria with implications and trade-offs
- The function of the Enrollment Task Force was to identify and assess long-term strategies, not make a decision on any individual approach
- Although elementary school enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year seemed to have leveled, the District should continue this work to find a solution that provides flexibility to deal with changing enrollment and emerging education trends



Recommended Next Steps

- Complete a more comprehensive study to provide a long-term projection of district enrollment trends
- Create a process for the above
- Consider whether the Board has the capacity to continue this work and whether the involvement of a third-party firm can provide benefits
- Explore potential design changes to district schools that address space and enhance students' educational experiences
- Address recurring enrollment and space challenges through multiple analytic frameworks that also focus on key success measures, such as improving student outcomes and equity
- Promote continued conversations with the community regarding options



Guiding Questions

Does the Board wish to commit to a further investigation of long -term strategies using the multiple analytic framework recommended by the Task Force?

What additional data points will be needed and given that standard enrollment projections often yield inexact results, should the Board authorize the Administration to research and engage a third party to study and evaluate long-term enrollment trends?

Are there consultants who can assist the District to objectively evaluate long term strategies?

