March 11, 2024, Board Workshop

Mr. Darryl Willie, Chairman
Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce, Vice-Chairman
Ms. April A. Carney
Dr. Kelly Coker
Dr. Lori Hershey
Mr. Warren A. Jones
Ms. Cindy Pearson
Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. MASTER FACILITY PLAN (MFP) RETREAT

Dr. Kriznar reminded the Board of the student-centered reasons for why the district does the things that are being done. Ashley Barr, Director, Strategic Partnerships, shared a brief overview of the contents found in the notebooks provided by the district to the Board Members. Dr. Kriznar shared a brief overview for the roadmap of discussion which included the following:

- Review of the Master Facility Plan (MFP).
- Review of Proposed Boundary Changes and the Impacts of those changes.
- Board Input on proposed boundary changes to identify next steps.

Erika Harding, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Operations joined in the discussion sharing the following:

- Landscape changes.
- Changes in the operational environment.
- MFP amendments based upon limited resources but staying true to the original goals.
- MFP affects that stemmed from Covid.
- Current MFP deficiency.
- Projects have been placed on strategic pause which has affected dates of completion.
- Cost reduction strategies.
- The operational premium for small schools.
- Adjusting the attendance boundaries.

- Ensuring the students have continuity through feeder patterns based upon family choices.

Ms. Harding thanked Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent, School Choice, Scott Schneider, Chief of Schools, their teams, the Transportation department, and the Duval County School Board for their assistance and input for the creation of the amended MFP. Discussion continued on the following:

- Right sizing the district.
- Sequencing projects.
- What makes families excited about choosing a district school.
- Risk associated with the assumptions made pertaining to the MFP.

Scott Leopold, Director of Planning Services, joined the presentation sharing proposed changes to the MFP. Discussion included the following:

- Cost additions and savings.
- Inquiries about total operational savings.
- Additional operational savings examples were shared.
- School grades request for consolidated schools.
- Explanation of the total school costs per pupil indicated on the operational savings analysis.
- Charter Schools have a huge impact on enrollment.
- Proposed feeder patterns and building community.
- Primary recommendations, assumptions, and alternates.
- A request was made for district staff to supply board members with the amount of school personnel that support a school based upon the number of students within the school. District staff referred Board Members to review the operational savings analysis tab which included the cost per pupil breakdown by staff categories.
- Cost and sequencing impacts.
- Some schools will not have students from all over the county feeding into middle schools due to certain proposed feeder patterns.
- The overall enrollment to save operational dollars was the rationale behind the proposal to close Westside High School.
- First Coast was not included in the north and westside proposals because it is an outlier compared to the average enrollment of other schools.
- Proposal request for reconfiguring the closure of Westside High.
- Initial proposal was to close Ed White instead of Westside High however the closing of Westside would produce significant savings.
- Appreciation was shared for all of the work done thus far.
- Proposals and alternates were given to the Board to assist with making decisions.
- Decision making timeframes.
- Community input.
- English Language Learner (ELL) percentage of student population that may be a tipping point for how a school functions.
- Research on the optimum size of a school with a high ELL percentage of attending students and how that translates to student performance.
- Larger school and the effect on student performance.
- Services and programs to support neighborhoods with closing schools.
- How to work with constituents to help them get the services they need when there are schools closing in their neighborhoods.
- Process to use to solicit community feedback.
- Focus Groups.
- Help the community understand why these changes are being made.

  - Deficit.
  - Enrollment.
- Understanding what the goal and purpose of the MFP plan is to right size the district.
- Community impact and being sensitive to the needs of the community.
- Impacts from state law changes.
- Projects that have been placed on strategic pause.
- Cost savings and strategies that can be implemented.
- Funding strategies and additional bonds.
- If the plan is left as is, the timelines stretch.
- The district is currently eliminating some debts.
- If minimal adjustments are made how long will it take.
- Policy recommendations for Policy 5.4 and 8.53.
- Ensuring everything is aligned to the capital plan.
- Regular review of boundaries in the capital plan.
- Consideration for transportation needs.
- Policy changes.
- Financial alternatives.
- School Principal conversations and support.
- Establishing separate opportunities for teachers to discuss the process.
- The community impact from feeder patterns.
- How the savings costs breaks down over the next 2-3 years.
- Defining where the students are coming from when it comes to some schools being closed and consolidated and the reasoning behind it.
- The reasoning behind why students are leaving one school to go to another school.
- Concerns over consolidating too many schools and class size increases.
- New classroom sizes.
- Accessible classroom safe space.
- Overcrowding from closing too many schools too fast.
- More efficient and cost effective buildings.
- Community feedback on K-8 schools as it may not be the best fit for every community.
- Cost of rebuilding Ribault High School.
- Comparable cost of rebuilding Ribault and Baldwin High Schools. Baldwin is being built slightly bigger than Ribault.
- Reviewing of Data.
- Charters and legislation.
- Methods for ensuring that traditional schools is the option for students and families.
- Current building standards communication.
- State Requirement for Educational Facilities (SREF) recommendations.
- Orange County, Florida cost savings. Innovative ways to save construction costs.
- Preliminary data from SREF.
- District partners are engaged in conversation as it relates to cost savings.

Ron Fagan, Chief Officer, Financial, joined in the presentation sharing information about funding proposals. Discussion included the following:

- Funding sources.
- Expiration of debt.
- Certificates of Participation (COPS) interest being paid.
- Current debt.

- New projects and future maintenance.
- Ongoing maintenance and technology costs.
- Past deferred maintenance projects.
- District seeking next steps from the Board.
    - Staff communication before going to the community.
- District competition with charter schools near Westside High.
- Community concerns for the District honoring their school rebuild commitments.
- Request to go through the original plan, proposed, and alternate options for each school all at once to provide even flow during the presentation.
- Ensuring the district is clear with the community about the intentions.
    - The district being fiscally responsible and ensuring students are receiving the best education and learning facilities.
- Student Achievement and school grades as it relates to school consolidations.
- Program themes for consolidated schools.
- Themes that will be eliminated.

The meeting recessed at 11:46 a.m.
The meeting resumed at 12:12 p.m.

Chairman Willie shared appreciation for the Chartwells Staff and the lunch provided.

The presentation continued with Dr. Kriznar sharing the proposed feeder pattern for Fletcher High School. Discussion continued on the following:

- 2 Alternates for Fletcher High School.
    - Use of the San Pablo instead of Seabreeze to build.
    - Cost difference in using the Seabreeze instead of San Pablo location.
    - Board Member preferences.
    - Emotional attachments.
    - Student enrollment decline at Fletcher Middle.
    - School utilization percentages.
    - Bike riders.
    - Transportation.
    - How would it be if there was no K-8 but Mayport and Anchor Academy were combined.
    - Determining the operational cost savings.
- A district dollar per board member request was made.
- Possible risk due to a sink hole in the past at San Pablo.
- Other properties that could cause increased construction cost.
- Having 1- K-8 school versus 3.
    - How would the enrollment at Fletcher Middle look.
    - In the 3- K-8 scenario, Fletcher Middle would no longer be a middle school.
    - Possible risk of 3 - K-8 schools in one part of town.
- Charter school concept with K-8.
    - Build a grade each year.
- Traditionally athletics has not been built with the new K-8 schools.
- Capacity possibilities of Mayport and Fletcher being able to absorb Neptune and Atlantic Beach.
    - Possible 3,500 students in 2 - K-8 schools.
- Reduction of Fletcher Middle student enrollment due to overcrowding.
- Opportunity to keep at least 1 middle school open until the K-8 has been built up year by year.
- Revisiting the plan in equal increments.

- Sandalwood Scenario:
    - Boundary changes are not significant.
    - Agreement with the current feeder pattern.
    - Cascading effects.
    - The number of students Alimacani would lose.
- Terry Parker High Scenario:
    - Distance from Brookview to Terry Parker in comparison to the distance from Brookview to Sandalwood.
    - Transportation.
    - Moving Lone Star into Waterleaf.
    - Possible overcrowding.
    - 2 Microschools.
    - ESE unit communication.
    - Proposed feeder pattern.
    - Community input need for Lake Lucina Elementary School.
    - Grasp Academy would remain its own entity.
    - Enrollment issues stemming from school consolidation.
        - Principal communication.
    - English Language Learners (ELL) remaining valued.
    - Logistical community concerns.
    - Parent concerns for schools with high student enrollment.
    - Loss of 5 elementary schools.
    - Board Member request for surveys due to consolidation.
    - Family assistance.
- A request was made to have the cost analysis per board member district on the new boundaries.
- Remember the Why? Goal? Purpose? in the decision making process.
- In the past, ELL do get the support they need.
- Framing the communication around what helps students to achieve better.
- Explanation of the ELL program at Beauclerc Elementary.
    - ELL allocation at a school is determined by the ELL population at the school.
    - Beauclerc has a dual language magnet program.
- What allows schools to keep programs that they do not want to get rid of.
    - Some programs can be rolled into a larger school.
- Englewood Scenario:
    - Continuity.
    - Expansion of boundaries.
    - If Englewood Elementary is closed, where would the sales tax dollars go to.
    - Alternate 1 - Englewood cost impacts.
    - Goal of right sizing the district.
- The district is looking for cost savings meanwhile trying to make the best decision for the students so they can attend a newer and modern school.
- Concerns were shared about the student enrollment at Beauclerc being low capacity.
    - Student safety for those that will have to walk to school and cross busy intersections.
    - Principal feedback and further communication requested.
- Concerns about not fulfilling the promise to the Englewood community.
- Boundary changes for Englewood High and the student enrollment effects on Beauclerc Elementary.
- Resident population numbers are being used in the proposed boundary changes.
- Merging existing schools and having ample seats for ESE students.
- Atlantic Coast High School:

- No alternates
  - Proposed boundary changes does address the overcrowding issue at Atlantic Coast.
  - Eliminates the K-8.
  - Concerns for the additional cost for portables.
- Mandarin:
  - No proposed alternates.
  - The proposed boundary changes decreases enrollment at Atlantic Coast.
- Riverside:
  - No alternate.
  - Defining the elementary school that feeds into Lakeshore Middle School was a bring back request.
  - Review the feeder pattern.
  - Ensuring that the parents would want to send their students to Lake Shore Middle.
  - Original plan for Venetia Elementary and the timeline.
  - Students will not be able to ride their bikes due to distance.
  - Where are the students coming from that ride the bus.
  - The proposed feeder pattern at Riverside was to increase the enrollment.
- Concerns for Hyde Park were shared because Bayview is on the property of Lakeshore Middle.
  - Hyde Park was chosen over Bayview because of Castaldi and the original bold plan.
- Ed White High School:
  - Westside High is not able to absorb the population.
  - A request to see the Westside map in print was made.
  - A request was made to see a map of Westside and Ed White remaining as high schools to identify the total enrollment count.
    - Cascading impacts for Ribault and Raines high schools.
    - A request was made for cascading impact to be explained.
      - Removing elementary schools out of the feeder patterns.
      - May have to build Baldwin smaller.
    - What is more economically efficient for the district.
    - Westside High utilization rate.
- Baldwin High proposed feeder pattern
  - Future Baldwin growth.
  - The number of students that are riding the bus to Baldwin and Chaffee trail.
  - Current students enrolled at Baldwin Middle would go to the new Chaffee Middle.
- Jean Ribault High School Proposed Feeder Pattern
  - Concerns around families being aware of the changes with Henry F. Kite now going into Sallye B. Mathis now.
  - Dinsmore's current growth and it's disconnect because of geographical location.
  - Attendance zones splits.
- School grade concerns as schools are being consolidated.
- William M. Raines Proposed Feeder Pattern
  - Closing 8 schools instead of 4 as originally planned.
  - Work with local government to ensure that the community is provided the support needed.
  - Bold plan actions versus proposed actions and the timing.
  - Sports that will be put into place.
- First Coast High Proposed Feeder Pattern
  - Constituent communication.
  - Distinct communities - different populations.
  - Garden City - a replacement on site as a microschool.
  - Utilization and geography of space if Highlands Middle is gone and Pine Estates is no longer

there.
    - Sheffield and Oceanway being so close.
    - San Mateo has an acceleration program and they have continuity to James Weldon Johnson and Darnell Cookman for those with magnet designation.
- Recap of Scenarios
    - Primary Fletcher Feeder.
    - Primary Sandalwood Feeder.
    - Alternate 1 Englewood Feeder but more conversation is needed.
    - Primary Scenarios for Atlantic Coast, Mandarin and Riverside.
    - More conversation on Ed White or Westside closing and what the numbers would be if they both remained opened.
    - Primary Baldwin Scenario.
    - No changes to both Ribault and Raines scenarios.
    - Explore further on the K-8 Sheffield.
- Next Steps
    - Policy.
    - Number of magnet schools discuss needing more discussion.
    - March subcommittee meeting to discuss boundary policy.
    - A request was made for the district to create a draft timeline with community meeting dates.
    - Inquiries about upcoming decision making.

Dr. Coker departed at 3:08 p.m.

Dr. Kriznar thanked the Board for their attention and openness to discuss.

Chairman Willie shared that the Board and District want to ensure students are in the best situation possible meanwhile making good on their promises. He continued letting the public know that nothing is final and no decisions have been made yet. The discussions today were just proposals.

Adjournment

1. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

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Superintendent Chairman