



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227

Telephone: (503) 916-6544

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3107 / 97208-3107

TO: Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent
CC: Dan Jung, COO
FROM: Space Committee
Dana White, Director, Planning & Real Estate
DATE: December 9, 2019
SUBJECT: 2020-21 Short-term options to address overcrowding

Background

Regular monitoring of enrollment, program demand and demographic trends is called for in PPS policy and Long-Range Facilities Plan. Each year, a cross-departmental team, the PPS Space Committee, works together to identify schools that warrant changes in order to prevent negative impacts of overcrowding. Over the past five years, the Space Committee efforts focused on short-term relief strategies while long-term relief options were decided via the District-wide Boundary Review (ie, D-BRAC) process and now through the Enrollment Balancing Work. Given that the District is embarking on a District-wide enrollment balancing process, Space Committee will continue to focus on short-term solutions while supporting the enrollment balancing work through capacity and use analysis. For last year's report, click [here](#).

This report describes the Space Committee's process and options for schools that are facing overcrowding in the 2020-21 school year and departments seeking to expand their programs. Additionally, we have outlined the steps taken to alleviate immediate issues for the '19-'20 PPS school year. Enrollment has grown by more than 3,700 students (8%) over the past ten years, which has led to overcrowding at some schools. Campuses that house co-located programs are particularly susceptible to crowding problems because additional neighborhood students cannot be evenly distributed across all programs.

Process

The Space Committee has met bi-weekly from June through December of 2019. Core members included:

- Dana White, Director, Planning & Real Estate and committee facilitator;
- Judy Brennan, Director, Enrollment and Transfer;
- Shawn Helm, Analytics and Evaluation Analyst;
- John Lyons, Sr. Program Manager, Planning & Design;
- Daniel Cogan, Academic Programs Associate;
- Patrick LeBeouf, Director of Projects & Construction

- Kirsten Cowden, Sr. Manager, Real Estate
- Scott Whitbeck, Sr. Director, Ops & Continuous Improvement
- Kathleen Ellwood, Sr. Area Director
- Julie Roeder, Program Manager, Planning & Real Estate
- Other subject matter expert staff were included as needed.

At each meeting, the team listened to crowding concerns and requests for space shared by Area Senior Directors and Department heads, gathered and analyzed enrollment, programs and capacity information, and discussed options for short-term and long-term solutions. In accordance with the district's long-range facilities plan, the committee looks for non-facility solutions, first, before considering facility changes. Additionally, in preparation for future enrollment balancing and program equity work, the team reviewed and developed recommendations for leased and vacant buildings.

Additionally, the committee engaged in a half day retreat with the District's contractor FLO Analytics and worked through our schools by cluster to identify potential concerns. We also agreed on the definition of **overcrowding** as a situation where a school has an identifiable need for more teachers or resources than classrooms. This definition helped guide our priorities though is certainly fungible as the implementation of SSA becomes embedded in our work.

Short-Term Options to Address Overcrowding--2020-21 School Year

- **Cesar Chavez**
 - **Issue**
 - Two-strand DLI program and one-two strand neighborhood program
 - CSI school with additional support
 - Enrollment in 6th grade over projection in 2019-20
 - Need at least one additional classroom for 2020-21
 - **Mitigation Steps for 2020-2021**
 - Divide one large room into 2 classrooms to create an additional classroom
 - **Long term resolution:**
 - Include in Enrollment Balancing Process for 2021-2022.
- **Vestal**
 - **Issue**
 - Co-located with ACCESS grades 1-5
 - All classrooms being utilized.
 - **Mitigation Steps for 2020-21**
 - Building a wall in the double classroom to provide an additional classroom.
 - **Long term resolution:** Enrollment Balancing Process for 2021-2022.
- **Early Learners**
 - **Issue**
 - State funding coming for additional classrooms
 - Looking for three classroom spaces in outer Southeast (possibly Bridger if Bridger goes K-5) though they are wanting farther east if possible

- This area will be ongoing as the model calls for 2-3 classrooms in specific K-5 locations
 - **Mitigation Steps for 2020-21:** Consideration to adding two classrooms at Woodmere
 - **Long-term resolution:** Additional classroom space will be available beginning in 2021-22 with the opening of Kellogg MS.
- **Faubion**
 - **Issue**
 - School is over capacity; See last year's mitigation plan
 - **Mitigation Steps for 2020-21:** Consider relocation of one or two Pre-K classrooms. Efforts from last year to restrict out of boundary students in Kindergarten and 6th grade will take time to impact the enrollment at the school.
 - **Long-term resolution:** Consider boundary changes and/or grade reconfiguration in future Enrollment Balancing process.
- **SPED Self-Contained Classrooms**
 - **Issue:**
 - Significant increase in SPED enrollment over the past two years
 - Looking for more space for 2020-21 for additional classrooms, this work is ongoing
 - **Mitigation Steps for 2020-21:** TBD--Final needs to be communicated from SPED department in late '19 and early '20 whereupon instructional
 - **Long-term resolution:** Enrollment Balancing needs to find space for these classrooms so that they do not need to be moved when schools are overcrowded

Schools Being Monitored due to recent enrollment growth: No plans for enrollment/facility changes for 2020-21 school year.

- **Ainsworth**
 - All classrooms being utilized
 - School has a two-strand Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program
 - 3rd grade neighborhood classrooms spiked to 35
 - Add an EA to support these large classrooms
 - May need boundary change or move of DLI program to ensure enough space in the school
- **Vernon**
 - Growing enrollment in grades 6-8
 - Additional FTE added for the middle grades program
 - Starting to get overcrowded at the school
- **Lane**
 - Co-located with ACCESS 6-8
 - TSI school with additional support
 - No additional classrooms

- **Grant**
 - New school opened with over 100 more students than anticipated
- **Franklin**
 - School has over 2,000 students and continued growth is expected.
- **Roosevelt**
 - School has grown by 200 students in the past year and 500 students in the past decade
 - Possibly to be included in a Phase V at Roosevelt in 2020 Bond to address increased enrollment over the next 10-20 years.
- **Capitol Hill**
 - New affordable housing being built at South Waterfront; may impact enrollment

Other Space Committee Recommendations-Leased and Vacant buildings

1. Kenton: The lease on this 23 classroom school in Northeast Portland expires in 2021. The site could be needed for special programs or to support continued K-8 reconfiguration for the '24-'25 schools year.
2. Smith: Overcrowding in Southwest schools is not expected to be sufficient to warrant reopening Smith School within 5 years. However, the site could be needed if PPS prioritizes additional special programs in this region. The team does not recommend adding Smith School to the 2020 Bond. However, the site will need significant capital investment before re-opening, so should be a good candidate for a subsequent bond.
3. Edwards: The lease on this ten classroom school in Southeast Portland expires in 2021. With only ten classrooms, this site is not likely to be reopened as a standard elementary school. Furthermore, since this region is saturated with special programs, the team could not identify a specific district need for Edwards within 5 years.
4. Terwilliger: The lease for this 11 room school in Southwest Portland expires in 2022. Like Edwards, it is too small to be considered a site for a standard elementary school. However, it could be used within the next 5 years to address potential overcrowding at Capitol Hill Elementary and program needs in the region.