

Campus Sharing at Denver Public Schools

November 2008

Regional Community Meetings

Agenda

- Timeline
- DPS Reform Efforts
- Aligning District Resources with the Denver Plan
- About Shared Campuses
- Question and Answer

The Context of Reform

The decision to share campuses is a specific strategy to implement ongoing school reform at DPS.

- Secondary School Reform Commission (2004-2005)
- The Denver Plan (2006)
- The Report of the A+ Denver Facilities and Finance Sub-committee (November 2007)
- New School Development and the Request for Proposal Process (2008)

The Problem: Surplus Space

- Historically the district approved charter schools but did not locate them in DPS facilities. As these charters opened their doors, they attracted primarily existing DPS students. However the district, never recalibrated its total capacity thus creating surplus space in our traditional school buildings.
 - These early efforts to introduce new academic choices expanded the array of academic options and produced several successful schools, but because enrollment stayed largely constant, they resulted in a costly surplus of space.
- In fall 2007, the district had space for over 100,000 students, but served only about 72,000 students (*fewer if you don't count charter students in non-DPS facilities*).

Steps Toward a Solution: Create new Options while Eliminating Surplus Space

- Closed eight school buildings and created three new schools
- The district could not close or combine any more of its secondary schools and meet the A+ Denver expectation that displaced students be assured a better academic opportunity.
 - Established a New Schools Office to proactively attract new higher-performing school and program offerings
 - Conducted an ongoing process for requesting proposals (RFP) for new schools
- Expanded preschool and kindergarten enrollment
 - School closures and expansion of preschool and kindergarten increased utilization to greater than 90% capacity at the elementary school level meaning that at the elementary school level the district is spending its resources on children and not empty space.

New Schools Initiative Timeline

- RFP Issued March 10, 2008
- Early and Regular Cycle Proposal Submissions
 - Early Cycle (May 16) : 21 letters of intent received, 5 full proposals
 - Regular Cycle (Sept. 1): 20 letters of intent received, 8 full proposals
- Three Early Cycle proposals approved by the Board, June 26, 2008
 - Two schools opening 2009-2010, one school opening 2010-2011
- DPS staff recommendations will be public on November 13
- Public comment session will be held on November 17
- Nine schools and two programs are being voted on by the Board on November 20

Surplus Space is Expensive

- Surplus capacity in our buildings is absorbing resources that could be focused on increasing student achievement
- DPS middle and high schools are on average at only 60% - 70% capacity
- A seat in a DPS school, occupied or not, costs the district approx. \$1,500 (maintenance and capital expenses)
- Failure to house new options in existing space will waste resources that could be better invested in our academic programs

The Effects of a Shared Campus on Staff and Students

- Each school's program will be built around serving its students well in a strong instructional program.
- Schools will maintain their own principals, faculty, students and budgets.
- Schools, with DPS support, will develop and sign Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) detailing how space in a building is used.
- A Building Team will be created to conduct the following activities:
 - Assume responsibility for the operations
 - Schedule the premises, specifically shared areas of the campus
 - Mediate and resolve disagreements between schools
 - Support each individual school
- Campus managers will coordinate building teams and manage building operations
- Space like the school's cafeteria, gymnasium and sports fields will be shared and need to be scheduled according to a formal MOU.
- Reassignment and repurposing of rooms may be needed to create contiguous space and fit instructional needs.
- The District will use resources to allow schools the ability to create and maintain separate school cultures as well as physical separation. For instance, schools can use visual identity and branding so space in the building is unique to the school.

The Benefits of a Shared Campus

- Increases the number of academic choices in a community
- Will lead to “right-sizing” of both schools – the setting of enrollment targets appropriate to maximize the intended academic outcomes
- Makes more full and effective use of a school facility
- Brings new resources to the existing facility and school
 - The district will commit resources from the bond and other sources for facility improvements for both schools

Criteria Used to Determine Which Schools will Become Shared Campuses

- Space available within facilities
- Regional demographics and trends
- Enrollment and performance data and trends in potentially affected schools
- Community views
- Preferences of the new and existing schools
- Compatibility between new and existing schools
- Availability of school choices in each region
- Geographic feeder pattern
- The ability to physically separate schools within the facility

(Criteria referenced can be found in proposed BOE policy)

Southwest and West (Lincoln HS & West HS)

Demand:

- These two regions show strong demand for new school options at all levels.
- Overall, nearly 22,000 school age children live in these regions, but only 14,700 (67%) attend DPS schools in the area. With only about 800 students attending private schools in the area, significant numbers of students are seeking educational options elsewhere.
- These two regions are expected to grow in the coming years: by 2015, the regions will add nearly 2,500 students.
- The need for more options is particularly acute at the middle and high school levels. For example, 4,200 middle school students live in the area, but DPS schools serve only 2,400 (57%). DPS middle and high schools in the area, like Rishel and West, see 4 students leave their boundaries for each student they attract from outside their boundaries.
- The Southwest and West regions house 12,700 elementary age children, but DPS serves just over 8,000 in its schools in the regions (64%). Most elementary schools in the area are full, with significant demand for preschool that they are unable to meet in their existing facilities.

Other considerations:

- DPS will be adding a K-12 campus at Kunsmiller starting with the 2009-10 school year. The school is projected to serve up to 1,125 students from the region and citywide at full build-out (325 Elementary; 300 Middle; 500 High School) planned over a 5-year period.

Why Share the Rishel Campus?

- Rishel has student capacity of roughly 1,100 students.
- Walkthroughs have been conducted by a group that included the building principal, new schools office staff, the school instructional superintendent and a representative from facilities management to determine actual available space for another school.
- Rishel has 400-500 available seats that could be used to co-locate another school.
- Enrollment trends and degree in which the current school is serving the regional population base were evaluated to determine regional demographic needs.
 - Rishel MS has almost 400 more students choosing to leave their attendance boundary than those choosing to come in from other regions.
- Various shared campus scenarios are currently being evaluated
- Rishel may or may not become a shared campus in 2009-2010.

Why Share the West Campus?

- West has a student capacity of over 2,100 students.
- Walkthroughs have been conducted by a group that included the building principal, new schools office staff, the school instructional superintendent and a representative from facilities management to determine actual available space for another school.
- West has 900-1,000 available seats that could be used to co-locate another school.
- Enrollment trends and degree in which the current school is serving the regional population base were evaluated to determine regional demographic needs:
 - West had 1,000 more students choosing to go outside their attendance boundary than those choosing to come in from other regions in 2007-08.
- Various shared campus scenarios are currently being evaluated
- West may or may not become a shared campus in 2009-2010.

East and GW High School Regions

Demand:

- Very high expected growth in the number of school age children in the coming years will increase the demand for school options and place additional strain on existing DPS facilities in these regions. These regions are expected to add 6,700 school age students by 2015 – 32% growth.
- Middle school capture rates (students attending DPS schools in the region divided by school-age residents in the region) are high in the East HS region partially due to Morey MS attracting nearly 400 more students from outside its attendance area than it loses to other schools along with the high-demand Denver School of the Arts (DSA) magnet program.
 - Smiley MS loses almost 500 more students from its attendance area than it attracts from outside.
- High school capture rates are high in these regions driven by East HS (East attracts 420 more students into their attendance area than they lose to other schools) and the high-demand Denver School of Science & Technology Charter (DSST) and DSA high school options.
- East is the only high school that is currently over capacity. Additional HS options in or near its region would help relieve the strain of this overcapacity.
- DPS schools in the regions experience strong competition from private providers. Nearly 4,500 students attend private schools in the area – which equates to about 20% of the students who live in the regions.
- Need exists at every level for offerings capable of serving mixed income populations.

Other considerations:

- Park Hill K-8 is phasing out its 6-8 program (currently serving ~50 students in 7th and 8th grades).
- DSST added a 6th grade in fall 2008, with 7th and 8th grades following the next two years.

Why Share the Smiley Campus?

- Smiley has a student capacity of nearly 1,100 students.
- Walkthroughs have been conducted by a group that included the building principal, new schools office staff, the school instructional superintendent and a representative from facilities management to determine actual available space for another school.
- Smiley has 550-650 available seats that could be used to co-locate another school.
 - Smiley MS has recently implemented an International Baccalaureate (IB) program school-wide.
- Enrollment trends and degree in which the current school is serving the regional population base were evaluated to determine regional demographic needs.
 - Need exists at every grade level for offerings capable of serving mixed income populations.
- Various shared campus scenarios are currently being evaluated
- Smiley may or may not become a shared campus in 2009-2010.

Northwest Region

Demand:

- The Northwest region as a whole has a capture rate (students attending DPS schools in the region divided by school-age residents in the region) about equal to overall District average, but has a significantly lower space utilization rate.
- Region will see average growth in the number of school age children by 2015, adding nearly 2,000 students (18% growth).
- Middle school capture rates are above district averages, and roughly an equal number of students are coming into the region from other DPS schools as are leaving (note that choice in/choice out data is not yet available for the new TreVista at Horace Mann).
- High school capture rates are low (49%) and North High loses 500 more students to other regions than it attracts from other regions.
 - Excluding students “choicing-in” from other regions, North HS is only serving a little over one-third of the high-school-age students in the region
- The region has limited private school options.

Why Share the Skinner Campus?

- Skinner has a student capacity of almost 1,100 students.
- Walkthroughs have been conducted by a group that included the building principal, new schools office staff, the school instructional superintendent and a representative from facilities management to determine actual available space for another school.
- Skinner has 600-700 available seats that could be used to co-locate another school.
- Various shared campus scenarios are currently being evaluated
- Skinner may or may not become a shared campus in 2009-2010.

Why Share the Lake Campus?

- Lake has a student capacity of over 1,000 students.
- Walkthroughs have been conducted by a group that included the building principal, new schools office staff, the school instructional superintendent and a representative from facilities management to determine actual available space for another school.
- Lake has 250-350 available seats that could be used to co-locate another school.
 - Lake has recently received International Baccalaureate (IB) certification and is implementing the program schoolwide.
- Various shared campus scenarios are currently being evaluated
- Lake may or may not become a shared campus in 2009-2010.

Far Southwest Region (JFK High School)

Demand:

- The Far Southwest region is expected to see below average growth to 2015, adding about 1,200 school age residents (14% growth).
- The region has a low space utilization rate at the middle school level due in part to the phased closure of Kunsmiller middle school.
- DPS high schools in the region serve approximately 1,700 students (JFK and Southwest Early College Charter). When students choosing to attend JFK high school from outside the region are excluded, the school serves 700 of the regions 1,900 high-school-age students, or 37%.
- Private school attendance at the high school level is strong (1,000 students attend Mullen High School, which is located in the region).

Other considerations:

- DPS will be adding a K-12 campus at Kunsmiller starting with the 2009-10 school year. The school is projected to serve up to 1,125 students from the region and citywide at full build-out (325 Elementary; 300 Middle; 500 High School) planned over a 5-year period.

Why Share the JFK Campus?

- JFK has a student capacity of over 1,900 students.
- Walkthroughs have been conducted by a group that included the building principal, new schools office staff, the school instructional superintendent and a representative from facilities management to determine actual available space for another school.
- JFK has 300-400 available seats that could be used to co-locate another school.
- Enrollment trends and degree in which the current school is serving the regional population base were evaluated to determine regional demographic needs.
 - At least 800 high-school students from the JFK attendance boundary are attending school elsewhere.
 - Enrollment at JFK has been decreasing significantly over the past several years.
- Various shared campus scenarios are currently being evaluated
- JFK may or may not become a shared campus in 2009-2010.

Important Future Dates

- **November 13:** Faculty & community meetings to announce DPS staff recommendations
- **November 13:** Staff recommendations presented to the Board of Education
- **November 17:** Board of Education Public comment session
- **November 20:** Board of Education Vote
- **Fall 2009:** Earliest date approved schools will open

BOE Approved Schools

School	Grades	Description	Requesting Co-location	Board Approval	Opening School Year
Envision Leadership Prep	6-12	Based on the successful Envision Schools model used in California and serving a targeted first-generation college-going population of students.	Yes	Approved	2009
Envision Academy II	6-12	Same as above.	Yes	Approved	2010
West Denver Prep II	6-8	A replication of the successful West Denver Prep.	Yes	Approved	2009

Schools Pending BOE Approval

School	Grades	Description	Requesting Co-location	Board Approval	Opening School Year
Denver Language School	K-8	A full Spanish- and Mandarin Chinese-language immersion program	Yes	Pending	2009
STEM Academy / Math & Science Leadership Academy	K-5 (to be confirmed 11/01)	A teacher-led school proposed in collaboration with the DCTA and focusing on math, science, and leadership skills.	Yes	Pending	2009

School	Grades	Description	Requesting Co-location	Board Approval	Opening School Year
KIPP Denver Collegiate High School	9-12	A high school following the KIPP education model.	Yes	Pending	2009
Justice High School Denver	7-12	A replication of the Justice High School Boulder model, which serves adjudicated, court-ordered, and other high-risk youth, instilling a college-going culture.	No	Pending	2009
Mile High Academy	6-12	An existing HOPE Online center seeking to acquire charter status to serve students in an alternative online environment.	No	Pending	2009
EdisonLearning School 3	K-8	A replication of the EdisonLearning model as seen in Wyatt-Edison and Omar D. Blair schools.	Yes	Pending	2009

School	Grades	Description	Requesting Co-location	Board Approval	Opening School Year
Denver Charter Academy	K-8	Utilizing a developmental and music therapy approach to education.	Yes	Pending	2009
Cesar Chavez Academy	K-8	A replication of the Cesar Chavez Academy model as seen in Colorado Springs and Pueblo, serving a largely Hispanic population of students.	Yes	Pending	2009
Ombudsman Alternative Program	Grades 9-12	A national program which will serve a population of 100% recuperated drop outs in a combined online and face-to-face environment. Offers a DPS diploma.	No	Pending	2009

School	Grades	Description	Requesting Co-location	Board Approval	Opening School Year
Concerned about You Academy	over-age drop out students	Working with Aims Community College, serving overage dropouts in a combined online and face-to-face environment. Offering college credits and a competency-based diploma issued by Centennial BOCES.	Yes	Pending	2009