



101 community members, teachers and assorted School District representatives participated in conversations at the Design Session at Dunbar Middle School on September 24, 2018. Working from a draft handout describing possible Facility Upgrade Options across the District in the next five years, small groups developed ideas and recommendations that were posted on sheets at the meeting. These are the raw notes transcribed from post-its and written comments.

You can download the Draft Facility Upgrade Options that describe an initial set of facility uses and possible future student-teacher re-assignments as buildings might be changed over the next several years at www.lrsd.org/LRSDCommunityBlueprint.

On the same webpage, you can also sign up to provide personal feedback on all the facility upgrade challenges and options until October 5, 2018.

Area One Overview – McClellan High School Area:

- 1. McClellan students will attend Southwest High School in 2020.**
- 2. We hope to have the new McClellan built that will house a K-8 with a capacity of 1400 students by 2022 (cost \$45 – 50 M).*
- 3. K-8 schools have several benefits. (1) K-8s centralize the younger grades while providing separate buildings for elementary and middle school students, (2) K-8s decrease the number of transitions the student has to go through, (3) K-8s add stability and retention in public schools, (4) K-8s enable more wrap-around services and learning environments for student support, and (5) K-8s broaden the attendance zone for areas of town where we have dwindling populations.*
- 4. Right now, we are approved to build a new McClellan for grades 6, 7 and 8, and move the Cloverdale Middle School students to that new facility using state funding.*

Starter Ideas for the New McClellan:

- 1. Other than the current gym, the entire facility will be brand new.*
- 2. Learning environments will be set up to separate elementary from middle school students.*
- 3. Each classroom will have light and be designed to enhance multiple, flexible learning options.*
- 4. Science and STEM labs and career center will be built.*
- 5. Maker spaces and project-based learning spaces will be built.*
- 6. A state-of-the-art playground will be built.*
- 7. Improved traffic patterns will be designed for easy entrance and exit by parents.*

Area Two Overview – J.A. Fair High School Area:

- 1. J.A. Fair students will go to the new Little Rock Southwest High School in the fall of 2020.*
- 2. J.A. Fair is a campus in excellent shape.*
- 3. It could be ready to receive students in the fall of 2020.*
- 4. The school's ideal capacity is at 1,051 students.*
- 5. More families with children are moving into the neighborhood around Romine Elementary.*
- 6. K-8 schools have several benefits. (1) K-8s centralize the younger grades while providing separate buildings for elementary and middle school students, (2) K-8s decrease the number of transitions the student has to go through, (3) K-8s add stability and retention in public schools, (4) K-8s enable more wrap-around services and learning environments for student*

support, and (5) K-8s broaden the attendance zone for areas of town where we have dwindling populations.

Starter Ideas for the New J.A. Fair:

1. *The new J.A. Fair will have an environmental science theme concept. The school could become a model environmental science program for the District that other schools could visit.*
2. *It will have superior lab spaces and classrooms equipped with observation mirrors for new teachers.*
3. *Fair could also become the facility where district-wide and state-wide science fairs could be held.*
4. *Our hopes are that the new media center will include digital books, a separate state-of-the-art computer lab, and flexible, bright individual student and group learning and seating spaces.*
5. *The building is well-suited to divide elementary and middle school students.*
6. *The design will include safe arrival and dismissal for elementary and middle school students.*
7. *There will be flexible seating to meet the needs of various learning styles.*
8. *There will be attractive outdoor learning spaces.*
9. *J.A. Fair is a quality building with two gyms.*

Community Input to the Proposed J.A. Fair Area Two:

1. Earlier Career Development Planning & Mentorship
2. Art/Music partner with city for after school programs appealing to students
3. Easy access to mental health
4. Parents have a real voice at the table
5. Mental health behavior/conflict resolution
6. Parent involvement
7. ROTC student clubs, resources example;
 - a. 100 Black Men
 - b. OK Program
 - c. GEMS, etc.
8. Look at the Parkview/ NLR model
9. Relationships & Partnerships with Business nonprofits, College/trade schools, primary
10. Cultural integration of students from Fair/McClellan/Hall – Con
11. Smaller Classes
 - a. kill the competition
12. Removing neighborhood schools leaves whole in the [community]
13. No DIVERSITY BLK AND BRW kids
 - a. Kicked out of Hall
14. Where is the Diversity in the new High School? – question
15. Consolidation impact of loss of community schools to the neighborhoods
 - a. Property value
 - b. Crime

16. Why are all of the Elementary schools in southwest proposed to close? A large elementary school creates large classrooms that aren't beneficial to learning!!
17. Student: Teacher ratio
18. Re-segregation of LRSD schools
19. Busing
 - a. Commute time
 - b. Age discrepancy of students
 - c. Peer influences
20. Preparation of Fair/McClellan staff for a larger ELL population
21. Other McClellan
22. Open space causes more triggers for our autistic students JA Fair facility would be better to keep kids safe and help prevent triggering/running

Area 3 Overview – Hall High School Area:

1. *The Hall High School student population could potentially be reduced by 300 students who could shift to the new Southwest high school.*
2. *Hall High School has an Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) designation as a school of innovation that offers opportunities for career development and possible flexibility with state and district requirements.*
3. *Hall has significant 2nd language delivery offerings that will also be made available at the new Southwest High campus.*
4. *Hall has a capacity of 1600 students and a recent history of decline in population.*
5. *We are mandated to make a boundary adjustment in 2020 for Hall High School. Studies for that begin in the summer of 2019.*

Starter Ideas for Hall High School Area Three:

1. *We can create a stronger tie and relationship between Hall High and Forest Heights that could include 8th graders having classes at Hall. This would expand the numbers served at both campuses. We could make a wing at Hall High for a Forest Heights Stem 8th grade academy. 8th graders could take 9th grade classes and could have access to wet and dry labs.*
2. *Hall High School could become the STEM high school for the district. We could enhance Hall's innovation status by inviting the medical community to help develop career strands within Hall High. Hall High School could turn into a medical and science school in partnership with UAMS, creating pathways to research and certifications related to nursing, medicine, research and medical technology.*
3. *We could develop a hi-tech high university studies focus at Hall.*

Community Input on Hall High Area Three:

1. 12 hours concurrent credit – pro
2. ROTC Program that needs it not want's it
3. STEM classes: - pro
 - a. Robotics
 - b. Mobile Apps
 - c. Concurrent Computer Concepts
4. Hall needs a PR campaign. Good things are already happening

5. I'm not sure if Forest Heights kids would like Hall High
 - a. Bad fit
 - b. Choice of student
6. Have to compete – ourselves
7. Already headed to a “stem” curricular
8. Need a zone – designated feeders to keep kids together
9. Need PR program
10. Consider putting Pinnacle as a feeder to Hall
11. Like 8th grade academy @ Hall
12. Need to get the right team in the school: Good principal
13. UAMS component real advantage
14. Hall needs an ROTC program

Area 4 – Pinnacle View Middle School

Community Input on Pinnacle View Area Four:

None

Area 5 Overview - Old Hamilton-SW Jr. High and Bale Elementary Area:

Southwest Junior High/Former Hamilton Learning Academy Capacity and Facility Factors

1. *Its capacity is 750 students, and it is considerably under-utilized.*
2. *The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) has already received a request to access the use of this property for a charter school.*
3. *It ranks fairly high in terms of facility upgrade needs according to the facilities study.*

Bale Elementary Capacity and Facility Factors

1. *Bale has a capacity of 476 students. Its current enrollment is below 400 students.*
2. *It ranks fairly high in terms of facility upgrade needs according to the facilities study.*

Starter Ideas for Old Hamilton-SW Jr. High and Bale Elementary Area

1. *We could consider a K-8 option that would utilize both the Bale Elementary and Southwest Junior High School. Bale would house Pre-K through 2 and Southwest would house 3-8.*
2. *UALR could work closely with this school and use it as a teaching lab for UALR students, accelerating academic performance. It is centrally located. It is close to UALR.*
3. *The 3-8 grades at Hamilton could be gender-based classes similar to the San Antonio Young Men's and Young Women's Leadership Academies. It might also be dual language. Bale could be repurposed as a Pre-K-2 Co-ed.*
4. *Community members, parents and district officials could work collaboratively to create an innovative education delivery with new funding resources. Partners who have expressed interest include the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the Central Arkansas Library System.*
5. *There would be no attendance boundary.*
6. *The Bale site could include a library and the Hamilton building could house the K-8.*

Community Input on Hamilton-Bale Area Five:

1. What happens to the students who have serious discipline issues?
2. Teaches kids falsely about gender identity at the time they are trying to figure themselves out
3. Create bonds not division between people and support diversity!
4. Worse for students causes them to be more rebellions and exploratory
5. Gender based classes is a bad idea – con
 - a. Losses opportunity for kids to learn communication skills
 - i. As a girl I have a lot of valuable friendships with guys
 - b. WHAT ABOUT NONBINARYS?
 - i. Gives kids a heteronormative view of gender, will create destructive societies in the future
 - ii. Marginalizes LGBT identity and backwards progress

Area 6 Overview –Downtown Elementary Schools Area (Central & Eastern LR)

1. *At the elementary level in this area of the city, we are at 60% capacity (2,696 students with a 4,537 student capacity). The compounding effects of dwindling enrollment and aging buildings make it costly and challenging to operate all of our elementary learning facilities.*
2. *We need a lot more affordable, **high quality Pre-K options** in Little Rock. This is a great strength of the School District and several quality Pre-K facilities are in operation in the area.*
3. *The Charter e-Stem enrollment has increased significantly in this area as has construction of new buildings. Now there is an e-Stem Downtown Elementary, East Village Elementary, Downtown Jr. High, East Village Jr. High and e-Stem High School. In the same area, the new charter has opened at the remodeled Mitchell School.*
4. *The School District has existing STEM and Arts programs that could be enhanced and leveraged.*

Starter Ideas for Area Six:

1. *Rockefeller Elementary could become a Birth to Pre-K Center.
 - a. Rockefeller’s K-5 students could go to Washington Elementary.
 - b. We could combine Booker and Carver students (664 total students).
 - c. Pre-K at Carver could be sent to Rockefeller.
 - d. Move Pre-K at Booker to Rockefeller.
 - e. Move Washington Pre-K to Rockefeller. This would be 436 Pre-K total at Rockefeller.*
2. *We could consider creating a STEM or STEAM emphasis at Washington with improved technology and without district boundaries. Consider alternative funding sources and involve the community in that decision.*
3. *We could consider an innovative, high-performing K-8 in this area without boundaries.*
4. *Carver could have a true partnership with the Museum of Discovery and STEM. We could make it stronger and attract new enrollment.*

Community Input to the Proposed Central & Eastern Neighborhoods

1. Pre K central location
2. Keeps bro/sis @ different schools
3. Pre-K is a draw for the elementary schools
4. Central Pre-K

- a. Separating siblings if split out pre-k
5. If carver moves Pre-K to Rockefeller, we could lose potential students
6. When we close the schools, will we have room for returning students? - con
7. Please don't combine Carver and Booker
 - a. They have great strengths as is
8. Keep all elementary's Pre-K – 5 aside from Washington (repurpose it)
9. Public school charter funding
10. Suggestions
 - a. 1b and 1c combining Booker and Carver
11. Moving Pre-K at Carver to Rockefeller
12. Moving Pre-K at Booker to Rockefeller
13. Offer more affordable birth – Pre-K available
14. Booker is the only performing fine arts program for elementary students in LRSD and LR charters
 - a. The Arts Program is an asset to the LRSD
15. Booker Arts ranked low in facility upgrade needs windows and lighting main upgrade for energy efficiency
16. Booker Arts Magnet is easily assessable and highly visible. This location is prime real estate. Charter schools would want this property if it was available
17. Rockefeller k-5 students go to Washington Elementary
18. Demand for Birth-P4 in downtown LR
19. Washington more to STEM/STEAM special program
20. Pre-K central location - Takes care of Pre-K needs
21. Restructure Washington to make it more appealing to parents
22. If considering Washington to become STEM/STEAM school, advertise across the district to recruit students according to their interests.
23. STEM/STEAM school = good idea and increasing importance of science, etc. and academies
24. Increase kid's creativity
25. Can school lunches be improved?
26. More constructive P.E.
27. Smaller class sizes
28. Smaller class sizes is more attractive to some parents and is beneficial to many students. I don't feel the need to max out every classroom.
29. Combine the math and science programs of Washington and Carver and create a STEM magnet K-8
30. Create a K-8 coding in the Arts Magnet to attract new students that are creative with technology at Booker Arts Magnet
31. The accountability placed on parents and students @ charter schools should be the same placed on parents/students in public schools
32. Turn Washington into professional dev/resource center
33. Maintain magnet themes to provide choice to parents
34. Make Washington a Birth to Pre-K center

35. Keep Pre-K in Schools
36. Turn Booker into instructional resources center
37. Draw – alternative learning strategies/environments
38. What alternative funding sources are being considered re: Washington Elem???
39. Combine Booker/Washington to create STEAM preference given to neighborhood 1st then others could come to Carver, etc.
40. Social skills emphasis
41. More stimulating learning environment
42. Encourage community partnerships/business collaboration
43. More positive/creative discipline
44. Help w/ behavior - Introduce alternative sports or martial arts
45. Why aren't we evaluating the future of D & F schools - Not in this plan
46. Carver has the highest school grade of the schools mentioned in the idea starters for Area 6
 - a. Carver Letter Grade – C – 70.5%
 - b. Booker “ “ – C – 68.2%
 - c. Rockefeller “ “ – D – 65.82%
 - d. Washington “ “ – D – 61.9%
47. Carver has been a true STEM school since its foundation
 - a. S – Science Lab/Young Astronauts
 - b. T – EAST classroom
 - c. E – Lego Room/Makerspace Room
 - d. M – Math/Science Magnet Focus
48. Carver is one of the newest buildings in the District 1988 – year built

LRSD Idea Lab

This is the collection of ideas and concerns that were offered about the Little Rock School District in general.

1. Need social workers - (Family support workers)
2. Clear explanations to students * staff about changes once determined
3. Promote LRSD middle schools at academic tournaments
4. Our diversity that makes us strong applies to school types too better to not have all K-8 or all small neighborhood some of each
5. No Schools in Schools - Hall/FHSA
6. Student Outreach
 - a. Let students put out ideas and reach out to connect with them.
 - b. Ask students about new ideas that affect them to see what they think before deciding on it as adults more removed from the situations
7. K-8/combined schools
 - a. Personally I like k8s some of them, but I don't think all of the schools should be we need some variety and neighborhood schools
8. Whose idea was it to combine k-8 grades. Not a good concept for bussing.

9. If Romine Elementary is repurposed as a crisis center, is it for LRSD students or the community?
10. Will the \$\$ saved be invested in the things proven to [train] students
11. What happens to kids who set in trouble?
12. With schools closing – How will teachers be reassigned or retained?
13. Why are our schools losing so many students?
14. How can we attract students back to LRSD?
15. To keep kids in district may be increase programs/extra curriculums/academics
 - a. Better/bigger lab spaces/facilities
 - b. More clubs/school (increase club budget) partnerships
 - c. More arts (visual, drama, dance, crafts, choir, etc)
 - d. Opportunities you can't get at charter/private schools
16. Parkview/District
 - a. Air conditioning is controlled not in building
 - b. It's been either really hot or really cold
 - c. Can we please control our own ac/heat?
17. How many schools would there be left with all the proposed k8s?
18. What would happen to all the displaced teachers?
19. Would they be given new jobs in the district, given the opportunity to funnel into new schools with their students or what?
20. Combining schools leaves a lot of empty buildings, what will happen to or be done with them?
21. Mr. Poore, you stated that you will turn this information in by Dec. who will you be turning it into?
22. Rumor is that Henderson has already been sold. Handout says it's a maybe?
23. Who is in charge of out reach?
 - a. There's virtually ZERO info on these meetings online
24. Shrinkage plan for the district
25. Parents, community, students and educators were not involved in the "options for the LRSD Community Blueprint"
26. No Data, evidence about LRSD students and facilities that are being proposed to bring together students who have not traditionally gone to school together by age/grade level and community
27. No evidence/information about property taxes that we have already been paying and how they are being used
28. No visible plans for recruitment and retention of students and certified teachers/educators
29. No visible plans for using facilities after school hours to meet community needs – community centers after hours; extended school day; recreational facilities for community building; increase pollers sites; build community programs
30. No visible marketing plans to grow the LRSD and draw students from current and surrounding communities
31. Make no changes to baseline Wakefield and Romine

32. Would there be one or two birth to pre-k5 centers?
 - a. If plan is approved?
33. Prioritize certain schools for K-8 development
 - a. Meadowcliff etc.
34. Why is the burden of transportation always being done to minority/low income students?
35. SW High unifies town demographics – pro
36. Birth- Pre-K - pro
37. Good for the parents to attend nearby schools – pro
38. Need more community engagement (perhaps... a coordinator)
39. Beside railroad – con
40. K-8 concerns with separation of grade levels - con
41. Need more vocational opportunities – con
42. Communication Communication Communication
43. Embalm Birth – Pre-K in neighborhoods (decentralize)
44. Invest in schools that have innovative and impactful programs (Wakefield, Baseline)
45. K-8 with parent engagement with wraparound services
46. Need more healthcare partnerships @ schools – con
47. We need a growth strategy
48. Get these parents engaged
49. Bigger marketing – PR strategy + action
50. Schools can be extensions into the community with connections w/ all other groups
51. Treat us all the same equal in all schools
52. What about ROTC @ SW High, Hall
53. Smaller classrooms are seen as preferable
54. Dealing with peer-pressure @ K-8 with such age range
55. Will we still have enough schools better our kids come back if we let them all go