

82 community members, teachers and assorted School District representatives participated in conversations at the **Design Session at McClellan High School on September 4, 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](http://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.**

#### **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 20222 (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.***

#### **Community Input on McClellan Area One:**

- 1. **Where-staff will go in a barrel and only the best will make it out!... Re-interviewing - thought***
- 2. **More options/opportunities due to size (electives)/more specialized spaces-idea***
- 3. **Utilizing resources much better by reducing number of empty seats- idea/thought***
- 4. **Baseline [could be] birth –prek5 – idea***
- 5. **Better facility – thought***
- 6. **Convenience of multiple student family – all @ same facility***
- 7. **K-8 configuration – pro***
- 8. **Utilize old building community center (suspended student center) – pro***

9. Utilize building = old building new - thought
  - a. Health Center
  - b. Adult Education
  - c. Votech
  - d. ESOL
  - e. Parent Engagement
10. Bring in principals from both Fair and McClellan together – idea
11. Community vetting for staff – idea
12. Survey the community for appropriate usage of buildings and land – idea
13. Equity and equality – thought
14. Zoning assessment – thought
15. How to make K-8 unique and a draw for parents – thought
16. Suggestion: Research for needs of community – idea
17. Has research been done to see how this will affect students and families and what's best practice – question
18. Decrease transitions – pro
19. Questions
  - a. Surrounding communities
  - b. Resource centers
  - c. Equal resources
  - d. Increase parent involvement and school incentives with principals, staff, community to define resources for students even dealing with mental health
20. Partners – funding for building
  - a. City of Little Rock
  - b. Pulaski Tech College
  - c. UA system
21. Baseline Academy needs time to work – if converted perhaps convert to a new student center for ESL students – idea
22. Chicot to McClellan K-8 – idea
23. Utilize Buildings for City Year office at any old building
24. Diversity – Resources will draw people in – thought
25. Compete giving students a quality building! Technology! – thought
26. Would like to see a successful model of a K-8... Forest Heights Stem
27. Wakefield pre-k-2 then McClellan 3-8 grades – idea
28. B, 4 +6 is there sufficient demand for those – question
29. Have emphasis on college preparation – idea
30. Students have choice in education pathways – thought
31. Offer both language arts education and college prep – idea
32. Have to keep the arts available along with stem activities – idea
33. Solid study to indicate repurposing of facilities and what types are feasible – idea
34. Toxic mix of kids @ SW school – thought
35. Summer Institute to build up student leaders to facilitate Fair/McClellan integration – idea
36. McClellan and JA Fair have most altercations. Why put them together? Rivals! – thought
37. Meadowcliff-hear smaller classes better for students – thought
38. No consideration for well-being of whole. Don't close Meadowcliff and bring down property values. Hurts the hood. – thought

39. Enrollment predicted to be down, has there been a constant decline been a constant decline is so how long and what measures have been done prior to now, If not why? Especially if more families are moving into the area. – thought.
40. Target concentration? i.e. illness, disasters – thought
41. Traffic – pick up/drop-off – con
42. Options: B.1. Costs of transporting students to use option B.5. costs to maintain/keep running transporting students to use – con
43. Size
  - a. Young students @ a school of 1,400? – con
  - b. Double the size of our current model FHSA – con
44. Funding/cost – con
45. Time needed to rebuild – con
46. No K-8, keep schools small. Use schools to bridge gaps in race/culture [between McClellan and JA Fair students merging at SW] con/thought
47. Vague repurposing ideas – con
48. Wakefield is a newer facility and consistently over-capacity don't close it! – con
49. 1400 K-8 - cons
  - a. 900 – 1000 max
  - b. What is the research behind 1400 students in one school?
50. Can't guarantee larger schools will work. Smaller schools have proven in the past to be more successful with proper staff and community – con/thought
51. Consider bilingual and written diversity in language – idea
52. Hall, McClellan and J.A. Fair students and sports are rivals in one. – con
53. Seems to leave best students with lower level learners causing bored and lost interest – con
54. Kids [from] Cloverdale, Meadowcliff - con
55. Adult resource Hispanics, English vice versa teach each other – idea
56. Fix schools – con
57. K-8 New building “new start” climate – pro
58. Transportation – con
59. Ideas for Meadowcliff – idea
  - a. Adult education
60. Ideas for Watson
  - a. Community Center
  - b. Workforce Community
  - c. Clothes Closet
  - d. Training Center for students (CBI, JAG, etc)
  - e. Health Center
61. Southwest High School is being built – pro
62. Don't want elementary with middle school – con
63. Will there separate campuses for k-8 – con/question
64. Destruction of neighborhood schools especially south of I-630 – con
65. What's going to happen to the empty buildings? – con/questions
  - a. Sold and used as charter schools?
66. Lack of cultural identities among communities – con
67. Create a quality program that becomes a community learning center – idea
68. (Wakefield) [to become] free dental program

69. Leave Wakefield ALONE, is it at capacity. If so, why close it! –con

**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. [There were a few positive responses to the ] K-8 combined with elementary student bodies from Dodd/Henderson/Romine(maybe) – pro
2. Plan the system of a social & culture orientation phase for all students involved in the changing & relocation of J.A. Fair/McClellan schools spring 2019 – Funded by LRSD.
3. Idea--could be good if bathrooms separated for younger and older (like FHSA)- thought
4. Moving staff too helps continuity for students.
5. [Repurposing] Henderson to state of the art sports complex in a central area could be a great idea - pro
6. Dodd building has a cracked slab and wiring issues that (with other issues) would need to be addressed to repurpose – con

**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. FHSA student and parent here do not think it would be a good idea to move 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Hall. – con
2. I don't think sending 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Forest Heights to Hall is a good fit – con
3. Diversity: Southwest School should have an attendance zone waiver for ELL's – new idea
4. Issue a waiver for Hall's students who are already enrolled – attending Hall, so they can graduate where they originally enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. – new idea
5. An ESL program-sheltered at both Schools... ESL @ Hall, ESL @ Southwest
6. Programs: ELL's students live in Echo Valley, Reservoir, Midtown Little Rock... you can't make them now just go the other way! Tend to them where they are. – thought
7. Figure I: see appendix
8. Sheltered ESL program should continue in the new southwest. Currently 340 students attend the program. About 150-170 of those students are newcomers who lack education in their own language. A newcomer center is vital to offer these students basic educational background. – new idea/thought
9. Southwest ESL Academy mirroring Springdale model open an academy to educate ELL newcomers in English skills BEFORE they enter high school. The academy could offer English and Math classes and labs to create background they lack from their countries. Students would get local credits not counting towards their graduation requirements. – new idea/thought
10. Not all ELL students attending Hall zone live the southwest area you cannot auto state that they live in the southwest area! Hence you must add or persist – thought

**Area 4 Overview – Pinnacle View Middle School:**

1. *Pinnacle View is the district's newest campus.*
2. *It has an ideal capacity of 1200 students.*
3. *It has enrollment growth.*
4. *This year's 6th grade class will have approximately 400 students.*
5. *It has an adjoined office complex that once housed the original 6th grade students with a capacity of 450 students at one time.*
6. *The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) has already received a request to access the use of this property for a charter school.*
7. *Repurposing the vacant office space for a new high school is an option.*

**Starter Ideas for Pinnacle View Area 4:**

1. *We could develop a "New Tech High School" similar to the Rogers New Technology High School with a blended online learning format that would begin with a 9th grade group. The available building was already configured for this for 6th grade, so it can happen quickly.*
2. *We could create a school similar to the Springdale School of Innovation that would allow students access to unique high school courses while maintaining their residency at their boundaried schools for some courses and extra-curricular activities.*
3. *We could develop a small high school with a focused delivery of project-based and blended online learning for students who do better in a smaller school environment.*
4. *A new school could focus on career options and feed students into apprenticeships, internships and externships.*

**Community Input on Pinnacle View Area Four:**

A technology magnet that all students from around the district could apply sounds good.

**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 PreK-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. Splitting a school into gender wings is a bad idea
  - a. It makes kids lose out on opportunities to learn social skills
  - b. What about non-binary kids? There aren't just two genders, and this marginalizes non-binary and LGBT, etc....
  - c. Teaches kids not to accept non-binary, trans, gender fluid, etc... in the time period they are trying to figure themselves out.

**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. *How to compete and win back students show that we equally value students and families regardless of economic status and demographics by including equal resources and beatification. – thought/idea*
2. *Rockefeller go to Washington K-5, Rockefeller 6 wks to P4 – idea*

3. Combine Booker and Carver – Carver become a STEAM – idea
4. Booker to be PD, training facility or sports complex
5. MLK becomes a downtown charter – idea
6. Virtual home school center [for vacant building]– idea
7. Rockefeller – Birth to PreK - idea
  - a. Move K-5 to Washington
  - b. Move Carver Pre-K to Rockefeller
8. Washington to be K-8 – idea
  - a. Community School Concept
  - b. (Energy efficient, environmental/lifestyle, shared resources with downtown business)
9. Students from Rockefeller, Booker, Washington – no boundaries - idea
10. Look @ providing business hours as school hours 8 – 5:30 – idea

### [LRSD Idea Lab](#)

*This is the collection of ideas and concerns that were offered during the McClellan breakout sessions about Little Rock School District issues.*

1. Conquering the classroom “disruptive element”
2. addressing discipline strategies
3. Encourage diversity. We need to train staff to work with this generation of students.
4. Elevate schools by reducing number of schools; this will increase funds to help remaining buildings.
5. Entice excellent teachers here to Little Rock with better pay.
6. Diverse city matters! Si, se puede!
7. Find more ways to get input from the students themselves. Not many of us kids come to these forums. Ideas Instagram page and poles. Have a place at schools where kids can send in info.
8. Connect with student council’s in a group to get input and ideas from them. Present new ideas and plans to teachers and students as a question to see if they think it’s a good idea.
9. Parkview works because it is how it is. No changes needed to Parkview. Here’s why: As a freshman Parkview student last year, I took classes with seniors and I take science and drama etc. Smaller [size] is a perk. . One of the great things about Parkview is its community and family like feeling. Central has lots of kids and is larger.
10. Raise teacher’s salary by 6% over the next three years.
11. Can we change the name, “Southwest high school”? It sounds very territorial and derogatory. Is there another name of a famous Arkansan that the school could be named after?
12. Increase District Communication Budget to enhance advertisement of the district strategically.
13. Need vocational curriculum.
14. More gender neutral bathrooms for gender non-binary or gender complicated students.
15. Advertise Carver as a top STEM elementary magnet and promote the space sciences.
16. How do we get all schools the same?
17. Overall, the City needs to be a better partner.
18. Bring people in to the district with great programs that are unique to each school.



19. Scrap current facilities upgrade options. Improve all schools in the Little Rock school District. Stop closing schools. Stop attacking certified teachers. Support public school students, parents, and neighborhoods where the school district has schools. No more segregating our schools. No creating charters and choice schools in the school district Stop sub-contracting jobs in the school district like security. If one school in the district and one area in the district has more need than others, supply the needs. We need to see equity in the resources and support of students and their families. Our students need Community representation that is elected by our peers.
20. Equip all teachers and classrooms with necessary support and resources to make them excellent for every student in every class. Build up every student in the district, with brick and mortar, but with access to resources with certified teachers and educational support with their clock classrooms, schools, and Community.
21. We would like you to start using the resources within the school district and Community that did not support the takeover and instability of the district--who do not support the privatization of the district and our tax dollars. We would like to see less tracking of students and more equity for all students in all classes in all schools. Focus on education inside the schools for all. We want a community conversation on the educational performance in the schools.
22. We recommend advertising aggressively on TV and radio.
23. We need a strong plan to fix the schools we have before we build new ones