



## DRAFT: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT RESPONSES

OCTOBER 15, 2018

This DRAFT SUMMARY reflects the prevailing wisdom and recommendations from the community and from LRSD staff. We had about 500 individuals participate at the five community design sessions and another 365 people complete the online reflective surveys.

This table reflects the stakeholder mix from the online participants:

LRSD student	3.84% 14
Parent or Guardian	64.66% 236
LRSD teacher or staff member	32.60% 119
Interested Community Member	27.40% 100
Elected official	0.55% 2
Interested Business Person	5.48% 20
Non-profit professional	5.48% 20
Higher-education stakeholder	2.19% 8
Faith Leader	1.64% 6
<a href="#">Responses</a> Other (please specify)	9.04% 33
<b>Total Respondents:</b>	<b>365</b>

Just so we can have a picture of the backgrounds, voice, and context people are bringing to the facilities dialog and design process. We let folks choose more than ONE single response so the parents and community/professions are likely a bit duplicative. We did get sufficient “internal” perspective in a pretty good balance with outside customers and stakeholders.

**BROAD LRSD COMMUNITY VISION:** Every student should have equal access to great facilities, teachers, technology, and love.



## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO SWHS

### Positive

**117 people** offering comments in the survey (in addition to those below) said the plan was good, exciting for the kids in the community, adequate, beneficial, ok, great for the community, great opportunity, will help the community, etc.

1. Sounds like a good place to go to/to teach.
2. Sounds like a good high school that our city will benefit from!
3. I think it's amazing that they have a whole area or areas dedicated to special ed students. I like how they're focusing on what the students need while still making the school presentable.
4. I think it is very important for all students in LRSD to have access to new facilities. This new high school is a step in the right direction.
5. Sounds very student-centered and I believe that the goals are truly amazing.
6. I love that these opportunities will be available for an area of the city that I feel like is mostly overlooked. I also appreciate that the arts are taken into account and prioritized. I'm also appreciative that project-based learning seems to be prioritized.
7. New buildings with access to advancing technology and more educational resources are always a good thing
8. As a drama specialist I was pleased to note that a performing arts complex and concert venue is integrated into the plans for the Southwest High School. This provides amazing hands-on opportunities for our students that are passionate about the arts. I'm hoping that the Southwest High School Arts Complex will be designed in a manner that allows for project based learning. If so, the hands-on experiences could absolutely lead our students into careers in drama, broadcasting, music, visual arts and other multi-media art forms. Amazing!
9. I think that everything appears to be up to par and I hope that the students will be able to reap the full benefits of the new school and hopefully we draw more students into the area.
10. I am excited about the new HS in the SW area of LR. I hope it will generate a lot of good buzz for LRSD and be a pioneer school for a new direction for our district.
11. I am very happy that a state-of-the-art high school is being built in a community that has needed updated facilities for a long time. I like that there are diverse foci as far as tech, the arts, and science.
12. Again, having grown up in SW Little Rock, I am thrilled to see updated facilities in that area. K-8 schools are a fantastic set-up. This is a wonderful new concept that I am so thankful LRSD is implementing.
13. This K-8 school will be a great feeder to the new Southwest High.

### Concerns

1. **Many people shared concerns about the process of joining these student populations into one.** They think it can be successful, but requires handling with care and intention.
2. Several people said it sounds great but they are concerned about these two populations combining. There is hope that they will be "law abiding citizens" and take care of the new facilities. "I think that this is a great idea to bring a better school to the area but there need to be some type of training for all incoming students prior to them transitioning to this new school to change their mind set so that the school will not be destroyed."



## DRAFT: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT RESPONSES

OCTOBER 15, 2018

3. Great ideas regarding the physical plant. What about the students that you are combining from different areas of the city? There are concerns regarding the size that you are creating. How do you plan to address such a large population in one area that is going to be very diverse?
4. Security is a concern for traditionally local in city rivals, but offers an opportunity to "bring communities together". It will take a monumental effort by PARENTS, church leaders, and student leaders to work with students to coexist.
5. The 6 bullet points regarding Southwest High School are nice but breezy. ..I haven't heard of an articulated plan of curriculum and community stakeholders invested in the success of the new Southwest High School. The school will be in a low socio-economic area with students from two failing high schools with large behavioral incidents. I would like to hear of a plan to address this and take all the students higher (to mastery). I am concerned. Sounds interesting, but how much in property tax will people in the Southwest area be responsible for? The new high school has already hit our pockets hard as it is.
6. I'm excited about the new high school for the families in SWLR. But I'm concerned about the domino effect it may cause to the other schools.
7. A new state of the art building is not going to fix the problems of LRSD.
8. It's already being built so a little late for this question. But why close two schools & bus hundreds of students halfway across the city only to try and use the same two schools later. Remember Busing students was part of the downfall of the LRSD.
9. I feel this is an important and overdue addition to the LRSD. Hopefully, all middle and high school students will have access to the sports facility.
10. It may not have been the best idea to combine 3 of the worst performing high schools altogether. This could be problematic for reaching academic targets.
11. While new facilities are a great way to draw in students, a new building will not heal internal issues. Also I don't like how it's segregated. Mainly black and brown students being shipped here doesn't sound right. Big beautiful buildings only hide the roots of issues for so long.
12. I am excited about the new high schools as students from both previous high school will have the chance to join in order to create a new school community.
13. There may be some initial drawbacks and negativity due to the logistics and learning new geographic/logistics issues for students and parents but new and modern facilities are overdue and needed.
14. Needs to keep people in a good school closer to where they live.
15. The ideas are exciting, but my concern is whether it will even matter to the students attending. JA Fair and McClellan are two schools that are known to not get along well with each other. The environment is going to be key as to whether this works out well for all involved. A brand new school doesn't mean the learning will be better. The community issues need to be addressed and resolved in order for this school to have a chance at being a positive learning environment. It doesn't really matter if you have a brand new school, but still have to same issues that the two previous schools had to deal with daily. That is potentially 40 to 50 million wasted.
16. I am not sure a k-8 in this area of the city is the best idea. Even in separated areas, the influence of middle school students is great with elementary students. SWLR is a volatile region of the city.
17. Make significant accommodations to support **English Language Learners** because they are supporting the schools in SWLR.
18. I believe the Southwest High School was not envisioned with the community in which it plans to serve. Not much interest nor efforts have been visibly made to ensure that the student populations



and their families are a part of the decision making process that include them been moved from their current schools to a "new school." There may be an opportunity to better invest in students, families, educators and the school communities of McClellan, J.A. Fair and Hall before they are closed and forced to be displaced without their consent. If these plans were being made in communities with more wealth, there would have already been several community meetings hosted by the LRSD and the communities to ensure that the processes of change that are occur meet the standards and needs of the students and adults involved prior to breaking ground, developing blueprints and hosting city wide community conversations.

19. District should not be building schools or closing schools until we have an elected school board. We won't have enough students to support the new school as more and more children leave for charter and voucher system.

### **Recommendations**

1. It sounds good for the residents and students in the Southwest area. Be sure to provide continued support and not just a facility for the community of SWLR.
2. In order for it to be successful you are going to have to have a strong hold on discipline and teaching. More often than not, I see former students sleeping, fighting, and playing posted on Instagram, with no teachers in site. When I do see the occasional teacher, they are sitting at their desks. In order for the new school to be successful, we need to expect the very best, by setting examples, and holding all stakeholders accountable.
3. The new facility should be amazing. It will put the district in a better place to compete with surrounding districts. Having a state of the art sports complex will allow the district to host more state conferences. As the school is opened, great consideration must be made when staffing the school. There must also be a concrete plan for integrating the student bodies of the two existing high schools.
4. It would be great if there was some intentional pause taken to build community involvement in decision making process here to forward. Parents, students, educators and community should be a part of the developmental plans and processes along the way.
5. The plans are okay but I would be concerned about bringing rival students under one roof.
6. The facilities sound impressive. McClellan drastically needed to be replaced. JA Fair's building was fine, though. I'm concerned that, like with the relocations of students following the conversion of Forest Heights to a K-8 school, there will be big issues with fights and out-of-school conflicts affecting the learning environment. I certainly hope that the district puts much forethought into how to combine student populations and integrate changing student populations that result into their new school homes.
7. I really feel the plan will work with the right leader in place. With the school being new there will need to be a lot of support from students, parents, and the entire staff.
8. Please ensure that you are well prepared to serve Latino students who may be ESL students also. Culture and language should be represented in what you offer.
9. Long overdue, but so is meaningful and sustained academic growth at current Fair and McClellan, both 'F' schools.
10. The teachers have to care about the kids, and love what they do and not just be there for a paycheck and Act as if No Child Is Left Behind get back to older Days Morals and Values it take a Village to raise kids. Do not let a kid go hungry. Stop tripping about if the back pack isn't netted, get



metal detectors...Where all the kids are getting adequate Education graduating with Honors, our Kids Are capable too.

11. If the new McClellan K-8 is going to offer STEM programs, I think it makes more sense for both Southwest and Hall High Schools to offer STEM, rather than limiting it to only Hall.
12. Diversity: Southwest School should have an attendance zone waiver for ELL's
13. 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.
14. An ESL program-sheltered at both Schools... ESL @ Hall, ESL @ Southwest
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. Merge SW HS students as we do with Pinnacle View: start with 9<sup>th</sup> grade only in Year one. Year Two add 10<sup>th</sup> graders, etc.
19. Continuity is highly valued by many. On the other side, I have concern about the closing of so many schools in neighborhoods and opening one big Walmart-like school. The make-up of both McClellan and Southwest feels like herding. What does it mean for larger class sizes for McClellan in particular? This proposal does not meet the standard of improving quality of life in area. The opposite seems true. Nor contributing to diversity. Will definitely improve learning environment as far as facilities are concerned.
20. Together SWLR and LRSD has vast potential upon the horizon. I applaud the stakeholders of SWLR and LRSD in putting education first and I look forward to seeing the fruits of their labor come to bloom. Therefore, I most humbly request that we take a look at one area that is closest to my heart and that is out-of-school time, which is a time that can occur before-and-after school, during holiday breaks, during summer break, and during any time outside of school hours. This remedy can be achieved through one or more of the following: Additional funding and resources for current out-of-school time programs Readjusting the school year to be all-day/year-round Adding out-of-school time programs to areas in the district where none or few exist Retaining and/or expanding early childhood education Retaining and/or expanding out-of-school time programs

### **Questions to Answer**

1. These are great. EVERY high school should have them. Has planning begun for staffing the school and ensuring success?
2. Have you considered building with LEAN Management Processes, monolithic dome structures for built-in shelters, or outsourced cafeteria functions to improve economic efficiencies?
3. How about beefing up ALE identification and services to include more LRSD students (increase revenue by \$4640 per student)?
4. The ideas are excellent, but dramatically better than any other school. What about equality of facilities and services?



## DRAFT: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT RESPONSES

OCTOBER 15, 2018

5. Will there be too many students at this school? With combining Fair and McClellan and the 300 students from Hall, that sounds like potentially a lot of students to control/handle in one space. This this school being built in an appropriate area? What is the max distance some of these students will have to travel to get to school?
6. What will be the role of Metro Tech high school in the future? How will the career tech program at Southwest High School effect the student population of Metro Tech?
7. Will this be a STEM school? Will Hall also be a STEM school?
8. What you have described sounds terrific. A big question for me is if teachers have the skills and/or are willing to acquire the skills to use all the terrific resources that the school will have to offer. What will school leadership do to develop a positive school climate that goes along with all the fancy new building? To succeed, Southwest will need much more than just an amazing building.
9. Will there be enough students who want to attend this school?
10. It appears that the new Southwest High School will have a state of the art facilities that will be devoted to all students. However, will students be recruited to attend this school from other attendance zones or will the students in Southwest Little Rock will be given the opportunity to attend as well?
11. Facilities sound great. Very concerned about the hyper racial/ethnic segregation of the school. Consider a number of seats for open enrollment.
12. What will be the role of Metro Tech high school in the future? How will the career tech program at Southwest High School effect the student population of Metro Tech?
13. Excellent! However, what about the schools that have long been a staple in the community...why are we not investing in them to ensure they continue to produce achieving students! i.e. Parkview?



## COMMUNITY RESPONSES ABOUT PROPOSED FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS IN MCCLELLAN AREA

### Positive

**149 (over 80%) of the people completing surveys** (in addition to the **24 responses** community meeting notes) made comments about the initial ideas as “Good,” “Great!” “Fantastic!” “Wonderful” and that the K-8 model is “effective”. Many stated that this option was needed in this part of town if it is the state-of-the-art facility, technology and curriculum that they envision. Other comments reflect the range of positive reactions about this McClellan concept:

1. Our children are in a K-8, FHSA. We have experienced no problems between elementary and middle school. It has been very good.
2. Sounds good but that's a lot of students on one campus.
3. Again, having grown up in SW Little Rock, I am thrilled to see updated facilities in that area. K-8 schools are a fantastic set-up. This is a wonderful new concept that I am so thankful LRSD is implementing.
4. In favor and McClellan will return to be the neighborhood anchor.
5. I think a K-8 environment helps to rebuild the confidence in LRSD for those parents who flee after elementary.
6. I like the idea of a K-8 program. I think it is important that the learning environments be separated for the elementary age and middle school age. The concern is what does this do to other middle school populations and the magnet schools in the district. As a parent I find the idea of knowing where my child will be from k-8 without have going through application and lottery appealing however if it is not a good quality school then it would just cause me to leave the LRSD at an earlier grade level.

### Concerns about a proposed McClellan K-8

1. It is a little concerning with much older more mature students being in the same building as younger students.
2. Not sure K3 & 4 should be with students K-8th.
3. I do not agree with this model. There are too many liabilities when housing those kids together.
4. Here are some concerns: while K-8's work well in some populations, it doesn't necessarily work well in other parts of the city. I have personally seen K-8 work in several other schools, but those schools have selected population (meaning their parents selected that school). **Their parents put in the time and effort to take them to those schools. The kids left behind at their local public schools don't have that choice.** If you push too many kids into 1 concentrated area that are forced to be together you are likely to develop more behavior problems which will affect student growth.
5. This is how the plan should be! K-4/5-6/ 7-8/9/10-12. The reason why I say 9th grade can all come together as a whole from all schools, because all high schools are getting these transitioning middle schoolers that are still immature and need to still grow, that way they can all continue to grow together before going onto 10-12, whichever High School of Area!!! So ASA Mr. Governor why you all are wasting government money making cuts everywhere Our Kids are our future and EDUCATION is Not the CUT!!! Our Kids are depending on this! ~Concerned Caring Parent About The Youth~
6. I don't like the idea of **mega schools**, no mention of **security**.
7. Many of these schools already have **pockets of discipline issues and parent problems**. Placing them in one large population is not educationally or in the best interest of our students.



OCTOBER 15, 2018

8. **Concerned about funding** to build the school to allow for k-5 because this question stated that there is approval for a 6-8 but didn't say that there was approval for K-5 nor did it say that there is funding for it.
9. I really don't think this proposed spending is necessary! **Why can't one of the existing elem or middle schools be re purposed and upgraded for the same use?** I just feel charter schools are taking the students that may be targeted to attraction for this new k-8 school.
10. Please change the name of McClellan. The senator was a racist who signed the Southern Manifesto. It's an ironic disgrace to have a school populated largely by students of color named after him.
11. Solid idea, but does not meaningfully address the lack of **academic growth at current Cloverdale**.

### **Recommendations about McClellan K-8**

1. It does improve the opportunities to provide services to whole families and to the communities.
2. K-8 is an excellent and encouraged setting. Use the FHSA model to **show the older kids working with younger kids in school wide projects like STEM or science fairs**. Give older students **academic credit for volunteering to tutor younger ones in literacy and math**. Little kids look up to older kids and having **an environment that is new, clean, and different fosters respect** for keeping it that way.
3. I think with a K-8 campus it will be very important to **separate the elementary kids** from the older kids. I think **Forest Heights has a good set-up in their facility**. The elementary students will definitely benefit from the shared facilities, but I think it's important to keep them in **smaller classes and in an elementary setting**.
4. **Would students at Mabelvale Middle also attend this new school?**
5. Re-structuring McClellan sounds like a good idea. **I believe that it takes more than a new building to improve a school**. The vision sounds promising for students. I like the concentration on science labs and maker spaces along with flexible options for learning environments.
6. I hope that multiple systems are in place to address the **low performance** of the students that will be attending that building. We would be combining multiple schools that are already low performing.
7. If you lose sight of the basics, the enhanced programs won't help. I agree they are needed, but the District's track record is not good with basics.
8. Make significant accommodations to support **English Language Learners** because they are supporting the schools in SWLR.
9. I recommend that you remodel **McClellan only to include 6-9th grade or 7-9th grade** students and provide them an atmosphere that is ripe for inviting, recruiting and sustaining new students in the LRSD who will be well prepared to matriculate to the next academic levels upon their graduation from this excellent middle/junior high school.
10. Make **McClellan a middle school with wrap around services** and a robust parent/parenting center with classrooms for parents and parents' services and maybe pre-k center (or birth-pre-k) where students could have education-related interactions with pre-k students and parents could be trained to work in pre-k center.





**CLOVERDALE AND ELEMENTARIES THAT COMBINE TO MAKE THE MCCLELLAN K-8**

Based on feedback from the community design sessions and the surveys, there was widespread agreement that moving Cloverdale’s students and staff to the new McClellan was sensible. When the community reflected on those elementary school facilities that might be repurposed into a new building, that Wakefield continue as a PreK-5.

As the community noted, there are extensive complexities involved in developing a collective determination about the region’s elementary population that it might be worth engaging more careful planning with folks in the area and even redrawing zones for the new McClellan.

“Without looking at attendance zones or a physical map, **Baseline and Meadowcliff** suit the quantity of student desired and age of building needing more serious consideration. However, a better approach might be to redraw the zones entirely in that area of town to send 600-700 students close to McClellan to their new K-8 school. Then shift students from remaining schools into open facilities and attempt to renovate the vacant building before making significant changes to the remaining facilities.”

Another person suggested, “In addition to consolidating **Baseline, Cloverdale, and Meadowcliff** into the new McClellan K-8, suggest re-drawing attendance zone for Wakefield and Watson to reduce the over-capacity and assign approximately 200 students to the new McClellan. That will reduce the overcapacity at these 2 existing elementary schools.”

1. Continue to support neighborhood schools by **factoring in walkability, geography, and neighborhood safety** for students. Continue to support the existence of schools with innovative partnerships/leadership such as **Wakefield (dental clinic), Baseline (family support workers)**.
2. Enhance your **health services at Wakefield** and make it a PK-5 facility with some students having to transfer to the new McClellan. It is a good physical space and the most recently built elementary school in this part of the city.
3. Make **Wakefield** a language/culture immersion school, not just Spanish, and open to all students in Southwest High attendance zone. Make Wakefield Environmental/Sustainability/Wildlife focused. Could partner with Game and Fish and Friends of Fourche, for example, along with others.
4. A couple people offered another idea: “Could the students at Chicot, Mabelvale Elementary and Mabelvale Middle also be included at this new school?”
5. In addition to moving **Meadowcliff Elementary** students to the new K-8 campus, consider rezoning or incentives to address the over-capacity issues at **Wakefield and Watson** and allow those extra students to attend the new McClellan.
6. I only chose to **exclude Meadowcliff** from the transition because of the distance from the new campus. Meadowcliff students would be better served attending the **SWJH (old Hamilton)** campus.

The table below encapsulates the survey responses concerning southwest area schools that are sensible options for re-directing into a reconstructed McClellan.

Cloverdale	220	Meadowcliff	162	Watson	141
Baseline	134	Wakefield	61		



**OTHER APPROACHES in the McClellan Area**

1. Merging 2 middle schools (i.e., **Cloverdale and another**) would be a better use of the facility.
2. **Mabelvale Middle School...?** Could it also become K-8th campus by combining **Mabelvale Elem. & Chicot Elem.?**
3. I think that you could be creative and **combine two of the elementary schools** together. Why are you selecting **Wakefield?** Rezoning would help relieve the issue of capacity. ***My question is what are you planning for the schools that are left vacant? Charter schools?***
4. I would want to proceed cautiously related to **Baseline, Meadowcliff, Wakefield, and Watson** students being redirected students to a new McClellan. I am familiar with the Baseline, Meadowcliff, and Wakefield areas and have spoken to people who are acquaintances who seemed to be very proud of their students' elementary schools. I do not know much about the Watson neighborhood. I recommend that you remodel **McClellan only to include 6-9th grade or 7-9th grade** students and provide them an atmosphere that is ripe for inviting, recruiting and sustaining new students in the LRSD who will be well prepared to matriculate to the next academic levels upon their graduation from this excellent middle/junior high school.
5. **Wakefield** is a fairly new facility. ***Why would you consider closing that school down?***
6. You should look at the elementary schools in terms of how they are **performing academically**. The lowest schools (**D or F**) **should be considered for closure first**.
7. It seems to make more sense for **Meadowcliff** to be included in the **Bale**/former Southwest plan.

**Repurpose Options connected to McClellan with Community Interest**

Cloverdale Bio Research	Soccer-Environmental Science	Baseline Birth-PreK	Meadowcliff: Youth Day	Watson Dental	Watson: Welcome Ctr.	Watson: Remodel as Elementary
<b>80</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>99</b>

**Preliminary interest in an initial set of possible repurposing ideas for facilities.**

1. Utilize old building community center (suspended student center)
2. Utilize building = old building new
  - a. Health Center
  - b. Adult Education
  - c. Votech
  - d. ESOL
  - e. Parent Engagement
3. **Partners** – funding for building
  - a. City of Little Rock
  - b. Pulaski Tech College
  - c. UA system
4. **Baseline** Academy needs time to work – if converted perhaps convert to a new student center for ESL students – idea
5. **Baseline** could be birth –**prek5**
6. Utilize Buildings for **City Year** office at any old building



**SUMMARY COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS FOR J.A. FAIR K-8**

**Positive**

About half of the online survey responses were positive regarding the initial ideas for utilizing JA Fair. There were many, many thoughtful questions that should be addressed around the re-use of this school.

1. We love the K-8 model and want everyone to have access to it.
2. The ideas of K-8 is wonderful thinking just be sure that all k-8 are well staffed and trained. No outgoing teachers should be staffed because we are potentially marking students from entry to high school to substandard education if not done/staffed properly.
3. K-8 is a great idea to encompass smaller elementary schools as well as accommodating middle level students. There has to be a shift in the mindset that K-8 schools are fraught with danger for younger students. They exist in other states and I see no reason why we cannot move to a K-8 model in Little Rock.
4. I think this is an excellent idea for Fair -- if the district only added 1 K-8 school, I think this would be the better option. I think the environmental theme is excellent -- especially with the greenhouses & land.
5. As long as the appropriate changes are made BEFORE the building opens to operate as a K-8 facility (separating the ages, etc.), this seems like one of the easiest renovations and changes to make. Let's do it.
6. I like the idea of K-8 schools. I think too many of our students get lost/overlooked in the big and overcrowded middle schools. I am hopeful that a K-8 campus would help address that issue. However, if it basically functions as a separate elementary school and middle school that just share a parking lot, then those benefits may be not seen. I like the idea of environmental science as a focus as that is an area of study that our students could pursue as a future career.
7. If proposed K-8 schools at McClellan and Fair would receive the same quality of teachers, administrators, and resources that Forest Heights STEM Academy enjoys, I expect they would be very successful.
8. I think this is a reasonable plan but LRSD must be mindful of flooding the system with K-8 schools. Not all parents want this.
9. J.A. Fair is a great campus in a growing part of our city. Keeping the property for LRSD is vital because it would be a prime target for another school to appeal growing population in the area.
10. I would like to see JA Fair accommodate all the elementary schools that are in need of repair. LRSD will bus students or be in a financial dilemma trying to repair dilapidated buildings.

**Community Concerns**

Many community residents responded with concerns about the future of the J. A. Fair facility. ***This sample below reflects the range of issues that must be addressed for much of the community to be supportive.***

1. Middle school and elementary should be totally different entities.
2. I don't like it. Why can't it stay a high school if it's in such good shape and you change one of the schools you're closing to house K-8?
3. Don't want it to interfere with forest heights k-8



OCTOBER 15, 2018

4. Seems like it would be the ideal school but why consider only elementary and middle schools. All of our high schools are not in excellent condition and possibly not even on the list for improvements! Consider a high school to move there.
5. NO! That needs to be a High School only. I think Parkview should go over to J.A. Fair. Parkview building need to be remodel and it also need its only baseball, football and any other sports field.
6. I believe the Fair campus would be better served by Parkview moving to that location. Parkview is need of a football field and bigger facility. It's a shame that the top performing High School has to operate in their current facilities.
7. Given its location, it would make an ideal candidate for a West Little Rock High School.
8. I also like the idea that the west Little Rock parents shared about using JA Fair as a true High School for that side of town. Rezone and send west students there for grades 10-12 and have a 9th grade academy at Pinnacle View.
9. I don't think that an entire school built around environmental science is a good idea. It would be more effective for it to be a school inclusive of all sciences: biology, chemistry, and environmental. Also, will school zones still affect where kids go to school? If I don't want my kid in an environmental building do I get a choice to send him or her to another school?
10. Many of these schools already have pockets of discipline issues and parent problems. Placing them in one large population is not educationally or in the best interest of our students
11. The district is in extreme need of more middle school options. Whatever happens the middle school portion must be retained.
12. Question: how do we ensure diversity if J.A. Fair becomes a K-8 school?
13. When you look at your plan, where are the neighborhood schools for African American students and Latino students? Why do we have to bus our students miles away from the neighborhood? Why can we not have the same opportunities as students and parents in other areas of the city namely north of I-630?
14. Concerns: staff morale of Romine and Dodd for 2 years. How long will the kindergarteners be on the bus to get to fair?
15. In 2022, where(s) the 1420 kids come from? Would boundary lines change? Currently zoned for Henderson and JA Fair is significantly further away from my home.

### **Community Recommendations**

1. I feel if McClellan is becoming a K-8, then we do not need Fair as a K-8 as well.
2. It's interesting that K-8 schools are a remedy for both areas with dwindling populations and ones where more families with children are moving in.
3. Great thought should be given to attracting students for increasing diversity by having some open enrollment seats from across the district or beyond.
4. Again, just renovate and don't abandon or repurpose these old schools. Upgrade Fair and Hall to where they deserve to be -- right alongside Central as a top-of-the-line high school.
5. I don't believe this would be properly funded by the district, over time I believe the district will end up cutting budgets and these items will not continue to be funded.
6. J.A. Fair does poorly academically, so at this point make sure to keep your focus on improving academics when you make your changes.
7. I am reading about a lot of science being implemented. What about the arts and music? They need to be brought back into the curriculum to help the talents of all students.



8. If J. A. Fair is on excellent condition use it for the Science Program. I believe scientific technology at this school will help the district.
9. I will support such a project just as long as enrollment includes seats for zone students, seats for "scramble" students, and seats for "school choice" students. A mixture like this will prove to be fairer than just simply relying on one within itself.
10. Consider that the student may be bused far from home and keep that in mind when zoning. This is not fair to families. I grew up 3 miles from J.A. Fair and had to bus to Robinson, which was an hour ride. It was very difficult for me to do homework and participate in extracurricular activities.
11. How could we consider:
  - Earlier Career Development Planning & Mentorship
  - Art/Music partner with city for after school programs appealing to students
  - Easy access to mental health
  - Parents have a real voice at the table
  - Mental health behavior/conflict resolution
  - [can we connect better :] ROTC student clubs;
    - a. 100 Black Men
    - b. OK Program
    - c. GEMS, etc.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR COMBINING FACILITIES INTO J.A. FAIR**

Generally, the community thought it made sense to shift the Henderson and Dodd systems into a newer facility, but there was much less enthusiasm for including Romine. Losing a neighborhood school in a growing area of the city was unpopular to many respondents.

Henderson Middle	<b>206</b>
Dodd	<b>196</b>
Romine	<b>136</b>

**Are these REPURPOSING OF FACILITIES that are affected by the new Fair K-8 SENSIBLE?**

Henderson: Sports Complex	Henderson: District Admin.	Sell some of land around Henderson	Dodd: teacher STEM & PD	Romine: Birth-PreK	Romine: Crisis Center	Sell property west of Romine for development
<b>142</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>127</b>

As the community reflected on future repurposing of facilities that could become components of a new J. A. Fair school, there were concerns about the cost implications for repurposing Henderson: for many, re-using it for District administrative uses was the most sensible idea. The sports complex had great appeal but the price-tag and sustainability challenges were troubling. Most responses about selling district land in the surveys were seen as sensible but in the open-ended feedback, they were mostly negative! As in other sections of the survey feedback, there were extreme concerns about selling any facilities to Charters.



### Henderson

1. I like the **Henderson** repurpose idea but not the price tag. A **centralized sports complex** only makes sense if you then do not build gyms at every site. I could agree with this as a cost saving measure but **\$50 million is pretty steep** and I suspect the district would still have to maintain current buildings/gyms/tracks/soccer...it is expensive. .. I am all for this type of facility but not under the Educational system's budget. County and city officials with donors and grants need to build, staff and maintain these type services. Your job is education.
2. A public venue for **health and recreation** would be nice.
3. I like **Henderson** as the sports complex. It's not in a densely populated residential area so repurposing is ok. Facilities along interstates and aren't in convenient walking distance for residents should be considered for repurpose
4. As long as the focus is benefiting for all students, any improvement is welcome and needed.
5. Turn **Henderson** into a sports complex strictly for 6-8 grades. We don't have enough basketball courts or baseball fields for kids in these grades. If it's used by the public it will get in bad shape quickly. The gyms can be rented to associations that run tournaments and can partner with the local boys and girls club for inner city youth after school programs
6. **Because Henderson Middle school is the main feeder school for Hall High School, what middle school will become the feeder for Hall as the new Southwest Middle and repurposed J.A. Fair Middle will now take those students?**
7. I do not love the repurpose ideas for **Henderson**, but what areas would need to bus/drive their kids way out to Fair??
8. All the plans for **Henderson** and the Elementary schools could be moved into Parkview's High School and they would have everything they need for a middle school both academically and athletically. Parkview could move to JA Fair and have everything they need all on campus.
9. Centralize all district admin in a single building-and reduce the size of administrative staff.
10. **Henderson** would be great spot to serve five schools. It's right by the highway and will be better to have for an administration building
11. **Please do not sell off land that the district might need in the future or put commercial facilities close to schools** (I have lived here 50 years and watched the city give developers pretty much whatever they want re zoning.) Question the need to use \$50M of our scarce resources for school/ community recreation and then ongoing administration/maintenance--actually the city of Little Rock should be doing a better job of providing this for the community. I do appreciate your consideration of such a variety of uses.
12. Are there any thoughts of using space for **Vo-Tech** programs?
13. Continue EAST program in JA Fair building w/ combine K-8

### Romine

1. **Romine** is in a densely populated residential area and I believe any school in residential area should be salvaged as a school. Schools are the back bone of a community. If population around Romine is increasing, keep it a neighborhood school.
2. Perhaps **Romine** should remain a K-5 school if the area is gaining in school aged population.
3. The **library near Romine** has a well-used feeding program for kids after school and on weekends. Utilizing it as a feeding place might be duplicating services already available or it might help more kids.
4. I don't think **Romine** is critical in need of reuse or repurpose.



## DRAFT: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT RESPONSES

OCTOBER 15, 2018

5. Move **Lawson to Fair** instead of Romine.
6. Any future re-uses for Romine should only consider birth-preK and early childhood.
7. There was some support for these ideas. "I love the 0-5 concept!!"

### **Dodd**

14. **Dodd** should be birth to P4.A resource center for reading, afterschool study centers (with broadband access), meeting place for tutors and students, etc. could work as well.
15. Can the **Dodd** facility be repurposed into the mental health crisis center, the **Romine** area build the **birth to preK**, sell additional land to expanding community.
16. While I support a **Crisis Center** providing mental health services, food, soft-skills, and life skills training, I do not believe that Romine is the best location for it, I feel that Cloverdale would be better suited for this.
17. I know **Dodd**. It is a great community school but too small. Maybe they could move-in with another school close to them? **Dodd** could be a Crisis Center.
18. **Dodd** needs to be torn down or sold. Not a good location.
19. Renovate and re-establish. Rename **Dodd**. Concentrate renovations on older schools in areas of the central city that are closer to the poverty level. These neighborhoods need these local neighborhood schools.
20. My main concern about closing **Dodd** is that it has a strong Pre-K program. I notice that you are closing neighborhood pre-K programs down and moving them into other buildings. What if parents cannot transport their children to **Romine** to attend pre-K because they have to take their other children to **J.A. Fair, Otter Creek**, etc.
21. **Current IRC needs** to be closed and placed in an area that does not put individuals attending professional development in harm's way. Currently the facility is "safe" but to get to the facility is in a high crime area. Traffic lights, single lane traffic, unexpected car problem, ... at any time of day, but particularly after dark, puts anyone traveling to IRC in danger.
22. Could be a **language center** for those parents/ families that want to learn English and teachers/ staff that want to learn another language.
23. **After school and summer programs and alternative programs** to in school and out of school suspensions, like the one currently operated by St. Mark Baptist
24. Do not sell the land. We need to keep the land for temporary gardens and parks if possible. Then when the new buildings and changes are made and settled, we can look at building more schools like **PreK** facilities in those empty lots.
25. **Dodd** should stay for the fact it has national history
26. Do we have a place for students with **severe behavior challenges**? Teachers need more support in handling students that are disruptive to their day.



**THOUGHTS ABOUT PROPOSED FUTURE FOR HALL HIGH**

**Positive**

**These statements reflect the general rationale of those providing feedback:**

1. "Definitely a STEM High School would a great compliment and be a feeder school for Forrest Heights STEM."
2. "I like the idea not sure how well the FHSA students will like the idea. "
3. "Addressing the declining population of Hall is a must. Prior to the late 1990's this school was diverse and competitive. There is no reason that it cannot return to that level of a school with strong leadership and planning. The attendance zone and feeder schools will be critical."
4. "If Hall can be revamped in a way that allows FHSA students the ability to continue the STEM-intensive studies they received from K-8, I would be in favor of that. I'm all for a new and greatly improved Hall High School taking FHSA students, under the conditions that it is a new and greatly improved Hall High School."
5. "FINALLY, ideas that I can get behind. I'm totally supportive of establishing Hall as an elite science/medical high school and would support any measure to get it to that point. I'm also supportive of anything that assists or upgrades the STEM Academy."
6. "Like your thinking re STEM focus and efforts to change things with the goal of better meeting the needs of students not just by age."
7. "All areas of STEM should be a focus not just solely a medical focus. Engineering, green jobs, and research focus should be added to this design. All segments should have a close connection to a college or university."
8. Recruitment is key. Advertise the great things happening at Hall.
9. We need more community involvement through better PR
10. Invite the community into Hall so they know what's happening.

**Survey Dashboard**

Hall High School could become the STEM high school for the district. There were another 50 positive comments about a renewed STEM focus.	249
We could develop a hi-tech high university studies focus at Hall.	151
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.	141

**CONCERNS**

While over 140 folks on the survey regarded the Forest Heights 8<sup>th</sup> Grade wing as sensible, **MORE THAN HALF of the open-ended feedback from the Survey and the combined community meeting feedback was NOT FAVORABLE.** Many concerns reflect this sentiment: "I love the idea of making Hall a STEM





school that kids from Forest Heights STEM could progress to AFTER 8th grade. Moving 8th graders to Hall from Forest Heights, however, is a HORRIBLE idea.”

**A deep set of concerns from more than half of respondents are reflected in this set of comments:**

1. “Just expanding 8th grade to Hall like mentioned could shift capacity from FH to Hall. Other creative ideas are not going to keep North West high school students from leaving the district.”
2. “If Hall is repurposed to be a STEM focus, it would need to be a magnet school in my opinion. The partnership with Forrest Heights makes sense but rezoning and getting buy-in from parents will be difficult.”
3. “Hall needs to be made an attractive place for west Little Rock students. It’s not currently as it’s one of the 6 on the fail list. As kids approach 9th grade Hall currently isn’t a good option at all.”
4. “I believe STEAM is a better focus than just STEM and would recommend not overlooking arts in these types of schools. I also feel that there is a need in LRSD for quality vocational training/students not on a path to traditional college. “
5. “I have no other ideas but Hall will have to be completely overhauled for me to want to send my children, who are students at Forest Heights, there. “
6. “After re-zoning, what will be the percentage of white students?”
7. “When reduced by 300, what will this do to the diversity of student population? Will this further segregate the new school into black and brown? Will Hall become the Central High 2.0? Who will redraw boundaries?”
8. “Increase travel time for black kids going to other schools? Safety: What’s going to be the percentage of black students left at Hall? “
9. “If Hall High is not so bad and just has a PR problem - that needs to be addressed with prospective student families like ours. Make changes, then invite the families in through multiple open house opportunities, direct mail, and email whatever, create collaborative projects with PVMS and other middles schools that feed into Hall. My kids are very creative and artistic and besides Parkview (and possibly the new Southwest HS)I am not sure what LR High Schools have to offer in that arena, I want to know what Hall High will offer for kids who are interested in arts, humanities, creative writing and such and not just STEM and science.”

**Other Community Recommendations to Consider**

1. “STEM is considered a high-skill, high-income field. That being the case, we need to be careful that these inherent advantages accrue only to students who are more economically advantaged in the first place, which I believe is what will happen with rezoning. Will Forest Heights continue to be open to all students? Will there be barriers to getting into Forest Heights? As a feeder and with rezoning, how will the racial, ethnic and economic diversity be affected, negatively or positively?”
2. “We should redraw the lines and make families that live near Hall go to hall instead of Central.”
3. “Why not have a regular high school that serves the area surrounding it.”
4. “Have you considered technical training environment for those that will not go to college-- basic nursing, plumbing, and electric, even IT? Professional training for employment straight out of high school.”



**Participants at community meetings also suggested:**

1. Hall could focus on 10 through 12 grade taking students from Pinnacle View 6-9 grade
2. Need new plan for Hall High School that involves 10 - 12 grade with Pinnacle View MS feeding into Hall.
3. Collaboration between Hall and Forest Heights staff and students build partnerships now.
4. Can Hall students become mentors?
5. Creative utilization of the space **now**
6. [Focus on] Strategic letter grade improvement.
7. Community partnerships is good. Build partnerships now.

**SUMMARY COMMUNITY REACTIONS TO PROPOSED FUTURE FOR PINNACLE VIEW CAMPUS**

**There was considerable support for a new high school concept for the West.** In the table below are the survey respondents who thought the District’s proposed ideas had merit.

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.	152
— 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.	101
— 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.	91
— A new school could focus on career options and feed students into apprenticeships, internships and externships.	107

**Concerns**

1. Where is all the money going to come from for all these grand ideas?
2. Many concerned about losing property and students to Charters.
3. Many interested in “traditional” High School for career and college-minded students.
4. Why build a new high school when Hall is in a good area and massively underused.
5. Many respondents at Pinnacle meeting and about 15 survey participants suggested LRSD “work with the Pulaski Co. Special School District. Move Robinson Middle School to PV and move PV High School students to Robinson. They are going to go there anyway and you will lose a bunch of students from LRSD. “ “The New Tech school isn’t an option, Robinson 2 miles down the street already offers this.” The non-traditional school concepts like hybrid and tech “that serve only ¼ of the student body that is currently represented at PV” or that lack sports were disliked by several respondents... A few



OCTOBER 15, 2018

comments in this vein included “ they lack a community” or “don’t match student learning styles : we prefer traditional high school.”

6. Transportation concerns for identified a few times especially with School of innovation concept. “make sure transportation is provided for students to get to this facility so it is not restricted to WLR families.”

A couple of respondents worried about too much focus on west LR gets additional resources: “Do whatever it takes to stop the spread of charter schools. This goes district-wide. But NOT at the expense of the central city schools. If families out in WLR want to go to a charter, let them go. The LRSD does not need to get into an arms race out in WLR against charters. Focus on the main city and renovating the old, established buildings and schools?”

### Recommendations

**More than 50 affirmed a Pre-K for the western section of the District; many thought it might be possible use of the PV office space.** “A birth-to-Pre-K program would likely be welcomed by a part of town with lots of babies steadily joining the population. Get them started in a public school and they're more likely to stay (which argues not for a high school but a birth-to-grade 5 elementary school, a perfect segue into the middle school years, the program that's already in place.)”

- Office complex at Pinnacle View should be converted to a Pre K 4 center (adding Pre K 3 if space allows). There is a glaring lack of public school Pre K seats west of I 430. Roberts has none. Pre K times would be earlier arrival than PVMS and would not add bus traffic. Any type of high school at that location would add busses or 16-18 year old kids driving cars. The traffic is already bad out there.
- Would West Little Rock Pre-K feed Terry, Fulbright and Roberts?

**Many supported using the Office space for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grades.** “Unused space could be used as a 5th grade academy for students who filter in from Fulbright, Terry, and Roberts. Students could change classes which would greatly ease the transition to middle school. This could also help alleviate the elementary overpopulation issue and get students out of trailers with no windows. These trailers, in my opinion, are unsafe, cramped, and depressing (due to no windows). LRSD loses a lot of families/students due to these 5th grade issues. Please, let’s improve the conditions for all students, not just the ones who score above average or want to specialize in a certain field. Let’s not forget about the average student who deserves a top notch learning environment as well! “

- Currently fifth grade gets moved to Pinnacle View. This gets rid of trailers and starts building community in Fifth instead of Sixth grade. Opens up classes for pre-K at Robert, Terry, and Fulbright.



**COMMUNITY SUMMARY ABOUT PROPOSED BALE AND SW JR. HIGH**

**Positive**

**Survey respondents were enthusiastic about proposed linkages with public sector and for the intensive dual language offerings.**

1. Small classroom sizes with academic support will help us compete
2. Two buildings, one campus – beautiful idea for Birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> and then 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. Amazing advantage of bi-lingual education
4. Win students back!
5. I attended SWJH and feel that the current campus is a great place to have K-8 options that benefit from UALR. The campus is in good condition and has adjacent property to add outdoor learning space for community gardens and/or small sporting events.

**Respondents to the online survey options for this area had clear preferences:**

UALR could work closely with this school and use it as a teaching lab for UALR students, accelerating academic performance. It is centrally located and close to UALR.	169
Potentially, there would be no attendance boundary.	68
The 3-8 grade grades could have a dual-language curriculum.	125
The 3-8 grades at Hamilton could be gender-based with classes with separate wings for boys and girls similar to the San Antonio Young Men’s and Young Women’s Leadership Academies.	63
Bale could be repurposed as a PreK-2 Co-ed.	95
The Bale site could include a library and the Hamilton building could house the K-8.	106
<b>Total Respondents:</b>	<b>261</b>

**Community Concerns**

1. Less than 20% of respondents and participants approved of the separate gender concept.
2. There were alternatives proposed to the open boundary concept so that the neighborhood had first chances to enroll before open enrollment. “Do create attendance boundary. Attendance should be bounded for University District and surrounding area, including Meadowcliff.”
3. There were numerous concerns and distrust expressed about anything related to “Charter schools.”
4. The term “Teaching Lab” for UALR student teachers was unpopular. There were other words preferred, like “Experiential Learning.”



OCTOBER 15, 2018

5. "Without massive reform at UALR's College of Education, would not trust or value a partnership with the University. If they turnaround their college and embrace science of reading, then a possibility. If not, a K-8 is a solid idea. " "I do not see a benefit to partnering with UALR at this time. It's my understanding that they are phasing out their teacher education program so I'm not sure that that idea would work."
6. Getting the mix of classes right for the two schools on this campus was important and several versions of this emerged:
  - a. "Where are these interests coming from? Will students have to make application to attend? What will the criteria look like? Why not make it a school similar to Williams Magnet with students who live in an attendance zone. Current students from the feeder pattern are not high performing."
7. Where will students go after 8<sup>th</sup> grade?

### **Community Recommendations and Other Ideas for Bale Area**

1. Consider K-3; 4-5; 6-8 in divided sections of the campus ++.
2. Bale PreK-4<sup>th</sup>. Hamilton one side 5-6, 7-8 on other.
3. Or Bale: PreK-5 and Hamilton 6-8<sup>th</sup>.
4. Keep 3-8 grades separated from PreK-2.
5. Don't like the idea of PreK-8 or even 3-8 in same building, for same reasons stated previously.
6. Possibly expand Early Childhood offerings to accommodate faculty from UALR with childcare needs.
  1. For middle schoolers: horticulture, learn their world—explorational learning. Lots of extra-curricular activities. No contact sports.
  2. Can we include ARTS emphasis here: a magnet?
  3. Do we have room and funds to include music and sports in the 6-8 grades?
  4. Also partner with UCA for Bale
  5. Daycare services
  6. We need enhanced partnerships.
  7. We need a gym.
  8. There were a couple of alternative uses for the property as a vocational or trade school with certifications.



**COMMUNITY SUMMARY ON OPTIONS FOR DOWNTOWN ELEMENTARY AREAS**

Generally, **the community liked the expanded emphasis on Birth-Pre-K in the district and especially downtown** where Rockefeller’s assets are strong positive factors. Over 300 survey respondents were interested in the Birth to PreK or expanded PreK downtown.

1. “We are BELIEVERS in this household for the PreK programs. Any way you guys can fit in PreK the better. “
2. “I like the idea of expanding birth-pre K and all preK options into these facilities that would be open to all of Little Rock. As many parents work downtown, having their small kids in PREK facility nearby is an attractive option.”
3. “A large birth-PreK program in that area of LR would be a solid idea. I'm very much behind it. We should expand birth-PK options across the city with enrollment preference given to LRSD and city employees who live within the city boundaries and send all of their children to public schools.”

**An overwhelming majority of participants liked the ideas of enhancing STEM or STEAM programs at Booker and Carver,** especially those that tapped significant partners (museums, hospitals, theatres and enterprises) **to increase the downtown schools as alternatives to Charters.** “We need to look at WHY the charter schools are taking the elementary aged children. Hopefully with some of the suggestions above that will slow down.”

There was **considerable enthusiasm for the unique value of Booker and Carver individually and for taking them UP to new levels (it was less certain whether that should be in a K-8 format)**

1. “Booker and Carver have been successful magnet programs. I would like to see them continued in some format. “
2. “I live downtown and know many families who send their students to charter and private schools. The district has got to have a forceful PR campaign directed at the middle class families who live downtown.”
3. “In the Eastern Little Rock Attendance Zone, there need to be an elementary school option to compete against Charter School like e-STEM.” “Residential development is increasing in the area. Attractive K-8 options are needed to continue that trend.”

**Here is the number of survey respondents who shared ideas about the Districts initial options:**

Rockefeller Elementary could become a Birth to Pre-K Center serving around 435 youngsters. It already serves over 180 pre-K kids. Rockefeller’s current K-5 (around 300) students could shift to Washington Elementary.	182
Current Pre-K at Carver (around 145) could be sent to Rockefeller to free up classrooms.	142
We could move Pre-K at Booker (around 50) to Rockefeller, too.	152
We could move Washington Pre-K (around 73) to Rockefeller.	145
We could consider creating a STEM or STEAM emphasis at Washington with improved	75



technology and without district boundaries. Consider alternative funding sources and involve the community in that decision.	
We could combine Booker and Carver students (664 total students). Carver could have a true partnership with the Museum of Discovery and STEM or STEAM. We could make it stronger and attract new enrollment.	153
We could consider an innovative, high-performing K-8 without boundaries in this area.	100

**Community Concerns**

**While there seemed to be wide support downtown for additional Pre-K, there were a few concerns raised about it whether it made sense to concentrate these programs or maintain them distributed across multiple schools:** “Be mindful of moving all the Pre-K into one centralized location. That is a lot of driving for a poorer area of our schools. More parents may not enroll because of lack of transportation.” “435 prek students at a center are too many. The center would lose the warm, inviting sense of environment needed for a center.” “We want to keep Pre-K students in our existing buildings.”

1. There is a GREAT need for affordable early childhood and Pre-K in this city. However this a great need for dedicated workers in those capacities as well. With the few early childhood programs I have knowledge of, it seems that it is hard to maintain employees. Perhaps one of these locations could be training for adults to get in to jobs like that.
2. Rockefeller already has a great Early Childhood program that could be built upon but they’d need walls as no pre-K classrooms should have any walls!! The open space rooms they do have for pre-K have walls but the ones for elementary around library is just partitions and will NOT work for Prek! But I think it’d work otherwise! They’re already updating the playgrounds anyway!
3. Rockefeller, regardless of future use, must update the outside appearance of the facility to entice interest in the structure itself. It is located in a high visibility area - 630/30 corridor - airport with visitors to the city, loop to 430/40 interchange connecting all parts of central Arkansas and beyond. If I didn't know that it was a school, the building looks like a prison.

**Competing and winning out over the intensive Charter school competition was a big concern** for many participants at the community design sessions and among the survey respondents.

1. Whatever the district decides it needs to be able to compete with estem high tech learning and teaching or it will not work.
2. The east side of Little Rock is growing every day. In order to keep an LRSD presence in this area, there needs to be more advertising about what is offered. There could also be a new facility built to attract parents back to the area with a fine arts focus, or STEAM. Maybe even a face lift for Booker to increase the visual appeal for parents, because that is one way by which they judge a school.

**Community Recommendations and Other Ideas**



OCTOBER 15, 2018

PLEASE do not divide birth-through-pre-K from K-5th grades! The continuity of birth-through-elementary grades is Dr. Bettye Caldwell's outstanding Educare concept, which has undergirded the popularity and success of **Rockefeller** school for decades and Kramer School before it. ALL elementary schools should be birth-to-5th (or 8th) grades. The continuity and longevity of learning communities is the "glue" that binds children (and the parents, staff, and volunteers) together, giving the children the emotional and intellectual security to grow and thrive. You've acknowledged elsewhere that K-8 schools provide such continuity, but before K must come pre-K, and before that, the babies and two-year-olds. THAT'S HOW YOU GET CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TO STAY IN THE LRSD! Start them in one of your schools, they get comfortable there, and they stay.

### **CLUSTERS OF IDEAS BY SCHOOL FOR DOWNTOWN FACILITIES**

One initial idea proposed by the District was to consider connecting or somehow merging Booker and Carver or to reconsider the uses of Washington Elementary in hopes to better match the capacities of these facilities with programs or demand. **There were lots of ideas for enhancing both Booker and Carver.** These community ideas are clustered below to provide a clearer sample of the recommendations for these facilities.

#### **Booker**

1. Booker should remain as is PreK-5
2. Create a K-8 coding in the Arts Magnet to attract new students that are creative with technology at Booker Arts Magnet
3. 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
4. Booker Arts ranked low in facility upgrade needs windows and lighting main upgrade for energy efficiency
5. Booker could be a very good K-8 option. You have a football field and a track that could be utilized. Just develop the field and put in some bleachers just like you did at Scott field. This area deserves to have good athletic options as well. It would be good for this area of the town as there are more people that are coming into the downtown area to live now.
6. 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
7. Convert Booker arts to a STEAM school either K-5 or K-8
8. Could you make Booker a high performing K-8 facility. PLENTY of room since Booker was formerly a junior high.
9. School theme: Coding in the Arts. Infuse technology into already existing arts programs to compete with charter schools.
10. Booker is the only school in the district with elementary arts program. Can be infused with technology by using Music– Earsketch; Art—PencilCode, Video--Vidcode; and Theater – Film Production.
11. Booker has student capacity of 634. Convert it to K-8. Smaller classrooms. Popular location to compete with charter or convert to a STEAM school
12. Resolve Booker land lease – what is the agreement?
13. Booker has high potential: location, track, gym, and can host large events. Currently ranked in the top four for low facility upgrade costs in Fanning-Howey.





## DRAFT: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT RESPONSES

OCTOBER 15, 2018

14. Convert Booker arts to a STEAM school either K-5 or K-8
15. Booker Arts Magnet can be converted into a STEAM School K-8. The School theme can be Coding in the Arts. Infuse technology into already existing arts programs to compete with area Charter Schools. Expose students to Music with EarSketch, Art with PencilCode, Video with Vidcode, Theater/Drama with film production, Music into Music Production with sound recording technology, Painting into graphic design and animation. Booker is the only school in the state of Arkansas LRSD with Orchestra, Piano Lab, Drama and Creative Movement, Choir and Visual Arts. They ranked top 4 in low facility upgrade needs according to FanningHowey. Booker is a Arkansas A+ School which combines interdisciplinary teaching and daily arts instruction offering students opportunities to create innovation ways of thinking. The location is the best with a popular, location easily accessible , and Convenient Location off Downtown, close to Quapaw Quarter and Clinton Library. Also their already existing partnerships, says a lot about the potential.
16. Convert Booker Arts into a STEAM school it already has ARTS including Music, Dance, Theater, and Arts, Add Technology and Painting or Graphic Design to compete with the Charter Schools in our area.
17. Definitely keep booker and it's facility to become a STEAM school
18. Keep Booker Program open, It is where the art comes to life
19. Booker Arts Magnet is a wonderful elementary school! It has growing partnerships with the arts center and innovation hub. I love that the school offers Drama, Orchestra and creative movement classes. Booker also has a nice gym and track for students. I would love to see more Pre-k 3 and pre-k 4 classes at Booker. I also believe this would help with student enrollment. Please consider adding more pre-k classes to Booker! Booker is an exceptional Elementary school I would hate to lose it! If the pre-k option isn't an option you might consider making Booker a K- 8 campus! It is fully equipped with a gym and track and the only elementary school that offers Drama etc.! Please keep the arts alive at Booker Arts Magnet!!!!!!
20. Booker Arts Magnet is already an arts-focused school without boundaries in the area. When demographics such as income level are taken into account, Booker's test scores show a lot of promise. A growing number of students are performing at 'ready' and 'exceeding ready' categories. It would not be difficult to incorporate a STEM model to make it a STEAM school. There are many tech programs that fit seamlessly into an art curriculum. Booker is a large facility that already has a full size gymnasium and a track and field, which could be utilized for LRSD purposes.
21. My children currently attend Booker Arts Magnet. The arts are just as important as academics. Could it not also incorporate science too. Like in Mann?
22. Booker has an incredible arts program and it needs to continue in a space that would allow for all its components.
23. Booker could be turned into a k-8 school in a bigger newer facility as an arts academy. Dance theater drawing etc. where the school ties a lot of their curriculum to art for those kids who use that side of their brain and not so math and science because we don't have anything like a arts academy in central Arkansas for an elementary
24. There are not any Art and technology based schools in central Arkansas public or charter schools. It would be in the best interest for the school district to offer a school that has Art and coding so we can attract new students. It could be called Coding in the Arts Magnet K-5 or K-8. My sons loved the arts at Booker.
25. Booker needs to be closed. Building is dilapidated, stinks - too much money to redo and we don't even own the land???? This is a no brainer.



26. turn Booker not an athletic center serving Washington, booker, Rockefeller, carver and Mann in conjunction with the neighborhoods/city
27. You could close Booker, they have not made any progress in the last ten years.
28. Turn Booker into instructional resources center, training facility or sports complex

### **Carver**

1. Carver has the highest school grade of the schools mentioned in the idea starters for Area 6
  - i. Carver Letter Grade – C – 70.5%
  - ii. Booker “ “ – C – 68.2%
  - iii. Rockefeller “ “ – D – 65.82%
  - iv. Washington “ “ – D – 61.9%
2. Carver has been a true STEM school since its foundation
  - i. S – Science Lab/Young Astronauts
  - ii. T – EAST classroom
  - iii. E – Lego Room/Makerspace Room
  - iv. M – Math/Science Magnet Focus
3. Carver is one of the newest buildings in the District 1988 – year built
4. Advertise Carver in the Fouché Dam area as STEM option. Sustain and promote the pre-K program at Carver as a viable option that’s not offered specifically in the capital East Village area or at other charter schools.
5. Carver has positive interventions in place.
6. Move Washington to Carver.
7. Carver would best serve as a pre-k center that feeds into the STEAM school. There is a wonderful pre-k center already established with high enrollment and fantastic retention in just the first 2 years! There are many great things to come in the future for this school. The neighborhood around Carver is growing, and attracting new members of our community. Closing this school or moving students out of it to other schools will just allow LRSD to miss out on serving a growing and developing part of our community. We need a good, strong school in this area.
8. STEAM school building off the existing great science program (and space science resources) at Carver sounds good... if could add an auditorium and bring in Booker arts that would be even better.
9. Carver’s building is only 30 years old. It has a science lab, young astronauts program and a brand new EAST. Carver boasts specialties with programs not found anywhere else in the district. We have one of the most successful 21st century programs. Carver has risen above many changes in recent years and proven its continued, positive influence in the east end. The family, as a team, is intact and successful in meeting the needs of all students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Proof is in how hard we have worked to remain, not only viable, but growing and flexible with all changes that have come our way. We have risen above every challenge with positive, assured, professional coalition and shown data to prove our worth.
10. Carver should become a STEAM school and keep its pre k program. The pre k program at Carver is strong and supports the k-5 population. Also, our Carver team (Prek and elementary combined) work well together.
11. Carver Magnet is making progress and Carver Pre K is doing very well. You have Solid Leadership there. If adding some more elementary students to Carver is necessary, then why not build a state of the art Pre K facility for Carver Pre K in the same area. It is a magnet program, so there is a lot

more going on with Pre K than at some of the others. There's lots of property over there. It should not be that expensive to purchase. I'm know it could be less expensive building a new Pre K facility in that area than having to repurpose Rockefeller and only have one option in this large area of town. Carver is a Magnet with stem options, the Pre K Program is next level, so why not push this area with having a little something more to offer.

12. Duplicate the STEM program at Forest Heights for Carver (K-5), and allow students on waiting list at FH Stem first priority.

### **Merged Carver-Booker**

1. Please don't combine Carver and Booker; They have great strengths as is
2. Keep all elementary's Pre-K – 5 aside from Washington (repurpose it)
3. Combine Booker and Carver. Carver become a STEAM – idea
4. Combine Booker and Carver into STEAM & /or ARTS/SCIENCE Magnet, keeping and expanding upon established programs & partnerships from both schools. For example, Booker already has a partnership established with the Innovation Hub that would also work well with the science focus of Carver, and the Museum of Discovery has also been a performance space for other schools so could be a potential partner for the Arts focus of Booker as well. Booker also has great partnerships with the Arkansas Arts Center and First United Methodist Church. Booker is an Arkansas A+ school
5. Could combine Booker and Carver into a K-8 STEAM school with no attendance boundary. Could also house K-2 at Carver, 3rd-8th at Booker with the STEAM focus at both campuses.
6. Combining Booker & Carver is a good idea -- make it the Arts/Science K-8 or K-5 feeding into Mann Arts/Science 6-8 feeding into Parkview Arts/Science 9-12. If Booker and carver are combined, I hope you keep all the special programs from Carver intact, like young astronauts. I like the idea of a stronger STEM/STEAM program and museum partnerships.
7. Convert Carver to Pre-K

### **Washington**

1. Make Washington a Birth to Pre-K center
2. Combine Booker/Washington to create STEAM preference given to neighborhood 1<sup>st</sup> then others could come to Carver, etc.
3. Combine the math and science programs of Washington and Carver and create a STEM magnet K-8
4. Washington more to STEM/STEAM special program
5. Restructure Washington to make it more appealing to parents
6. If considering Washington to become STEM/STEAM school, advertise across the district to recruit students according to their interests.
7. Washington more to STEM/STEAM special program
8. Washington to be K-8 – idea
  - a. Community School Concept
  - b. (Energy efficient, environmental/lifestyle, shared resources with downtown business)
9. Would Washington also have a true partnership with the Museum of Discovery? What are implications of high performing K-8 school?
10. Send the students from Booker to Carver and Washington and continue to honor the arts magnet by continuing the program at Washington
11. Turn Washington into professional dev/resource center



## DRAFT: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT RESPONSES

OCTOBER 15, 2018

12. Use the space at Washington to create a Human Resources center with DHS hub, clinics, food and uniform bank, mental health agencies that could provide wrap around services for schools in the area. Allow the pre-K students to stay at the schools instead of forcing them out to their zoned schools.
13. Consider Booker or Washington as a new facility for IRC and as a central location for PD session if the students will be combined with Carver. This will place teachers at a central location instead of being spread out for PD throughout the city. It will also allow the presenters to have the proper technology to use during presentations and appropriate room capacity.