

RESPONSES FROM SCHOOL BOARD IN BOLD ITALIC



Date: March 14, 2012

To: County School Board of Albemarle County, Virginia
Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent

From: Long Range Planning Advisory Committee

Re: Request for Further Direction

The Long Range Planning Advisory Committee has convened again for a new session. The goal of this committee is to provide a recommendation in July to the Superintendent & School Board for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). To make the work of this committee useful to you, we would like to receive some direction before proceeding.

1. In the strategic plan, goals #4 & #5 (world-class education system vs. efficient systems...) can often be at odds with each other. Keeping these goals in mind what strategies are you willing to consider for long term facility planning:
 - A. Maintenance of existing community schools & recommendations (i.e. additions, redistricting, etc.) once more seats are required
 - B. Strategic consolidation of schools for more efficient operations. Are you willing to reconsider the closing of small schools at this time especially with the increasing costs of maintaining these schools?
 - C. Strive to achieve parity between & modernize existing school facilities.

Example: Last year we recommended a renovation and addition onto Red Hill Elementary. This project had to do with parity not capacity, but was removed from the capital plan. Should this project be considered again or was this removed for other reasons?

The School Board is willing to consider A & C. Unless directed otherwise, assume that all schools shall remain open. Existing schools shall be maintained efficiently as possible. The Red Hill renovation /addition was removed from the prior capital request along with all other additions and major projects until the building capacity methodology was reviewed. Parity and modernization is something the Board is interested in so the Red Hill project should be reconsidered.

2. Goal #4 in the Strategic Plan states: "Achieve recognition as a world-class education system". What would you consider a world-class education *facility*? Do we have one (or part of one) now in the county? If so, where and should it be implemented elsewhere?

The MESA addition and program is an example of a world-class education facility. The School Board would like to aim for word-class education facilities, but that can mean a range of things. Common themes include flexible spaces, team based learning, and technology. It can also be

extended to include energy conservation, virtual learning, and other broader themes. The committee should read the meeting notes from the September 22nd School Board work session on 21st century learning spaces for further information.

3. What is an acceptable percentage (i.e. 5%, 10%, 15%) over capacity and for how long before action is needed?

There is not one figure that can be applied at all schools. Ten percent over at a smaller school is much different than ten percent over at a large school. The school's specific situation, including use of core spaces such as the cafeteria, should be evaluated before a recommendation is made. Action should be recommended if the capacity overage is sustained and/or projected to grow over a period of time, if the school is in a designated growth area, and/or for triggers such as impact on class size and lunch times.

4. As we are analyzing capacities, how should we take into account trailers? Sometimes it is an inevitable solution, but how long is too long to rely on trailers?

Examples: Stony Point has multiple trailers which are at least 10 years old. The presence of the trailers affected the redistricting committee's recommendation to not take action.

 Scottsville has multiple trailers which are at least 15 years old.

Trailers should not be seen as a long-term facility solution. This committee should NOT include supplemental capacity from trailers when making recommendations. The purchase of new trailers should be minimized, and plans should be made to replace trailers with permanent learning spaces if the space is required.

5. Last year the board expressed the willingness to consider redistricting to utilize existing seats rather than building seats. We are working under the assumption that this is still the case. Related, are you willing to consider split feeder patterns to efficiently use existing spaces?

Redistricting is still a viable option and is favored over building more capacity if it can provide a long-term solution.. If other redistricting options are vetted first, the board would consider split feeder patterns.

6. If more high school seats were deemed necessary, how large are you comfortable making Albemarle High School? Related, for long term planning we would like to investigate land acquisition for a future school site in the northern part of the county. Please let us know if you would like us to proceed with this study.

Making Albemarle High School bigger is not favored. The Board endorses the investigation of land for a new high school. They acknowledge that it is a long process and is a long-term vision. The committee is also encouraged to consider what a future school would look like.

7. Last year we recommended an addition onto Henley Middle School to provide additional gym space. It was removed from the CIP along with the other additions. Should we consider this project again or was this removed for other reasons?

It was removed from the prior capital request along with all other additions and major projects until the building capacity methodology was reviewed. This project should be considered again and recommended if deemed necessary.