



Date: February 14, 2013

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 June 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. Priorities:

Projects are often categorized as maintenance, infrastructure, capacity or parity projects. Historically, maintenance & infrastructure projects have been prioritized above other projects. Also, capacity projects (those that build additional seats) have been ranked above projects addressing parity. As a result, parity projects have been repeatedly cut or delayed. The modernization of several elementary schools in the southern feeder pattern is an example.

Under what circumstances would a parity project rank above a project that builds immediately needed seats?

2. Guiding Principles/ Common Goals:

It is evident that new seats will be needed in the future.

How should the LRPAC prioritize the principles/goals listed below?

- Utilize existing seats
- Locating classroom additions in the district where growth occurs
- Parity among schools (addressing parity while adding seats)
- Keeping a community intact as opposed to Re-districting
- Size of school as it related to disparity in school sizes
(Agnor-Hurt - Woodbrook, Stony Point - Stone Robinson, Murray - Brownsville)
- Feeder Patterns
- New considerations from the School Board

3. **New Schools versus Redistricting:**

Albemarle High School is projected to be over capacity by 100 students within five years and by almost 200 students in ten years. The Board came to a consensus last year that the school should not be made any larger. As a result, the capacity conflict at Albemarle HS can be addressed by either a new school or additions to Monticello HS or to Western Albemarle HS. The additions may be more fiscally responsible.

If the LRPAC makes a recommendation based on fiscal restraint, will the Board be willing to make the difficult redistricting decisions to fill the addition at Monticello HS?

4. **School Sizes:**

The desired size of schools (both minimum & maximum sizes) is always part of the LRPAC planning process and discussion. Maintaining feeder patterns and communities tends to increase the discrepancy in school sizes.

What is too big and what is too small?

How much flexibility is there in size ranges?

There are two examples we would like input on:

Henley (current capacity: 928)

With the anticipated growth in the Western Feeder Pattern, it is likely that recommendations will be made to build additional elementary seats and possibly high school seats. Henley will be the bottle neck when elementary and high school seats increase.

Is it acceptable to make the division's largest middle school even larger?

Or is 928 the maximum capacity so that other alternatives need to be explored?

Stony Point (current capacity: 225; utilizes 4 mobile classrooms as well)

Stony Point is over capacity. Typically, utilizing existing seats is recommended before a capital project is endorsed. However, if enough students were redistricted to remove the need for mobile classrooms, Stony Point's enrollment would be reduced from 287 to 225.

Is a small Stony Point (at 225) acceptable?

If not, would you endorse investing capital funds for an addition when 'free' seats are available at another school?

5. Physical spaces to support Teaching Curriculum:

Ideally the physical facility planning and the curriculum programs should be integrated.

Does the Board have suggestions for how to better integrate the program/curriculum planning with the building planning?

6. Security:

School security has come into the spotlight after the crisis at an elementary school in Connecticut.

Does the LRPAC need to set up a project for Security Improvements?

7. Mobile Classrooms:

Last year the Board stated that mobile classrooms should not be used as a long-term facility solution. Is the Board willing to take this a step forward and make a policy statement regarding the use of mobile classrooms?

A standard or policy goal would guide future LRPAC and redistricting committees. Two redistricting committees have now recommended no move, but both schools continue to rely on mobile classrooms (Stony Point & Meriwether Lewis).

What guidance do you have for the LRPAC at this time, specifically for Meriwether Lewis and Stony Point?

For instance, what time frame to use mobile classrooms as classrooms, build a new addition, redistrict or leave as is?