

Community Forum – Manning School

Saturday, 14 November 2009

1. Scott Brown, Options 16A/16B/21A/21B/24- Rep Maple Grove PTA, 6-8 grade model- majority of parents voted against. 1. Does not serve needs of community, negative impact, ½ of applicants would not be selected, 1/3 of 6th grade would be denied due to space. Limits opportunity for 7th and 8th graders to attend Manning. Will schools have capacity in the long term to serve these students? Need community continuity. Not every 6th grader will be moving up, so that creates an issue. Could lead to enrolling in three different schools in three different years. Should not just be done for one articulation area. Increased cost of transportation due to new busing needs. Cost and time for curriculum development, costs of transition prep. 5th grade curriculum already densely packed. Money and time to do staff professional development for new curriculum. Unfair to students and staff. Not enough time to prepare students for this huge shift. Costs and negative impact outweigh potential savings.
2. Tessa Lazari- Option 21B- Rep Pennington students- Love their school, P-3 nights that bring students together, don't want to leave, all 6th graders come back to visit teachers, younger siblings go there, want them to keep going. PRIDE- positive attitude, respect, improvement, determination, and excellence- every student knows what this means. Student wants to be a doctor will reach her dreams, want them all to. Please don't close Pennington.
3. Carolyn-Option 16B- Kyffin Parent- opposed moving GT out- no benefit, will take away benefits, practical issues that will limit the number that will be able to participate. Isolation of GT is not an accepted model, don't know that this will benefit. Know that they are flourishing at Kyffin. GT students involved in a lot of groups at the school. Students mixed together, positive benefit for everyone. At Pleasant View ES where they would be alone this would be lost. There would only be 200 students at a 400 student school. Practical problems; will decrease family participation- families with students in GT and in non-GT- would split them apart. Not enough time to put together a good program at a new school. No busing or transportation in this model, limit their ability to participate. Less attractive option for families. \$0 cost savings for this option would actually cost the district. Would actually cause damage instead.
4. Cynthia-Option 16B- Kyffin parent- would GT families follow if program moved? Would consider quality of staff, library, quality of program, logistics- 30% use before and after school, x% in clubs, 19% would move, 44% would stay at Kyffin, others would opt for private school or out of district. District would lose funding for these students. How would Pleasant View community react? Closing Pleasant View would have savings, would be lost if program moved. How would Kyffin be affected? Can't divide community without negative impact on both populations. Eliminating temps will cost more than saved. Keep excellent schools excellent, good for community and all of Jeffco.
5. Lisa- Option 16A/B- As parent and para-professional at Mitchell- worked with 6th grade- seen how they are prepared over the year, if moved would not get this transition prep period. Would be unfair and harmful to their development. Teachers help them develop, would lose this in the middle school setting. Exposing them to older students and put into situations they can't handle. Will not be properly isolated. Don't remove them from the stable environment of elementary school. Should be about what is best for students.
6. Karen- Option 21A/B/24- Rep for Prospect Valley- restrict access to Manning. Most choice enroll into Manning. Will impact number of available slots. Instead of two graders of 150, it will be three of 100 each. Fewer children will be able to attend. Need their temps, house music program outside of the school to limit distraction of loud music in building. Concerned about incorporating middle school model at this time, lower academic success, and discipline problems. Coming at this issue in worst context, should be done when there isn't a pressing budget motivation, should be considered more carefully at another time. Insufficient amount of time to transition to this model, less than 8 months to implement. Space mod, moving of classrooms, reassign of teachers, boundary

changes, curriculum changes, training, busing routes. More disruptive to phase in, can't do area by area. Plenty of families choice in and out, leave a number of families without options. Alternatives- Have building repurposing been considered? Please communicate other alternatives considered. Cutting admin overhead, moving admin, creating new programs. Look for options that minimize disruption to students.

7. Juan-Option 21B- Rep parents of Pennington- choice into the school, best school for their kids. Lives changed by school, big part of community, big family. One parent- drives husband to work, then kids to school- even though she could send her kids somewhere else. Teachers have helped her children, best options for her kids. Please don't close, believe it is the best option. Strong part of community. Want best for children and best education. Pennington gives them this. Matt, principal- knew how options were created, could provide more data about Pennington- enrollment has increased due to expansion of onsite pre-k, large choice population (30%), past three years mean growth percentile increasing, 15, 24 percent increase due to parent involvement and title funds. Used to increase parent participation, interventions and keep classes small. These funds could be lost with move. With transportation parent involvement might decrease.
8. Bill-Option 16B- Pleasant View parent- son at school for 3 yrs, godson attended for 6 yrs prior, standards instilled by school stayed with him, he wanted to visit school after he moved, missed how things were at that school, hadn't forgotten lessons. PRIDE. More than logo, basis of academic career. Staff leads by example. Godson successful later in life due to lessons instilled at Pleasant View. Could have attended close or more convenient school, but chose Pleasant View was the best choice.
9. Karen-Option 16A- Rep Kyffin and Mitchell parents- against moving up 6th graders- concerned about success and well being of students. Research shows higher scores when 6th is at elementary. Other districts are moving to put 6th grade back into elementary. Moving from school to school decreases achievement. Options would create unnecessary upheaval. Moving multiple times. Negative impact of increased mobility of student achievement. Discipline issues increase when 6th graders in middle, incl. drug and alcohol. Bullying will increase. Would deny them opportunity to be role models in elementary. Would put Bell over capacity. Does not consider Fairmount students which would put it even farther over. Temps would be needed. Contradicts goal to reduce temps. Per pupil costs at Kyffin and Mitchell are \$500 less than at Bell. Should instead work with elementary principals to reduce temps on their own. 30% choice in, don't punish us for being strong school. Give them time to manage their choice on their own to deal with capacity. Asked everyone to stand, majority of room stood up.
10. Deborah- Option 25- Stober community- lived there his whole life, attended Stober, was later teacher there, and sent kids there. Story not unique. It's a very strong community. Rep for PTA, Homeowners Org- opposed to relocation and combining with Vivian. Relationship with community, invested resources. Community cohesion important at Stover. Academic achievement should take precedence, only high achieving elementary on list of options. Great amount of diversity. Based on growth model, they are successful. Costs are mid range to operate, choice up, enrollment up. School successful due to community involvement. Used for comm. Events, comm. Programs at school. Will be able to maintain success in the future. Opposed to capital costs associated. Goes against intent of saving money. Not appropriate in bad economy. Only new build in options. No justification for building a new school when others are being closed. Community has supported tax increases to support school. Would negatively impact community if school closed, open to other options and will support.
11. Kathleen- Option 16B- Parent at Pleasant View- would have to leave community if school moves. Need to keep school open because not economically able to send kids to separate schools. Need title funds to support students. Preschool would no longer be offered. Need to keep community resource open to community negatively impacted by economy.

12. Diane-Option 24- Rep parents- advocate for maintaining Manning as a choice school. Need to ensure fair and equitable access to Manning, so keep 100% choice. Should not be limited to single articulation area. High expectations and rigorous program. Unique philosophy and schedule that helps students do more. Must retain choice enrollment policy so that students that want this level of program can attend. Meets need of highly motivated students. Keep choice policy to keep access.
13. Jennifer- Kyffin parent- opposes Option 16A- concerned with sending 6th graders to middle school too early. Allow kids to stay kids for one more year. Higher chance of being put in unsafe situations. Staying in elementary one more year gives them more time to prepare and be developmentally ready for middle school. Has there been thought to how this transition can be done successfully? For students and staff? Would like opportunity to self correct capacity issue. What about moving 9th down or other alternatives. Moving 6th grade not in best interests of children.
14. Rosie- Options 16A- Welchester enrollment secretary- speaking on Pleasant View- some families that registered at Welchester went back to Pleasant View- safe haven for families, children want to be there, feel safe. Don't want grandson to move to Bell for 6th, it's too much already with internet and media exposure, he's not mature enough for the move.
15. Katie-Options 16a/b- opposed to closing Pleasant View- child didn't want to go to school, ready to give up- searched for a school to reengage him. Made right decision when chose Pleasant View- loves it, succeeding. Started petition, over 210 signatures. Small community, but are close. Will leave whole that cannot be filled. Tradition of attendance in the community, want future generations to attend.
16. Donna- Option 25- parent at Vivian- want to keep autonomous, home to two programs- preK to 6th deaf and hard of hearing program and 4-6 SIED program, success of programs due to being in a small setting. Accepting setting, families prefer small school size. Children come to Vivian because they were not successful elsewhere. Son is successful there due to individual attention. Not unusual. Vivian serves a niche, should be maintained as a great small school in Jeffco.
17. Dawn- Option 25- Vivian- for having a new school built, both existing buildings are aging and will need repair, new school would improve learning environment. All programs would be housed in one building, eliminate safety issues. 10. Good natural lighting, 9. Min distractions, 8. Technology, 7. Eliminate 9 temps, 6. Maintenance costs minimal, 6. Increase prop values, 5. Full time special teachers, 4. Library and speech therapy, 3. Choice out students would come back, 2. Hearing students would have needed technology, 1. Would benefit all students.
18. Fay- teacher at Pleasant View, Option 16A/B- new program focused on oral language skills, very important esp. at Title schools, language have increased due to program. Have seen struggling schools thrive. Would be harmful to move them to a school that does not use the "Mondo" program. Extensive training put in already to implement program. Would be waste of money, resources, knowledge and time already put in if moved or closed.
19. Chad- Options 21A/22A/22B- Hurt neighborhoods, businesses, students and citizens- close all elementary schools in that area. Wheat Ridge in process of revitalizing these areas, East side fits needs of incoming people. Closing schools will limit appeal to new families; will make it unable to attract young families. Closing schools will hurt neighborhoods, decrease prop values, and increase crime. Closing schools hurt businesses that lose revenue from loss of young families. Would lose sales tax revenue as well. Numbers don't add up. Increasing transportation costs, not saving a lot with teacher savings. Only way to get savings shown is eliminating teacher positions, doing so would hurt community. Would not want 10 yr old at a 5-8 school as proposed. Let 5 and 6 stay in elementary, do not need them growing up any faster. Why close number 6 and 11 choice in schools? These schools are doing something right. Like low teacher-student ratios, give students the attention they deserve. If Martensen closed,

- they will apply to start a charter school. Believes it will attract new families, including from Denver, and there is a need. Please don't close Martensen or Pennington.
20. Meg-Option 16A/B- Kyffin- elementary teacher and parent- going to middle school early is not best for student success. Advocating specifically for ELL students, seeing slowdown in progress for ELL students, research shows that ELL students take 5-10 yrs to get to equal ground with English speaking peers, need to be in elementary school setting for that year to have more success. Don't believe it will increase student academic achievement in the long term.
 21. Pamela- Option 16A/B- PTA President- speaking on behalf of the students- recipe for downhill trend in learning. Other solutions- 16C- expand preschool to fit demands of community, there is a waitlist. Will reach capacity if you bring in one other pre-k class. Will save money, cut one bus route. Pleasant View community will still be there for former students if 6th grade moves up. District's investment at that school is working, students are doing well, and staff is excellent. Would lose all this investment and growth. School has changed, just now seeing potential. Would like to stay in school that they thrive in. School from wrong side of the tracks (reputation) – if it means they give them the resources they need, provide the programs they need, help students do well, being welcoming and inclusive, then they want to be from the wrong side of the tracks. They are one big family.
 22. Sherri- Option 16A- Pleasant View parent- student had an IEP, ALP, twice exceptional, taken off IEP due to staff, now successful in an AP program. Other child had learning disability and is now successful. Pleasant View is diverse and serves students with special needs, from all walks of life. Have seen school grow with parent support, with staff changes there have been huge changes in last few months. Let us keep school and show that they are a diamond in the rough. Lots of heart and soul at the school.
 23. Tracy- In favor of Option 16C (alternative proposed)- 0 temps would be eliminated by closing school, many choice in, 10% bused in, 200 that would have to be bused, 1.37 miles away from new school, 1 bus would be eliminated by 16C, Students would be negatively impacted and community would also be negatively affected. School is one big family.
 24. Anita- Option 24- parent and teacher at Manning. As a parent she disagrees with moving 6th grade up. Agree with previous statements about decrease in achievement and increase in discipline issues. Concerned with district not looking at data, successful 6th grade programs involve isolation, not possible at Manning. Should instead increase full day k and pre-k (tuition based). Need to consider added materials cost with moving 6th.
 25. Leslie- Option 16A/B- parent- nothing to add to previous comments. 1. Importance of rolling out with more preparation, lead time and program development so that all kids' best interests are addressed. 2. Incentivize rather than force facility changes. 3. Preserve the existing centers of excellence. 4. We can raise the bar on excellence in Jeffco and harness the community's ample financial, professional and intellectual resources. Urge parents to be involved in budget process.
 26. Karen – Pleasant View- diverse population served. Have summer lunch program, rotary program, thanksgiving baskets to PV families. Junior Master Gardener program, creating comm. Garden on site. Older citizens coming into school as foster grandparents. Other business and groups contributing to school. Will harm students to be moved, lose stability. Will lose community investment. Will affect everyone in community. Pleasant View one big family.
 27. Rachel-Option 24- parent at Manning and Maple Grove- support including 6th grader at middle school. Believe middle school teachers and counselors can meet their development needs best. Has taught 6th grade in middle school in another district. Students eager to take on this opportunity, have more elective options. Maple Grove

PTA does not rep all families there. This is one of the changes needed to keep classes small, what will do the greatest good for the greatest number of families.

28. Chris- Option 21B- Pennington- this school brings a great service to this community. No transportation. Title important. Need to consider location of school, how saleable it will be.
29. Shawn- Option 16A- parent at Welchester- agree with what has been said- if you move 6th grade to middle school, will find other options for his kids. Need to look at 1b, crazy to move 7 and 8th up to High School. Don't want to pay more in taxes to fund underutilized schools, so consolidation is a good option. Should be looking at district staff reductions, consolidation of district buildings. There is overlap of county programs; so school district should not be having these services then. Would like to see elimination of these services as an option.
30. Doug- Option 22A- Moving kids from school right across the street to a school where they would have to be bused or cross Wads. Don't think savings will outweigh new transportation costs.
31. Maggie- parent at Ralston- don't understand how moving 6th will save money- no temps closed, teachers will follow pay students, dedicated PTA that pays for things that the district would have to for, such as tech. United community spirit at that school. Parents have worked hard to create a quality environment. Questioning if there is enough time to properly manage this transition. Oppose to moving students; hope that after reviewing research they will choose another option.
32. Kim- Option 22A/22B- Martensen Elem- believes that there is inaccurate info used, not considered unique programs at school. Students at school have already had to move around a lot, deserve stability. Offers free full day k, preschool, summer lunch program. Title program for the first time. How is putting 3 school at maximum or over capacity helpful? Major renovations already done, haven't consider op savings as a result. This would divide student population. Trans costs. Temps at Molholm? Where do these students go? Would their kids up in temps now. How many students could it hold even if 6th move? Would be taking kids away from neighborhood and friends. Will kids be bused or have to walk across major streets. Partner school set up would put 5 graders with 8th graders; put them in bad situations, exposed to mature students. What about long term capacity? Splitting families at more than one school. What would be effect on test scores? Any other similar options in district been successful. Don't want kids to be test subjects. PTA involved at the school and provides support for opportunities at school, books, and gifts for families at Christmas. Kid would give money from his piggy bank to keep school.
33. Jane- Mitchell PTA rep- most concerned with time frame of implementation. How transition is handled influences their success, critical. Children going through development changes, scary to transition these students in a short time frame. Issues academically, developmentally and logistically. How can Bell principal take this on? Issues with before and after school care, Honors program, band, school size. How can all of this be done in a very short time? Would like to delay for a year so proper studies can be done.
34. Councilwoman, Vicki- opposed to closing of Stober- doesn't meet criteria set out before. Highest onetime cost of all options, not feasible in current economic climate. If that money was available it should be used to save other schools. Moving towards walking communities that benefit students, this option would make this impossible. Not good for community or children.