



## **District Wide Facilities Master Plan**

### **Community Meetings**

**May 4 & 5, 2009**

***Results Report - DRAFT***

## **Introduction**

Four area Community Meetings were held on May 4 & 5 to begin the conversation with the community regarding the facility needs of the Jefferson County Public Schools. The meetings were held at:

- ▶ Ralston Valley HS
- ▶ Dakota Ridge HS
- ▶ Wheat Ridge HS
- ▶ Evergreen HS

Approximately 50 persons attended the four meetings. The format of the meetings included welcome and introductions by leadership of the Capital Assessment Planning [CAP] committee. The meetings were facilitated by an outside consultant, Jacobs, who was hired by Jeffco to lead the CAP planning efforts. Depending on the number of attendees, participants worked together or in groups of 5-8 persons to address a series of questions which were focused on gaining an understanding of what the interests, needs, and desires are of parents, staff, and community members regarding the school facilities in Jeffco.

Three questions were posed. The questions were as follows:

**Question 1 – What are the major issues or needs district-wide?**

**Question 2 – What are the major issues or needs in your area of the school district?**

**Question 3 – What should be the outcome of the Facilities Master Plan?**

## Overall Summary

### Question #1: What are the major issues or needs district-wide?

The following are common themes identified at the community meetings regarding district-wide facility needs.

- ▶ Equitable facilities throughout Jeffco including:
  - Funding
  - Staffing
  - Technology
  - Representation
  - Curb appeal
  - Athletic facilities
- ▶ Communication: continue to provide more opportunities for community input regarding the master plan.

### Question 2 – What are the major issues or needs in your area of the school district?

Participants expressed issues or concerns associated with individual schools or schools in their articulation area. In some cases they were from schools which they felt were in need of significant improvements, in other cases the schools in their area were recently built. In either case, as in question #1, the issue of equity and communication was re-emphasized. Many of the comments centered on the following issues, concerns or observations.

- ▶ Overcrowding and use of temporary buildings
- ▶ Concern for potential boundary changes
- ▶ Duplicate successful programs such as Gifted & Talented
- ▶ Aging facilities
- ▶ Smaller class sizes

### Question 3 – What should be the outcome of the Facilities Master Plan?

The participants recognized the need for the community to come together and agree on the future direction for school facilities. The following are the common themes which were expressed:

- ▶ Spend dollars wisely
- ▶ Involve community in decision making.
  - Parents
  - Senior Citizens
  - Service Organizations
  - Jeffco Citizens
- ▶ Communicate results and final plan for each building to stakeholders [community].
- ▶ Objective plan versus subjective plan
- ▶ Ensure that the District is held accountable

The following comments were posted on flip charts at the meetings.

**Question #1: What are the major issues or needs district-wide?**

- Communication
- Lack of Funding
- Keep Special Programs
- More Green Energy Solutions
- Teachers have had to bring up building issues vs. school district identifying the needs
- Discrepancies between buildings:
  - Curb Appeal
  - Athletic Facilities at Columbine and other high schools
  - Uniform HVAC
  - Windows that open and let in light
- Temporary Buildings
- Equitable Funding, Staffing, Technology, Facilities
- Class Size [teacher/student ratio]
- Efficiency of Building Usage
- Update facilities – Lots of older buildings; incorporate energy efficiency
- Technology
- Building maintenance should be part of general fund [not bond]
- Need a master plan for long term
- Magnet schools [thematic] – what is done in other parts of the country/world
- Microprogramming [such as Longview] could be incorporated into another school
- Look at demographics and re-align or possibly close some buildings [or offer excess capacity to community]
- Explore School within a School concept
- Inequity
- Technology [ever-changing]
- Pre-school space
- Full day Kindergarten
- Future Planning
- Program Space
- Choice is becoming problematic
- Communication [broad-based to drive decision making]
- Choice vs. neighborhood school
- Athletic facilities
- Provide us with the information we need to make the decisions we need to make
- Community involvement & “expert” recommendations
- Objective assessment
- Facilities usage should be integrated with facilities assessment
- The ability to update the plan annually
- To represent all areas equally
- Invite seniors into the buildings
- Facility maintenance – in & out
- Impartial evaluation of needs [take emotion out]
- Special needs
- \$1 Billion
- Duplication of effort?
- Messaging/communication
- Seniors feel more ownership, involvement
- Schools, buildings are different than they were 50 years ago
- What, why in building
- Asbestos abatement process? – where?
- Fryable vs non-fryable asbestos
- Summer break removed

**Question 2 – What are the major issues or needs in your area of the school district?**

- District managed Foreign Language Program
- Lunch periods too short
- Overcrowding [# of Temporary Buildings]
- To include cafeteria/classrooms
- Security Issues
- Parking space for kids and parents
- Resources for materials
- Let's bring pioneering schools up to date with rest of articulation area
- Public communications
- District support
- County support [streets, signs, code enforcement, lines on busy streets]
- Class Size
- Technology
- Boundary changes to balance school sizes [potential for this]
- Pre-school & Kindergarten – more space
- Athletic fields – upgrade
- Demographics vs. Elementary school size
- Overcapacity at Gifted & Talented schools [Kyffin]
- Outside maintenance and landscaping lacking [Arvada]
- Programming/principal drive choice, not buildings
- Efficiency & equality [technology]
- Sharing ideas with other schools [what works...] – including parent organizations
- Lakewood, Arvada, Golden
- Kyffen ES
  - Built as neighborhood for 350, now serves close to 600 students
  - 5 temporaries, crowded
  - Cracks, leaks
  - Built as “open” school
  - Busy & successful, facility doesn't support
  - Provide Kyffen Gifted & Talented program 1-6, classroom at each grade level
  - Feed to Belle but many go to Manning MS, Creighton MS
  - Addition & Cafeteria 8 years ago
- Oberon MS – feeder to Ralston HS
  - Summer 2009 Redo Café, lockers & new office
  - Late 60's construction
  - Split Level – ADA issues
  - Dennison ES – 70 years old
  - Built in 50's? – no stage
  - Options school in 70's
  - Addition [80's] – Restroom improvement
  - Not ADA compliant
  - Café is a large hallway
  - 5-6 Temporaries
  - Carpet, paint, hot gym
- Communication of Plan
  - Who makes decision of what needs done?
  - Campus consolidation possible?
- To draw top teachers, need top facilities
- Cherry Creek as model
- Reading scores higher than other Districts
- Employee satisfaction survey
- Arvada MS: constructed as HS
  - Not busting at the seams
  - 40% capacity
  - Declining enrollment
  - Socio economic challenges
  - ADA rams – elevator
  - Challenge program [severe handicap]
  - Utilized by community groups
  - Hope = be there/look different
  - Transient population
  - HS benefited more from the last bond
  - Community based health care clinic “caring clinic”
  - Jeffco receive funds? From community partnerships
- Central – oldest part of the district, especially WRHS, Everitt MS, and all the elementary schools.
- Jefferson Area – Lumberg, Edgewater, Martensen
- Alameda – K. Lakes, Stein, Deane: No decent sports fields. We need to finish our building!
- Standley Lake – Major upgrading
- Arvada – Major upgrading

**Question 3 – What should be the outcome of the Facilities Master Plan?**

- Parents' voices included in decisions
- Funds used wisely
- No change in Shaffer Boundaries
- District becomes more accountable
- Dollars are spent wisely
- Kids benefit
- State of the Art facilities
- All schools at "close to capacity"
- Predicting the Future
- Technology Standards
- Address inequities
- Equal opportunity for all students not just neighborhoods
- Objective Plan vs. Subjective plan = concrete
- Keeping data updated long term vs. 2010. Keep flexible
- Timeline
- Close the gap between new state of the art schools and pioneering schools
- Decisions implemented using the community input
- Smaller class sizes
- Alignment of curriculum
- Efficiency of building use
- A safe environment
- Cost efficient
- Database available to public – [we want the raw data]
- Need to share/integrate with community [put on city plans]
- Transportation infra structure [city & school] – future plans
- Need communication with everybody-businesses, neighbors, people without kids
- Need equity [balance new schools/technology with older schools]
- More money is spent, communicate what is being proposed
- Data will create a priority list
- Plan is shared with community
- Draft conceptual drawings
- What the schools will be "getting" as a result of bond.
- Utilize parent volunteers to assist in process
- Depending on need – targeted or open ended
- Use dollars smarter
- Communicate through senior centers
- Involve service organizations and/or business organizations
- Communicate
- Inform before spending the dollars
- Present priority plan based on data, leave out emotion. Tell me why or why not
- Ultimate in transparency objectively as possible
- What do you expect? Share the plan with community, conceptual drawings, more detailed, list memos for months ahead.
- Volunteers – train them
- Need info that people relate to
- Community resource
- Who made the decision on what was proposed? Day late and a dollar short.
- Money
- How do we get the message out?
- How do we get seniors involved?
- Generational differences
- Difference between programs & buildings, why educational adequacy needs?
- Tours
- Upkeep of facilities best we can with limited dollars