

Community Feedback - Facilities Usage

Comments:		Response Count
		16
	<i>answered question</i>	16
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Response Text		
1	Academic achievement has to be the most important factor; however, please consider that not all schools are satisfactory for all students. Some children learn better in a traditional environment, while others may need more supervision, more counseling, and more tutoring in order to succeed. My concern is that Jeffco's open enrollment policies may be compromised in an effort to maximize usage of facilities.	Sep 15, 2009 2:46 PM
2	Capacity: please provide--parents need to know if their school , current and future considered, are going to continue to be available. It also tells us where the demographics aren't being met or are underutilizing resources. Choice: I am a mountain parent. I think if the county and mountain KNEW the choice enrollment figures at our school they would be more supportive of change in the neighborhood schools. Trends: I think we ignore the demographic changes in our community too often. This has meant that the 285 corridor has been very poorly served from a quality standpoint for 10 YEARS. This definitely needs taken into account.	Sep 17, 2009 6:10 PM
3	I am a retired Jeffco teacher and am amazed that schools like Fitzmorris are allowed to continue with such a small enrollment and classes that are only filled with 12 students.I feel schools like that should be either closed or combined with other schools. Much more cost effective.	Sep 18, 2009 12:33 AM
4	9/17/09. When it comes to choice in/out, the choice has little to do with the facility itself and much to do with the administration and teachers within the school. If you are looking to decrease facilities and are going to use usage and choice as criteria, you should look hard at why some schools have less usage or more choice out. If the school is in a vibrant community and parents are running away from the school, the problem of inadequate, incompetent Jeff Co administration, staff, or teacher who have push parents and children away. Do these communities need further rebuff from their school district by closing their home schools down?	Sep 18, 2009 12:51 AM
5	Transportation - percentage of students served by bus transportation and distance travelled by students to get to school	Sep 21, 2009 2:18 AM

Response Text		
6	<p>I'm guessing that your assumption is that if schools are efficient then the students in the schools are learning, achieving and improving their test scores. Personally, I think that humans are a little more complicated than that. In regards to test scores, the test scores should be the scores only from students that have been previously enrolled in the school.</p> <p>I'm not sure about the term efficiency but my own personal opinion is that in judging the general health of a school I would rather know about things like how many parents of currently enrolled students participate in the activities of the school. My opinion is that parental participation is the most important factor in creating an efficient learning environment. You can wave all the carrots in front of all of the students you want but if they don't have their own motivation to learn or if they are not driven by their parents to learn then they won't learn no matter what you do.</p>	Sep 21, 2009 2:38 PM
7	take into account how some options such as McLain and LOnGView cannot make graduation rate because of how the rate is calculated. Academic achievement is not just CSAP and other indicators for schools which serve credit deficient or recovered dropouts	Sep 22, 2009 12:25 AM
8	I am a substitute teacher in the teacher who is looking for a full time teaching job. In most of the Jeffco classes, the classes have too many students. I have even worked in classes of 70 or more, and I am the only certified teacher with that many students. I am not stating this comment, because I just want a teaching job, but I think children are lacking individual attention in learning, because there are fewer teachers. I think that scores, like CSAP, would go up if students were helped more in the classroom. Also, I believe discipline problems would be lessened, which distracts from learning, and this would help the scores, if there were more teachers per student ratio. A teacher can only do so much, especially when he/she is faced with more and more kids in the classroom. Finally, my son has complained all August and September, until today, when it was much cooler, how hot the school building is, and this makes it hard to concentrate and learn, when students are uncomfortable. Today, the school building was too cold, thus the same result.	Sep 22, 2009 1:01 AM

Response Text		
9	<p>I am Jolayne Gutzait a teacher at AMS, NAMS, and AHS. I just went to the forum at Arvada West. I feel that under capacity utilization, the criteria is inaccurate when the health clinic, rooms used for the adult english language learners and the daycare are considered in the square footage for student daily instruction. The school is not only accommodating students of the school, but also members within the community who would then have to find other facilities to go to for these purposes.</p> <p>I also feel that there has been no offering of equitable opportunity for AMS--a topic removed for facility usage criteria, and options for that need to be considered in the decision to close the school or not. One possible opportunity might be to add bi-lingual teaching to AMS. Since Foster Elementary is the bi-lingual school and a high percentage of students then go on into AMS, it seems like an opportunity to turn AMS into the bi-lingual middle school. So many schools in Jeffco now have specialties. Pomona has PAH, Arvada has NAOS, Lakewood has GT and now Stanley has GT North. The GT program from Hackberry feeds into the GT program at NAMS. If AMS had a reason or specialty, more people might choice enroll there as opposed to choice enrolling out due to the school's Title I status.</p> <p>I also do not feel it is fair to consider a school closure based on academic achievement without considering the demographics of the community--to include those on free and reduced lunches, and a high transiency rate--a known cause for lower CSAP scores. I am not sure, but there would also have to be consideration for logistics to transport students to other middle schools. I assume there would be some kind of financial analysis to weigh that into the cost, not only to the community, but to Jeffco schools to accommodate more buses. In addition, there would be impact to the schools these kids would then go on to attend. I am aware of a certain bias against the thought of kids from the AMS area transferring to NAMS. I hope some kind of opinion poll would be taken into consideration with all of the area middle schools that this would impact--NAMS, Drake, and Oberon.</p>	Sep 22, 2009 2:00 AM
10	<p>I'm not sure what any of this means.</p> <p>I have several concerns. It seems like the school district is wasting taxpayer money. The new schools being built look like architectural marvels. Is that really necessary for a school? This is why many people voted down the bond. They see the money being wasted on building beautiful schools. It is like the school district doesn't have to leave within a budget like the rest of us.</p> <p>2. The schools do not have enough gyms. With the popularity of sports, the school gyms are maxed out. Many youth programs (including middle school) have no where to play. The city doesn't have enough gyms either but when they do rent them out, they are more that what kids can afford to pay. Furthermore, we do we let the YMCA have first priority at this precious comodity? The YMCA has priority over school use for the students of the district. Taxpayer money is paying for the schools yet the taxpayer's children that attend schools do not get to use the gym because the district rents it out to the YMCA. Were taxpayers asked if they wanted their tax money spent that way? It must be a sweet deal for the YMCA--why else would they shut down locations and rent space from the schools instead? Because it is cheaper than operating their own facility! And at taxpayers' expense!!</p>	Sep 22, 2009 3:29 AM
11	<p>Why don't you start at the Admin. Bldg. with it's operating costs, there was no need to take over the entire bldg. a few years back Jeffco only occupied a few floors, so I strongly believe before you start damaging low income neighborhoods you start at the top. Maybe eliminate positions there first. Re-Structure the Admin. Bldg.</p>	Sep 23, 2009 12:39 AM

Response Text		
12	My child goes to high school, freshman, and last year of course, he was at middle school, and he never gets enough to eat at the school lunch room. He is not over weight, but is still starving when he gets home. We lived in another town when he was in elementary, and he never came home hungry. He has even commented that the proportions were bigger in elementary school. I understand that he was smaller. This could affect his learning and concentration, and even CSAP scores. I believe that the lunch program needs to be more generous to hungry kids, like seconds, etc.	Sep 23, 2009 1:10 AM
13	Academic Achievement-Only 1 Elementary School in Jeffco this past Spring (09) had "Jeffco Excellence" in the Science 5th grade CSAP scores. Dennison had at least 90% pass this test (Proficient and Adv.). All the other elementary schools averaged between 40-70% of their population pass this test. This is unacceptable by a parent's point of view. I hope all of the school's staff too.	Sep 23, 2009 4:55 PM
14	Please explain to me how you can bring Instructional Coaches into 150 schools yet have to cut other staff (such as special ed)? If the district is hurting so badly due to 3A & 3B not passing last year, it would seem more critical to keep your special ed and teacher aides, not bring in instructional coaches. How can you have academic achievement from your children on IEPs when you take away the help they need!	Sep 23, 2009 10:06 PM
15	I agree that the criteria above are important but I think there is one thing missing and that is a category for all the other programs a school helps support in the community. Some examples include a community medical clinic, church meeting space, adult ESL classes or school nurse space. A school with lower enrollment that is fulfilling needs like these within the community has an added value that is not captured in the criteria above. I believe the above criteria are too narrowly based directly on numbers associated with the school and it's students.	Sep 24, 2009 2:42 AM
16	Regarding choice enrollment-it seems that many people are using fraudulent addresses to enroll students in certain schools rather than applying for a "choice" opening in those schools. The district should verify addresses with names and addresses on utility bills or something of that nature to prevent this unethical business. What is the policy about extended family or daycare providers used for addresses to enroll? Situations should be consistently allowed or disallowed throughout the district. What is the consequence for families who lie about their address? I am concerned about certain schools having high enrollment while others nearby have extra room for more students. I am also concerned about neighborhoods and property values.	Sep 25, 2009 4:16 AM