



Long Range Planning Committee  
Wednesday, November 1st, 2017  
Meeting Minutes

Voting Members

X	Caryn Becker	X	Brad Geiger	]	Kati Knisley		
X	Laura Jensen	X	Nicole Bolger	]	Bob Binder		
X	Cindy Barnard	X	Rudy Lukez				
X	Chris Williams	X	Joyce Mirezni				
X	Karen Zimmerman	X	Stephanie Stanley				
]	Steven Franger	X	Michelle Major				

Non-Voting Members

X	Richard Cosgrove	X	Shavon Caldwell	]	Thomas Mc Millen	]	Meghann Silverthorn
X	Gautam Sethi						

X indicates attendance, ] = notification, ⊗ = no notification

**Call to Order**

Long Range Planning Committee Chair Brad Geiger called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Welcome and Discussion from MVHS Principal**

Principal Michael Weaver welcomed the committee to Mountain Vista High School and discussed MVHS’s unique enrollment, capacity, and capital planning considerations. Principal Weaver shared the following information with the group:

- MVHS enrollment is currently ~2,320. They were projected at 2,360. The majority of enrollment they were expecting was identified as leaving the area completely rather than going to other DCSD high schools, neighboring districts, or private.
- MVHS is currently experiencing the largest enrollment they’ve ever had. A large 8<sup>th</sup> grade class is anticipated to enter MVHS next year as well. They are anticipating hitting peak enrollment in 2021 and then declining as the enrollment “bubble” passes
- There are still difficulties and inefficiencies in the projections, open enrollment, budgeting and hiring process, most notably in managing open enrollment allowances when enrollment estimates are higher than actuals.
- Parking and on site traffic continue to be issues for MVHS. They have ~1,150 eligible drivers and ~800 parking spaces. There have been complaints over the lack of parking and there have been issues with students parking in adjacent neighborhoods. A traffic study was done a couple years ago and the only real viable solution that was determined was widen lanes and create ~200 additional parking spaces. The topography of the site limits the possibility of expansion.
- The freight farm project is an exciting new endeavor at MVHS that has been incorporated into a variety of departments and programming such as computer science, marketing, ag management, business tech, etc. The program has the potential to generate revenue for the school as well.
- Regarding boundary adjustments and the impact it would have on capacity, MVHS has had very consistent enrollment and isn’t currently experiencing the capacity (under and over) issues that some of the other DCSD schools are experiencing. However, there are a number of strange, boundary related occurrences that have been identified. Ex. 1) Students can walk to MRMS and MVHS from the Backcountry but this development is in the ThunderRidge feeder. Ex. 2) MVHS gets enrollment from the Highlands Ranch golf course area. These students literally pass the ThunderRidge site on their way to MVHS. Ex. 3) MVHS gets enrollment from the Copper Canyon apartment complex which is much closer to HRHS than MVHS.

### **Boundary Analysis & Implementation Presentation:**

Planning Manager Shavon Caldwell introduced Shannon Bingham from Western Demographics Inc. Shannon served as the Planning Director of Academy 20 and Boulder Valley School Districts and has performed boundary analyses, school closure studies, and school activation studies for a number of school districts in Colorado and across the nation. Planning staff requested that Shannon discuss his process with the committee and share any lessons learned and best practices. Some of those lessons and best practices shared include:

- Approach as a community based, public process. A process that involves the public, is transparent, data oriented, and child centered is crucial. It won't be successful otherwise
- A typology or classification of areas of the district that is based on growth is helpful. You will want a good understanding of which areas are completely built out and potentially in decline vs. those that are growing quickly, vs. those that are a mix.
- A build out study is necessary
- Understanding of new development and estimated new construction needs is important. Identifying opportunities where current capacity rather than new construction could be utilized is a topic that the public will want alternatives on.
- Start with developing your goals and priorities. Western Demographic Inc's process uses a steering committee to identify and develop the goals of the process. Typical goals include minimizing transportation, maximizing ability to walk, utilizing facilities as efficiently as possible, creating effective educational environment, creating a robust master schedule at the HS and MS level, and increasing and improving equity between schools.
- Surveys are useful and heavily used in Western Demographic Inc.'s process. They serve as an effective way of identifying the most important goals and criteria of a boundary change.
- You will want to demonstrate to your public:
- That you have great data and ensure you have really looked carefully at the data. Demonstrate to your public that you've looked far into the future and that the things you're proposing won't need to be undone at some point.
- That you're efficiently using facilities and tax resources
- That you're acting in the best interest of students
- From a planning and pedestrian standpoint, that you're creating neighborhoods and pedestrian connections
- That you've considered property values. This is often one of the primary concerns of taxpayers.
- People often just want to be heard. Offering the opportunity for this is important.
- Every little bit helps but if you're going to take an incremental/low hanging fruit approach it has to be part of a comprehensive plan. Identify low hanging fruit and demonstrate that District is proactively addressing these issues and doing every few years, but needs to be in a long term context that makes sense. Set priorities, establish long term plan based on build out, identify public process that your community will respond to/that will be effective, and then start with easiest most pressing things.
- Ensure your enrollment and open enrollment policies and strategies won't undo your work and that they align with anticipated growth and build out
- If you don't have a policy or plan on closures, consolidations, target efficiencies, and utilization goals your recommendations are more likely to be challenged. Understand what your current policy and guidelines are and how this process will or will not align
- The reboundary process shouldn't last more than 6-8 months

### **Capacity Analysis Subcommittee Brief:**

LRPC member and chair of the capacity subcommittee Laura Jensen provided an update on the subcommittee's progress. Laura informed the committee that the subcommittee had their second meeting in September. At this meeting the subcommittee identified 7 capacity topics that they would like to research and base their presentation on. These topics and the related questions include the below:

- Neighborhood boundary lines – examine non congruent or illogical neighborhood boundaries as 'low hanging fruit' in a potential boundary reconfiguration.
- Programming (expansion and/or consolidation) – review programming (GT, alternative, early childhood) to determine if there is a demand for replication or if consolidating particular programming in certain areas would improve distribution of services
- Boundary leakage/choice policy for establishing 'home school' – reviewing district policy regarding returning to a home school after having left related specifically to over capacity buildings or the reverse. Facility usage.

- Feeder configuration – do the feeder areas in DCSD make sense from a current and projected population standpoint
- Grade re-configuration – is there opportunity to re-configure 6<sup>th</sup> grade attendance areas
- Transportation – are we making the most of our transportation department under the current boundaries
- Sense of place/school upgrades – could we review MCP to look at how capital needs might impact enrollment

Each of the topics will be researched by subcommittee members and high level observations, data, and examples will be presented to Board members. The committee will request further direction from the Board on which of the listed areas should be researched more and pursued further.

Laura moved that the subcommittee begin researching these identified areas with the goal of presenting to the Board of Education in February. Caryn Becker seconded. All ayes.

**Outreach Subcommittee Brief:**

LRPC member and chair of the outreach subcommittee Caryn Becker reminded members that are still two additional opportunities for outreach training from Superintendent Kane. She encouraged members to attend.

**Other:**

Brad Geiger informed the committee that Todd Warnke has resigned. A seat for an LRPC charter representative is now open. The committee discussed moving the January meeting to January 10<sup>th</sup> since the current January 3<sup>rd</sup> date is over winter break. The location for the January meeting is TBD.

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm