

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
February 28, 2008

Next time: Thursday,
March 6, 2008
Auburn Hall Room 302

Attending: David Das, Bonnie Hayes, Larry Pelletier, Vickie Gaylord, Kathi Cutler, Jim Miller, Pat Gautier, Roger Lajoie, Marnie Coleman, Keri Myrick, Verne Paradie, Tanya Gagne, Greg Merritt, Ben Demers, Tom Morrill, Jude Cyr, Billy Hunter
Absent: Ron Potvin, Bruce Bickford

Revisiting elementary (and other) issues: Key points of an extended conversation.

- Local and state budget considerations can impact our recommendations. Although we must focus on what's best for students, we also have to acknowledge fiscal realities.
- Closing a school would save approximately \$250,000.
- Closing one or more schools would require additions/renovations. Our recommendation may need to include more details about those additions.
- There needs to be a mechanism for revision if the facilities plan requires changes.
- Pre-K brings in revenue. However, we don't need Pre-K at every school and we can eliminate it if it costs more than it brings in. Pre-K is not for all children and does set the stage for a successful K experience.
- Programming issues: Small schools offer personalization and a family feel. Every teacher knows every student. However, in an era of dwindling resources and increased accountability, it is difficult to offer program and resource equity in small schools. Curriculum delivery can be an issue; for example, the current math program is difficult to deliver in a multi-age (combined grade) classroom. More than one teacher at a grade level creates an important professional support system and allows grouping flexibility. Enrollment bubbles are more difficult to handle in a small building.
- From a student perspective, it's hard to be with the same small group of students for 7 years and it also makes for a harder transition into AMS.
- Neighborhood schools don't necessarily mean that students go to the schools closest to where they live.
- More than 80% of East Auburn students are already bussed. Washburn has a much higher percentage of walkers.
- Reducing the number of facilities might ultimately allow us to preserve important personnel and programming.

Issue: How might we provide strong programming for Pre-K – 12 populations and simultaneously reduce the number of facilities in the Auburn School District?

Park Ave
Fairview
Sherwood
Washburn

K-5
Elementary
+ Pre-K

AMS	6 -8
ELHS	9 -12
Walton	7 -12 Alternative, Central Admin, Adult Ed, Share Center
East Auburn	Land Lab, RETC
Paul Berry	Support Services

Decommission:

Lake St, Chamberlain, Mt. Auburn, Merrill Hill, CP White, Auburn Hall, Webster

Next Steps: The presentation to the School Committee will be delayed. We will give ourselves a week to consider this proposal. Tom will find out if we can wait one year to move RETC/SOS and will also find out if we can withdraw our “intent to vacate.”