

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REIMAGINING BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORKSHOP
Monday May 24, 2021

A Reimagining Bristol Public Schools 2023 Workshop of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Bristol Board of Education central office and via the Zoom meeting platform.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Thomas O'Brien, Shelby Pons, John Sklenka, Karen Vibert, Allison Wadowski, and Christopher Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, Carly Fortin, Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Sam Galloway, Direct of Talent Management, Jill Browne, Business Director, Kimberly Culkin, Director of Special Services, and Brian Burke, Director of Communications, Community Partnerships and Strategic Planning, Angela Cahill (QA&M), Conner Dickes (Milone & MacBroom), Rusty Malik (QA&M), and Mike Zuba (Milone & MacBroom)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Chair Dube.

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting norms visible to be read by the participants.

- All participants will actively participate, engage in the work of the meeting, and have equal voice and airtime.
- Assume positive intentions by respecting and honoring the diversity of opinions, beliefs, and perspectives.
- Cultivate trust by being honest and focusing on ideas, practices and the work...not people.
- Norms will be upheld during all meetings and in all interactions outside of formal meetings.

Dr. Carbone welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the meeting. This meeting reviewed options 5a and 5b and introduced 5c.

Brian Burke reviewed ThoughtExchange. ThoughtExchange is a survey program that allows all peoples voices to be heard. The survey asked specific questions relating to K-5/6-8 models and K-8 models. The summary of the ThoughtExchange is the following:

- Parents prefer the school/school model that their child attends.
- K-8 parents prefer less school transitions and K-5/6-8 parents prefer a separate middle school experience.
- Parents cited busing and maturity gaps as the main concerns with the K-8 school model.
- Parents strongly support Edgewood School remaining open
- Parents appreciate the support that their child receives from their teachers, administrators, and staff; especially during the pandemic.

Conner Dickes and Mike Zuba from Milone & MacBroom reviewed Options 5a and 5b. Phase I remains the same in both 5a and 5b:

- 5a Phase I
 - Edgewood becomes PK and a new NEMS is constructed
 - Proportional assignment of enrollment to MBIAMS
 - Maintain direct feeder pattern from elementary to middle schools
 - Increase equity and parity
 - Ivy Drive and MTV are intentionally at lower utilization due to current size of Northeast
 - Achieves equity balancing objective
 - Good socioeconomic balance
 - West Bristol needs to take on some of the current Edgewood district which yields a higher utilization
- 5a Phase II
 - Larger, new NEMS opens
 - Uniform grade configuration with all schools K-5/6-8
 - Stafford closes
 - Proportional assignment of 6-8 enrollment to MBIAMS
 - Maintain direct feeder pattern from elementary to middle schools
 - Increase equity and parity
 - 10% difference between free and reduced lunch percentages
 - Consolidating Stafford results in significant boundary shifts
 - Enrollment balance initially shifted to eastern schools to maintain reasonable size of Chippens, and to balance declining enrollment on eastern side of town
 - Elementary utilization is projected to decrease over the next 10 years from 101% to 95% districtwide
 - Size of the new NEMS would need to be carefully planned as enrollment is projected to decrease
 - Achieves equity objectives

Option 5b is the same as option 5a except the following

- Explored other boundary changes to increase NEMS
 - Shifting more students from Chippens Hill to NEMS
 - Shifting students from South Side to Hubbell and Greene-Hills
- Challenging to shift students towards NEMS while keeping the direct feeder pattern due to:
 - Projected enrollment growth for the west side of Bristol and projected decline for the east side
 - East side of Bristol is served by smaller elementary schools with less capacity
- 5b Phase I
 - Edgewood becomes PK and a new NEMS is constructed
 - Proportional assignment of enrollment to MBIAMS
 - Maintain direct feeder pattern from elementary to middle schools
 - Increase equity and parity

- 5b Phase II
 - Larger, new NEMS opens
 - Uniform grade configuration with a ll schools K-5/6-8
 - Stafford closes
 - Select neighborhoods in Hubbell, West Bristol and Greene-Hills do not feed into schools' primary middle school
 - Proportional assignment of 6-8 enrollment to MBIAMS
 - Increase equity and parity
 - Projected decline of about 160 K-5 students by 2025-26 districtwide, leading overall utilization to decrease from 101% to 96%
 - Ivy Drive and Mountain View would no longer face capacity restrictions due to the new NEMS, increasing utulization to just over 100%
 - Additional capacity created at South Side to accommodate projected local enrollment growth
 - 10% difference between free and reduced lunch percentaged
 - Projected decline of 6-8 students by 2025-26
 - Middle school facilities consolidated to Chippens, the mew NEMS and MBIAMS taking West Bristol and Greene-Hills sections offline
 - Nearly even projected utilization of 92% to 93% between Chippens and NEMS
 - Achieves equity and balancing objective
 - Does not maintain direct feeder pattern from elementary to middle schools

Option 5c is the same as 5b except:

- Stafford stays open during Phase II
- Explores other boundary changes to increase NEMS
- Challenging to shift students toward NEMS while keeping direct feeder pattern due to
 - Projected enrollment growth for the west side of Bristol and projected decline for the east side
 - East side is served by smaller elementary schools with less capacity
- 5c Phase I
 - Edgewood becomes PK and a new NEMS is constructed
 - Proportional assignment of enrollment to MBIAMS
 - Maintain direct feeder pattern from elementary to middle schools
 - Increase equity and parity
- 5c Phase II
 - Larger, new NEMS opens
 - Uniform grade configuration with a ll schools K-5/6-8
 - Select neighborhoods in Hubbell, West Bristol and Greene-Hills do not feed into schools' primary middle school
 - Proportional assignment of 6-8 enrollment to MBIAMS
 - Increase equity and parity
 - Projected decline of about 160 students by 2025-26 districtwide leading overall utilization to decrease from 91% to 86%
 - No schools face capacity restrictions with all schools under 93% utilization; allows for flexiility in placing districtwide programming or other needs

- Stafford has the most available space at 68% utilization or about 126 seats available
 - Additional capacity at South Side to accommodate enrollment growth
 - 10% difference between free and reduced lunch percentages
 - Projected decline of about 100 6-8 students by 2025-26
 - Middle school facilities consolidated to Chippens, the new NEMS and MBIAMS taking West Bristol and Greene-Hills sections offline
 - Nearly even projected utilization of 92% to 93% between Chippens and NEMS
 - Achieves equity and balancing objective
 - Does not maintain direct feeder pattern from elementary to middle schools
 - Middle school facilities consolidated to Chippens, the new NEMS and MBIAMS taking West Bristol and Greene-Hills sections offline
 - Nearly even projected utilization of 92% to 93% between Chippens and NEMS
 - Achieves equity and balancing objective
 - Does not maintain direct feeder pattern from elementary to middle schools

Keeping Stafford open in Option 5c results in 10% additional capacity for K-5 schools, and significantly less redistricting impacts.

Splitting some neighborhoods at the middle school level in Options 5b and 5c allows for better balance between Chippens and NEMS.

High School boundaries remain the same in all three options which are the same as the existing boundaries; however, there are different feeder patterns to the high school boundaries between the different scenarios:

- 5a: Indirect feeder from the middle school
- 5b: Direct feeder from the middle school
- 5c: Direct feeder from the middle school

Key Scenario Takeaways

- Each scenario achieves equity goals by achieving <10% difference between free and reduced lunch percentages, opens a new NEMS and offers two phases implement enrollment balancing objectives
- Option 5a
 - Stafford closes in Phase II
 - Held direct feeder pattern through elementary and middle school levels at the expense of less balanced schools, especially at the middle schools with a projected ~30% difference between Chippens and NEMS utilization
- Option 5b
 - Stafford closes in Phase II
 - Splits some neighborhoods at middle school level to better balance schools, balances utilization with a 1% difference between chippens and NEMS
- Option 5c
 - Stafford remains open in Phase II, which allows for 10% additional capacity districtwide or ~400 additional seats at the elementary level
 - Significantly less impacts to the attendance zone boundaries

- Splits some neighborhoods at middle school level to better balance schools, balances utilization with a 1% difference between chippens and NEMS

Scenario #	Phase I	Phase II	Feeder Pattern	
			Elem. to Middle	Middle to High
Scenario 5a	Edgewood becomes PK only. Increase equity and parity through Free/Reduced lunch balancing. Proportionally feed Memorial Blvd School (6-8). Begin construction of new NEMS.	Close Stafford. Convert K-8 Schools to K-5. Open new NEMS. Reduced elementary capacity. Maintain direct feeder from elementary to middle, results in enrollment imbalances at middle. Indirect feeder to high school.	Direct	Indirect
Scenario 5b	Edgewood becomes PK only. Increase equity and parity through Free/Reduced lunch balancing. Proportionally feed Memorial Blvd School (6-8). Begin construction of new NEMS.	Close Stafford. Convert K-8 Schools to K-5. Open new NEMS. Reduced elementary capacity. Indirect feeder from elementary to middle yielding improved balance in enrollment at middle. Direct feeder to high school using same district boundaries as middle.	Indirect	Direct
Scenario 5c	Edgewood becomes PK only. Increase equity and parity through Free/Reduced lunch balancing. Proportionally feed Memorial Blvd School (6-8). Begin construction of new NEMS.	Stafford remains open. Convert K-8 Schools to K-5. Open new NEMS. Additional elementary capacity. Indirect feeder from elementary to middle allowing balance in enrollment at middle. Direct feeder to high school using same district boundaries as middle.	Indirect	Direct

Clarification that the stand alone PK would open in September 2022. The construction time would last approximately 6-8 months.

In all three instances, Phase I – building the new NEMS, it will take approximately 5 years.

Angela Cahill from QA&M reviewed possible phasing and costs associated with the projects.

New NEMS:	\$70,155,500
Edgewood Renovations:	\$ 9,875,000
West Bristol Renovations:	\$ 9,062,500
Greene-Hills Renovations:	\$ 9,062,500
Demo Existing NEMS:	\$ 3,087,500
Stafford Renovations:	\$10,781,250
Total Project Costs:	\$112.02M – not including escalation
Operational Cost:	NONE
City Bonded Costs:	\$39.02M

There is some potential savings with minimal MEP/Site scope at Greene-Hills and West Bristol of 5M leaving the estimated project cost at 107.02M and the city bonded cost at 37.27M.

New NEMS:	\$70,155,500
Edgewood Renovations:	\$ 7,800,000

West Bristol Renovations:	\$ 9,062,500
Greene-Hills Renovations:	\$ 9,062,500
Demo Existing NEMS:	\$ 3,087,500
Stafford Renovations:	\$10,781,250
Total Project Costs:	\$110M – not including escalation
Operational Cost:	NONE
City Bonded Costs:	\$38.5M

There is some potential savings with minimal MEP/Scope at Greene-Hills and West Bristol of 5M leaving the estimated project cost at 105M and the city bonded cost at 35.52M.

It was noted that Greene-Hills is in the beginning stages of an overhaul on the mechanicals and this may allow for additional savings.

There is a possibility to get the NEMS project started immediately the application is submitted prior to the state before June 30, 2021.

The commissioners feedback from the meeting indicates that they are in agreement with giving a year delay on the redistricting plans. It will allow the students to get back to some normalcy after the pandemic. All of the commissioners are in favor of expediting the approval of the new NEMS project.

The commissioners agree that 5b or 5c are the options to further investigate with the majority leaning toward 5c. There was unanimous desire to pursue the building of the larger NEMS school and expediting the process.

Information will be sought regarding the probability and logistics to start the NEMS project quickly. This will be shared at the Operations Committee meeting.

The Operation Committee will meet on Wednesday May 26, 2021 to make a recommendation to the full board based on this workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Landon

Tara Landon

Administrative Assistant/Operations

** The slide deck that was presented during the meeting is on file. Please reach out to taralandon@bristol12.org to retrieve a copy.