

# Bethel School District

## Long Range Facilities Task Force



### **Meeting #4 Summary**

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Bethel School District Long Range Facilities Task Force Meeting #4  
Thursday, November 15th, 2018  
5:30-7:30PM  
Pierce County Skills Center, 16117 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup, WA 98375

#### **Task Force members in attendance**

Althea Clark  
Ashlee Walker  
Audra Brown  
Bill Taylor  
Charis Storrs  
Dennis Leingang  
Jay McIsaac  
Jennifer VanGieson  
Kathleen Jones  
Kim Price  
Marilyn Wood  
Mujaahidah Sayfullah  
Paul Marquardt  
Peggy Brayton  
Porsche Appleman  
Rebecca Sok  
Rick Knutsen  
Ron Mayberry  
Sandy Williamson  
Scott Martin  
Terry Hurd  
Tina Lee  
Todd Mitchell  
Tracy Hennessy

#### **Members absent**

Amy Briggs  
Bernadette Patton  
Bryan Streleski  
Carie Ann Lathrom  
Dan Ferreira  
David Knight  
Debby Morgan  
Demetrius Forte  
Denise Clark  
Dick Thurston  
Jeffrey Johnson  
Joe Hoge  
Melanie Thomas  
Mike Christianson

Robert Crewse  
Robert Stanley  
Shannon Zimmerly  
Teresa Smith  
Thomas Munoz

**Meeting observers**

Penny Mabie  
Cathie Carlson  
Leigh Ann Dryer  
Marlene Anglemeyer  
Doug Boyles  
Joel Stutheit  
David Hammond  
Tom Seigel  
Lori Haugen

**MEETING PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW**

The Bethel School District Long Range Facilities Task Force met for their fourth meeting on November 15th at the Pierce County Skills Center. The meeting's key objectives were:

- What do we know so far about:
  - Turning all middle schools into grades 5-8
  - Turning all middle schools into grades 4-8
  - Repurposing commercial sites
  - Closing Elk Plain SOC & change it to elementary K-5
  - Double shifting options: A&B days (one group attends on A days, the other on B days)
- Is there additional information needed to fully consider these options?
- What are the pros and cons of these options? How much capacity would these options provide? Would we recommend these as options to pursue?

David Hammond spoke about the way curriculum is presented with regards to grades, i.e. K-5, 6-8, 9-12 and the way assessments are packaged for elementary for grades 3-5. It can prove difficult for teachers to provide the best for our students if the curriculum is packaged differently than our schools are set up.

Penny gave an overview of the phone call research progress regarding other districts following the different options the Task Force is considering for Bethel.

Turn all middle schools into grades 5-8 (see fact sheet):

- What could change (for all schools effected)?
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students would join middle schools
- School District perspective (for schools effected)?
  - Opportunities
    - Help alleviate elementary capacity issue
    - Cost effective solution
  - Challenges
    - Itinerant issues (Teachers and/or programs that move between classes/schools)

- Common area capacity issues (e.g. gyms, lunch rooms, restrooms, etc.)
- Ages/maturity issues
- Duration of solution (middle school capacity would be needed within how many years?)

Turn all middle schools into grades 4-8 (see fact sheet):

- What could change (for all schools effected)?
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students would join middle schoolsSchool District perspective (for schools effected)?
  - Opportunities
    - Help alleviate elementary capacity issue
- Cost effective solution
  - Challenges
    - Itinerant issues (Teachers and/or programs that move between classes/schools)
    - Common area issues (e.g. gyms, lunch rooms, restrooms, etc.)
    - Ages/maturity issues
    - Duration of solution (middle school capacity would be needed within how many years?)

Repurpose commercial site(s) that are not in use to house students or serve administrative functions (see fact sheet):

- What could change (for classes affected)?
  - Classroom structure
  - Transportation
  - Curriculum
  - Special programming (e.g. athletics)
  - Safety
- School District perspective (for schools affected)?
  - Opportunities
  - Challenges
    - Significant zoning changes required
    - Bringing a commercial building up to state school standards could be complicated and expensive

Close Elk Plain School of Choice and change it to a K-5 (see fact sheet):

- What could change (for classes affected)?
  - Existing school serving K-8 students would change to housing only elementary school students (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Middle school aged students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) would return to the middle school their home address is zoned to.
  - Impacted middle schools would include:
    - Bethel MS
    - Cedarcrest MS
    - Cougar Mountain MS
    - Frontier MS
    - Liberty MS

- Spanaway MS
- School district perspective (for schools affected)?
  - Opportunities
    - Elk Plain would have its own boundary
    - Shining Mountain & Clover Creek students could be zoned for Elk Plain, reducing crowding at those schools
  - Challenges
    - School of Choice very popular and successful – losing it would be very unpopular
    - Students in special programs could lose access to those programs

Double Shifting- A/B Days where :

- What could change (for classes affected)?
  - Would extend the hours of school operations and breaks the school day or week into instructional shifts
  - A/B calendar – run two separate school weeks on alternating days
    - ½ student body in session on M-W-F
    - ½ student body in session on Tu-Th-Sa
  - Shifts can be broken up by grade (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students attend school on one track & 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade student attend school on the other)
  - Teachers can be assigned to a specific shift or work both shifts
    - School schedules
    - Bus schedules
    - Use of school facilities
    - Storage space usage
    - Operational costs
    - Extra-curricular activities
    - Classroom curriculums
    - Staff support for school programs, facilities maintenance and student transportation

Voting:

Online polling was conducted regarding the previously mentioned four proposed options for housing students with the following results:

- Move 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Middle Schools:
  - A. Leave behind, no further discussion: 32%
  - **B. Keep on list of potential options, no further information needed: 45%**
  - C. Need more information and/or discussion before deciding: 23%
- Move 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades to Middle Schools:
  - **A. Leave behind, no further discussion: 100%**
  - B. Keep on list of potential options, no further information needed: 0%
  - C. Need more information and/or discussion before deciding: 0%
- Repurpose Commercial Sites:
  - **A. Leave behind, no further discussion: 95%**
  - B. Keep on list of potential options, no further information needed: 5%
  - C. Need more information and/or discussion before deciding: 0%

- Change Elk Plain SOC to a K-5<sup>th</sup> elementary:
  - A. Leave behind, no further discussion: 38%
  - **B. Keep on list of potential options, no further information needed: 38%**
  - C. Need more information and/or discussion before deciding: 24%

Collectively, the task force agreed to leave behind two options – Move 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades to middle school and repurpose commercial sites.

**Next steps:**

Penny asked the group to identify any additional information they needed for future discussions.

The following information was requested:

- Duration necessary for changes
- Impacts of changes
- What's already been done and why (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)?
- How many out of district students in Bethel?
- How many Bethel students going out of district?

Penny led the group in a discussion and brainstorming to identify criteria that could be used to evaluate and narrow the list of options being considered. Cathie noted that once the list of options is reduced, she would be able to provide more detailed information on the remaining choices.

The task force identified the following potential criteria for a selection process:

- Impacts to special programs
- Feasibility of transportation
- Cost
- Duration
- Impacts to academics
- Staff impacts (professional development)
- Space use of common areas
- Capacity gained-% of problem solved
- Home life impacts
- Equity
- After-school/extra-curricular activities
- Before/after school impacts
- Impacts to curriculum
- Safety impacts
- Contract/negotiation impacts
- District reputation

Penny noted that EnviroIssues will work with the district to use the criteria list to develop a draft down-select process for the task force's review in December.

**Next steps:**

- The next meeting is next Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

