

Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee Recommendations and Findings


## Process

The Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education adopted a goal for the 2018-19 school year to establish a Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee, charging the committee to review district facility needs, options, and priorities and to make recommendations by September 1, 2019.

Superintendent Steve Joel invited community members, LPS staff members, and students to consider both present and future facility and infrastructure needs looking forward over the next seven to ten years. Approximately 100 people accepted the invitation to participate. Dr. Joel asked Jennifer Brinkman, Maribel Cruz, and Nick Cusick to serve as tri-chairs of the advisory committee. Jennifer Brinkman served as a trichair prior to her appointment as Chief of Staff to Mayor Gaylor-Baird. Maribel Cruz and Nick Cusick continued as co-chairs from that point forward.

The entire Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee met on the following dates:

January 15, 2019 January 29, 2019
February 19, 2019 March 19, 2019
April 16, 2019
May 21, 2019
June 18, 2019
At the initial meeting, staff presented an update to the LPS 10-Year Facility and Infrastructure Plan. The plan is designed to articulate the facility and infrastructure needs of the district over the next ten years. Dr. Joel charged the committee with the following tasks:

- Study the LPS 10-Year Facilities and Infrastructure Plan as it was presented to the Board of Education in December 2018, and provide feedback and recommendations.
- Review data about our school district, study facility-related issues, and provide recommendations.
- Delve into the difficult questions regarding facility needs and offer recommendations for a thoughtful, community-based plan that lays the foundation for a potential bond issue in 2020.

The committee engaged in an open-ended brainstorming activity to identify topics that committee members believed needed consideration. The topics submitted by committee members for discussion were categorized and assigned to one of six subcommittees. Each committee member was assigned to a sub-committee based on their personal committee preference and each subcommittee was assigned a leadership team listed below.

## Infrastructure \& Finance:

Gerald Clausen, Richard Meginnis
Early Childhood \& Community Learning Centers:
Shams Al-Badry, Dick Campbell
New High School(s):
Brad Korell, Suzanne Sughroue, Joseph Young
High School Athletics \& Activities Complex: Jeff McPeak, Kelly Muthersbaugh

High School Focus Programs \& Alternatives:
Eric Buckwalter, Jennifer Strand
New Elementary \& Middle Schools and Alternate Grade Level Configurations: Seth Derner, Lincoln Zehr

The subsequent meetings were spent predominately on sub-committee work with observation, guidance and general oversight from staff and the SFAC co-chairs. Sub-committees requested information from LPS staff and planned purposeful experiences for members to promote conversation. Several sub-committees took on additional tasks and meetings to further discuss critical topics. A few sub-committees initiated surveys and public forums to gain further perspective and feedback from the community. Each sub-committee was asked to develop a list of recommendations to articulate key observations throughout the dialogue.

Following the June 18, 2019 advisory committee meeting, the sub-committee chairs met August 6, 2019 to garner consensus and fine-tune the final recommendations to present to Dr. Steve Joel at the Board of Education meeting on August 27, 2019.

## Committee Membership and Sub-Committee Assignments

## Infrastructure \& Finance

Gerald Clausen, Sub-Committee Co-Chair
Richard Meginnis, Sub-Committee Co-Chair
Kristin Grosskopf Jason Hayes
Kirk Langer
Keith Prettyman
Katie Taddeucci

## Early Childhood \& Community Learning Centers

Shams Al-Badry, Sub-Committee Co-Chair Dick Campbell, Sub-Committee Co-Chair
Roger Bruning Nola Derby-Bennett
Dona Gould
Cristy Joy
Robert Rickert
Bennie Shobe

Michelle Howell Smith
Cara Lucas Richt
Kelly Schrad
Michelle Suarez

## New High School(s)

Brad Korell, Sub-Committee Tri-Chair Suzanne Sughroue, Sub-Committee Tri-Chair Joseph Young, Sub-Committee Tri-Chair
Stacey Agnew
Rita Bennett
David Cary
Mike Eisenbarth Jim Frohman
David Lockwood
Walter Powell
Savannah Redl
Tim Sabo
Wendy Van
Christa Yoakum

High School Athletics \& Activities Complex
Jeff McPeak, Sub-Committee Co-Chair
Kelly Muthersbaugh, Sub-Committee Co-Chair
Barb Bettin Gloria Eddins
Christy Eichorn Denine Erlemeier
Jessica Erstad
Mike Gillotti
John Kopetzky
Erick Witt
Brendan Evans
Jeff Gronewold
Jerall Moreland
Victor Young

High School Focus Programs \& Alternatives
Eric Buckwalter, Sub-Committee Co-Chair Jennifer Strand, Sub-Committee Co-Chair Belinda Acosta, Ph.D.
James Blake Nate Blum
Valerie Brown John Cartier
Rich Claussen Leslie Eastman
Azcia Fleming Tom Grafton
Dan Hohensee
Christin Kamm
Kim Pickering
Cindy Ryman Yost
Mary Yelken

## New Elementary \& Middle

 Schools and Alternate Grade Level ConfigurationsSeth Derner, Sub-Committee Co-Chair Lincoln Zehr, Sub-Committee Co-Chair Tom Beckius Rod Berens Geoff Cline Chris Deibler
Alan Eighme Mat Ellison
Melissa Escamilla
Lee Ann Heflebower
Rob Klucas
Amanda Lukesh
Bisi Oyinlade

Pam Hale
Cory Hoagstrom Doug Koebernick Jacki Ostrowicki


## Overview

Each sub-committee received an initial charge and a list of critical questions to begin their work. Beginning the discussion with critical, openended questions provided the necessary latitude to purposefully encourage the exploration of a wide range of ideas. Diverse opinions were welcomed and explored in the sub-committee and full committee group discussions. As the sub-committees explored data and ideas, it became apparent that the group was in agreement on many topics related to the facility needs of the district. Equity emerged as a significant theme throughout the sub-committee discussions. Each sub-committee grappled with how much school facilities should be the same and how much they should or could be different and still be considered equal.

The question of equity in high school facilities prompted significant discussion among the participants. Overall, committee members shared a belief that each of the high school facilities in Lincoln Public Schools should contain the same core physical elements. Any new high schools should be built with all of the same amenities as our existing high schools. In addition, the committee affirmed the importance of investing in existing facilities to match updated amenities in the new school(s) as much as possible. Lincoln Public Schools' renovation of the existing four high schools after the construction of North Star and Southwest High Schools, particularly the renovation of the auditoriums, is the best example of such an approach.

Overall, the committee believes that new high school(s) should include core elements that are on par with our existing high schools and that novel elements introduced in the new high school(s) should be considered as a current standard when renovating existing high schools. The group readily recognized that sameness is not the goal of equity and that offerings and programming within each school can and should be different, purposefully responding to the student and community needs unique to each high school. The facility serves as a foundation for meeting student and community needs, not an ending point.

Equity also emerged as a critical topic in the discussion of focus programs. Each focus program across the city will be unique and different. The district should carefully consider the placement of each program as well as access to those programs as it approaches decisions.

All committee recommendations reflect a geographical and socioeconomic balanced approach. The committee recommendations show a strong commitment to investing in and maintaining our existing infrastructure to ensure every child, no matter where they live, has access to a great place to learn. The committee spent a great deal of time discussing geography, contemplating how to invest throughout the city to promote equity in addition, the committee discussed current growth and the potential of


## Overview

continued growth in various areas throughout the city. Maintaining a balance between investing in existing infrastructure and serving new growth areas are acknowledged to be a challenge with limited resources.

The sub-committees were initially charged with providing recommendations based on need without regard to resources available. The overall goal was to vet the LPS 10-Year Facility and Infrastructure Plan to determine if the needs identified were valid and on track with community expectations. Specifically focusing on facility-related needs, being careful not to make recommendations regarding curriculum related issues. The sub-committees were not given specific financial constraints.

The final full committee meeting included an opportunity for the committee of the whole and each sub-committee to review the estimated cost of the recommendations. Subcommittees had an opportunity to do a highlevel prioritization and determine if there were any recommendations that could be considered longer range or Tier 2 priorities. The LPS 10-Year Facility and Infrastructure Plan includes several tiers of need. The needs identified on Tier 1 are the most immediate and often those identified for funding in a bond issue. Sub-committees
were asked if any of their recommendations could move to Tier 2. A few small adjustments were made through that process. Overall, the committee felt the recommendations represented high priority Tier 1 needs.

The final recommendations contained in this report represent the consensus of the subcommittees and the entire committee. Subcommittees had multiple opportunities to present their thoughts and answer questions of the entire group. The final meeting of the committee included consensus building on the entire list of recommendations. The level of agreement among the members was quite strong given the diversity of committee members and their input and priorities.

All of the SFAC work is available on the LPS website through the key work search SFAC or by following this link https://home.Ips.org/sfac/.


## Sub-Committee Recommendations

## Infrastructure \& Finance Sub-Committee

## Recommendation 1:

Lincoln Public Schools should move forward with the Everett Elementary School and Park Middle School Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) projects as planned within Tier 1 of the LPS 10-Year Facilities \& Infrastructure Plan.

## Recommendation 2:

Lincoln Public Schools should at a minimum, invest/dedicate 10-20\% of all future Bond Election proceeds toward infrastructure projects.

## Recommendation 3:

Lincoln Public Schools should plan to fund the next bond issue within the existing bond levy of 16.1 cents. Based on current analysis, the net bond proceeds could range from \$250-290 million.

## Early Childhood \& Community Learning Centers Sub-Committee

## Recommendation 1:

LPS should use all existing space to develop additional early childhood classrooms and add early childhood classrooms to existing elementary schools where physically possible. Consideration should be given to adding early childhood classrooms to each new facility when designing new elementary schools, middle schools and high schools.

## Recommendation 2:

LPS should, in the future and as quickly as financially possible, build a 10-classroom standalone early childhood facility for the early childhood preschool program with adequate property for expansion, and add more classrooms as the LPS student population continues to grow.

## Recommendation 3:

As LPS continues to grow, and school enrollment shifts, LPS should continue to determine which schools will qualify for CLC programming. Currently, there are five schools that are at or near the 40\% threshold for free and reduced lunch. In order to ensure that these schools have adequate programming for students and families, we recommend that LPS continue to look for outside partnerships to support funding and operation for CLCs. We also recommend that LPS apply for the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant funding anytime a school exceeds the $40 \%$ free and reduced lunch level to expand the CLC program at that school.


## New High School(s) Sub-Committee

## Recommendation 1:

LPS should construct two high schools each with an initial capacity of 1,000 students but designed and constructed with core facilities sufficient to accommodate a 2,000 student population at full buildout. Core facilities should include multipurpose/cafeteria area, kitchen, library/ media center, administration/office space, and student common services/locker area. Initially, gymnasium, other sports related facilities and an auditorium theater should be built to accommodate student capacity of 2,000 at full buildout.

LPS should construct the new high school(s) with core facilities consistent with the six existing high schools. Ultimately at full buildout, 2,000 student high schools are important to create the critical mass necessary to offer a full range of student learning experiences while remaining small enough for faculty and administration to maintain a personal connection with students and their parents.

LPS should target an initial facility size of 230,000 sq. ft. and master-planned to expand the square footage to a total of approximately 360,000 sq. ft. over time to serve up to 2,000 students.

## Recommendation 2:

LPS should add new high schools in the northwest and southeast quadrants of the city.

## Recommendation 3:

LPS should renovate specialized spaces in the existing high schools to match new high school facilities to the degree financially and logistically possible.


## Sub-Committee Recommendations

## High School Athletics \& Activities Complex Sub-Committee

## Recommendation 1:

LPS should construct additional district athletics and activities facilities.

## Recommendation 2:

LPS should enhance/improve athletics facilities at each of the existing high schools to create equity and address needs. This should include the installation of artificial turf, if possible.

## Recommendation 3:

LPS should place new athletic and activity facilities on proposed new high school campus(es) to create efficiencies and realize cost savings.

## High School Focus Programs \& Alternatives Sub-Committee

## Recommendation 1:

LPS should identify appropriate focus programs to be located in any new high school and determine facility requirements.

## Recommendation 2:

LPS should evaluate existing high schools and identify new focus programs to be located in each school, taking into account current facilities, current curriculum or extracurricular focus and private-public partnership opportunities.

## Recommendation 3:

LPS should engage community organizations and businesses to assist in developing new focus programs that align with business, industry and community needs.


## Sub-Committee Recommendations

## New Elementary \& Middle Schools and Alternate Grade Level Configurations Sub-Committee

Recommendation 1:
Northeast \& East Lincoln: LPS should build a new elementary school east of 84th Street and north of "O" Street.

## Recommendation 2:

Southeast Lincoln: LPS should build a new elementary school south of Rokeby Road and east of 56th Street.

## Recommendation 3:

South and Southwest Lincoln: LPS should explore building a new, flexible-platform facility that would open as a K-8 facility serving both elementary and middle school students south of Yankee Hill Road and west of 56th Street.

## Recommendation 4:

West and Northwest Lincoln: LPS should explore building a new, small-format, flexible-platform facility that would open as a K-8 facility serving elementary students and middle school students north of Interstate-80 and west of Lincoln Airport.

LPS should also build a new elementary school north of Superior Street and west of 40th Street.

## Recommendation 5:

Renovations of Specialized Classrooms in Middle Schools: LPS should complete renovations as recommended by LPS staff in the 10-year facility plan.

## Summary of Sub-Committee's Work

## Infrastructure \& Finance Sub-Committee

The Infrastructure \& Finance sub-committee focused on recommendations related to the district debt capacity and investing in the upkeep of existing schools. Overall, the sub-committee found that LPS is committed to providing safe, secure, and comfortable learning environments for students and staff. The Everett Elementary School and Park Middle School projects will complete a cycle of "total" facility upgrades for all LPS school facilities. This commitment has taken several years to complete, and should continue to be a priority as facility life cycles progress. The district has done an outstanding job maintaining facilities, which has established a level of expectation in the community. This dedication to cleanliness, maintenance, and operations also provides a consistent final product regarding energy savings, building use efficiencies, and maximization of dollars invested. In reviewing the debt of the district, the subcommittee found that LPS is fortunate to have expiring debt that can be replaced to fund ongoing facility and infrastructure needs. The range of \$250-290 million is much less than the identified needs. The district should maximize all available dollars, aiming toward the highest end of the range while remaining within the existing bond fund levy of 16.1 cents. In addition, the district should consider future needs and available funding for future bond issues.

## Critical Questions and Key Information Discussed

How does the LPS tax levy compare to other districts?

The LPS total tax levy is $\$ 1.22$. Twenty school districts in the state of Nebraska have tax levies higher than LPS. LPS serves an urban population representing diverse student needs and strives to meet the demands of suburban growth all at the same time. Half (10) of the school districts with higher tax levies than LPS are in the Omaha Metro Area; Douglas and Sarpy counties. Higher levying school districts tend to be more densely populated districts with lower land valuation per student.

## How are bond issues financed and how does it relate to the overall finances of the school district?

The principal and interest payments for bond issues are funded predominantly through a bond fund tax levy. The current combined bond fund tax levy is 16.1 cents. The bond fund levy is on the tax bill based on the year the bond issue was voter approved. The average home in Lancaster County is valued at $\$ 184,811 ; \$ 298$ per year is owed in real estate taxes to pay off bond debt for Lincoln Public Schools. The bond fund is used for principal and interest payments. The district general fund is used for annual operation of the school district such as staffing in schools.

## What bonds are expiring and what is the capacity within the existing levy?

The 2018-19 Budget Year includes \$33,874,925 in principal and interest for outstanding general obligation bonds. The 2021-22 Budget Year will include $\$ 21,212,569$ in principal and interest for outstanding general obligation bonds. This reduction will occur in the 2020-21 tax request. The principal and interest payments "rolling off" total $\$ 12.6$ million annually.

What would it look like if additional funding capacity is deemed necessary or the funding capacity is not fully utilized?

The sub-committee reviewed options including increasing the levy by one penny to 17.1 cents or decreasing the levy by one penny to 15.1 cents. At 15.1 cents, the range drops to \$215250 million. At 17.1 cents, the range increases to $\$ 280-325$ million. The sub-committee felt that if the Board of Education is able to take advantage of the upper end of the \$250-290 million range that would be advantageous toward meeting the most significant needs. In addition, the committee reviewed various year spans for financing. The district typically has financed bonds for 25-30 years. LPS financed a portion of the 2014 debt over five years, which provided for a large portion of the debt currently rolling off to create the 2020 bond financing opportunity.

What is included in an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) project?

- Code/ADA upgrades (fire marshal, life safety, uniform building code)
- Building shell (roof, windows, tuck-pointing)
- Energy efficient HVAC/geothermal systems
- Building automation/management systems
- Electrical/lighting upgrades
- Site enhancements
- Curriculum/program modifications

What is needed to keep LPS facilities up-to-date and in good working condition to ensure great learning spaces for students today and in the future?

- Financial Resources
- Human Resources
- Operations Maintenance
- Operations Custodial
- Operations Facilities
- Work Order System to coordinate
- Preventative Maintenance
- Reactive Maintenance
- Building automation/management system

What should be prioritized related to infrastructure needs?

The Indoor Air Quality projects at Everett Elementary School and Park Middle School; a necessity that will pay back with energy savings. The list of infrastructure projects in the 10Year Facility \& Infrastructure Plan is prioritized appropriately.

## Summary of Sub-Committee's Work

## Early Childhood \& Community Learning Centers Sub-Committee

The Early Childhood \& Community Learning Centers sub-committee focused on recommendations related to investing in spaces for early childhood education and community learning centers.

## Early Childhood

Each year, there are nearly 700 children on the wait list to participate in the district's early childhood preschool program. LPS currently provides 66 classrooms, each with a maximum capacity of 20 children. The district is significantly short of existing classrooms for the early childhood preschool program and the need for additional classrooms will only increase as the student population in LPS continues to grow. In some elementary schools, existing early childhood classrooms have been relocated or eliminated when additional K-5 sections are needed. By law, children ages 3-5 with disabilities must have access to participate in a regular early childhood setting with their non-disabled peers. Meanwhile, the number of children with disabilities in this age group continues to grow.

In order to provide an early childhood opportunity for all children on the wait list, 18 additional classrooms would be necessary, allowing for 36 additional halfday sessions. Additional capacity for Early Childhood classrooms could be accomplished by maximizing all currently available space in the district, constructing additional 1,400 square foot preschool classrooms at existing elementary schools where land is available (estimated cost to be between $\$ 300,000$ to $\$ 400,000$ per classroom), or constructing standalone early childhood centers. Many of the existing elementary schools with the largest waiting lists are landlocked and do not have the physical space for additional early childhood classrooms. Each year approximately $75 \%$ of the children enrolled in the Early Childhood preschool program are eligible for free/reduced meals, which is significantly higher than the district's free/reduced rate. Transportation is critical in making the program accessible for all preschoolers. Because transportation is available for all preschoolers, a centrally located stand-alone facility would allow for more efficient transportation. The cost to add a 10-classroom standalone early childhood facility is approximately $\$ 7,750,000$. In addition to ten classrooms, this facility would include space for administration offices, a library, a kitchen, restroom facilities, a multi-purpose area, and custodial space.

Early childhood classrooms should be considered in the design for new elementary, middle, and high school facilities. Currently, there is no conclusive academic advantage for a full-day preschool program over a half-day preschool program. Further study of the effectiveness of the full-day program is warranted and additional data may show a different result. Capacity and length of programming are tied together.

## Critical Questions and Key Information Discussed

## How does Early Childhood impact our facilities?

There is no question that adding early childhood classrooms stresses facilities and takes classroom space that is often needed for other grade levels, but early childhood programs and services enable advanced learning at a younger age and aid children of poverty or ELL (English Language Learner) students to experience a high-quality early childhood experience prior to kindergarten entry and ensures a smoother transition into kindergarten.

## Should LPS provide expanded/dedicated space to Early Childhood?

Yes, expand as much as possible and provide dedicated classroom space.

## Where should early childhood students be served? In their neighborhood or at a central site(s)?

We believe it should be a combination of both. Possibly even develop regional hubs. The strongest preference is for neighborhood classrooms. However, in many schools of greatest need, the buildings are landlocked and unable to add more classrooms. A stand-alone early childhood facility allows for dedicated space to serve our youngest learners.

## Community Learning Centers (CLCs)

CLCs provide all children within the school with a safe and educational space and opportunities to engage in before and after school programming, for all children within the school. The Lincoln CLC initiative is currently serving 26 schools. This includes 19 elementary schools, six middle schools, and one high school. There are currently
five schools in LPS that do not have a CLC but are at or near the $40 \%$ free or reduced lunch threshold for CLC services. LPS has various community partners and grants that assist with funding CLC programs within the district. Extending the search for partners and grants will provide more possibilities for students and will possibly streamline funding concerns in the future. Currently, several CLC programs do not have adequate space to store materials required to provide a meaningful experience to students. In addition to storage space, CLC leadership needs a private space to meet with families and school personnel.

## Critical Questions and Key Information Discussed

## How do CLCs impact facilities?

CLCs maximize the use of existing space in schools and they enhance student learning before and after school hours.

Should LPS provide dedicated space to CLCs?
Yes, each CLC site needs office space and storage space that can be locked.

## Summary of Sub-Committee's Work

## New High School(s) Sub-Committee

The New High School Committee focused on construction of new high school spaces. Specifically, what the district should build and where a new facility or facilities should be located to provide relief to the existing buildings that are over-capacity and to accommodate projected growth in the high school student population over the next 7-10 years.

Current high school enrollment in LPS stands at 12,542 students, which is approximately 1,000 students greater than the present facility capacity. Growth projections anticipate that enrollment will reach 13,442 high school students by 2024. Two 1,000-student high schools constructed by 2023 would accommodate the existing student population and provide for projected mid-term growth. If the new facilities are constructed with the capability to expand to accommodate 2,000 students, Lincoln should have capacity to accommodate high school student growth well into the future subject to future construction financing capacity and approval. Two new high school facilities with initial capacity of 1,000 students each, expandable to serve up to at least 2,000 students each, would continue LPS's practice of providing facility equity across all high school buildings. Facility equity has been a strong theme throughout discussions in the 2018 High School Task Force and the current SFAC New High School Sub-Committee. Building one or more non-comprehensive high schools was considered but rejected by our sub-committee. Building less than a comprehensive high school with fewer amenities did not reduce overall construction cost by an adequate amount. In addition, building a non-comprehensive high school would be a significant departure from our community's long history of maintaining equity in our facilities. This belief in equity was reaffirmed by the High School Task Force and the Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee discussions.

Lincoln is experiencing growth in all quadrants. The south and east areas of the city are currently experiencing the strongest growth. These areas are also projected for continued strong growth under the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Extending the sanitary sewer south in the Stevens Creek Watershed and construction of the South Beltway will further open new areas for residential growth. Both East and Southeast High Schools are currently over capacity (East High at $129 \%$ and Southeast at 105\%). North central Lincoln and northwest Lincoln currently have large student populations and areas of continued growth in the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. North Star High School opened its doors in 2003 to 1,150 students and is now at an enrollment of $2,202,123 \%$ of the building's capacity. Lincoln's oldest high school, Lincoln High, with an enrollment of 2,304 students, is Lincoln's largest high school and is at $117 \%$ of capacity. The Air Park area has a high population of high school students and has the most open land for development in north and northwest Lincoln. A high school located in the northwest quadrant would be more accessible to students in Air Park and Fallbrook, and would also draw students from west Lincoln south of O Street. The upgrade of the Highway 77 bypass to freeway status will improve access from new residential development in southwest Lincoln to the northwest quadrant. Two new high school facilities would allow LPS to provide proximate access to students and families in two growth areas of the city. While the sub-committee considered a single new facility it would not address the overall geographical population growth projected for Lincoln. Because high school facilities serve as community centers operating well beyond the normal school hours, and are closely connected to the surrounding community, the LPS Board of Education needs to be cognizant of this important role and continue to ensure future facilities are located to serve all residents including students.

While there has been growth in east Lincoln north of O Street (Waterford, east Holdrege, and east Adams Street areas) the Stevens Creek floodplain limits growth east of Stevens Creek and north to Cornhusker Highway while plans are in place to extend the sewer line south of $O$ Street. Lincoln Northeast High School has the capacity for more students; current enrollment is less than $100 \%$ of the building's capacity. The southwest quadrant was not selected due to lower growth compared to other quadrants, as measured by building permits.

## Critical Questions and Key Information Discussed

## What type of facilities should LPS invest in to accommodate 2,000 additional high school students?

LPS students have been well served by Comprehensive High School facilities. A Comprehensive high school design incorporates similar space allocation both in type and size as each of the other high schools at full build out. While a smaller school footprint may be constructed initially, it is designed and constructed with the core facilities including a multipurpose/cafeteria area, kitchen, library/ media center, administration-office space, and student common services/locker area sufficient to accommodate a student population at full buildout. Also, initial gymnasiums and other sports related facilities should be built to accommodate student capacity at full buildout and an auditorium/theatre built consistent with the 2,000-student high school model.

The new high schools should have core facilities consistent with the six existing high schools but without the same student capacity, but be master-planned for future capacity needs and expansion plans. As student population grows, classroom/instruction space can be added to accommodate more students.

## Design facilities to be flexible.

"As a rule of thumb, $60 \%$ of the jobs 10 years from now haven't been invented yet" (Thomas Frey, futurist). According to Kurt Glathar, former Northeast High School Principal, "At best, we can only look out five to seven years. Most of the jobs that will be available for graduating students in 10 years don't even exist today."

Flexibility in high school design is important. Major transformations occur in the learning environment based on student needs. School facilities need to be designed with flexibility so that learning environments can be adapted to changes in educational delivery, societal norms, and advances in technology. Design should include flexible spaces and staff-student-parent oriented interactive collaboration spaces.

Starting with smaller high schools designed to be expanded affords LPS the opportunity to add future capacity based on changes in educational delivery, curriculum, and student needs.

Lincoln high schools designed to serve 1,850 students, over time and necessity, have evolved into facilities that serve approximately 2,000 students. Student capacity of 2,000 has become a new norm in Lincoln Public Schools. As new high schools North Star and Southwest were brought online, significant investments were made in existing high school facilities to increase capacity and achieve facility equity across all high school facilities. Increasing the standard to a larger student capacity facility, say 2,500 or 3,000 students, would have several important implications. First, Lincoln High, currently at 2,300 students, has legacy buildings approaching 100 years old. The campus is also landlocked in its current location. If newer high schools are built with a larger capacity, LPS would no longer be able to achieve the facility equity that participants in the 2018 High School Task Force and the 2019 SFAC New High School subcommittee feel is important and should be a guiding principle in facility design.

A larger high school facility would also invoke the cultural considerations and academic and extra-curricular experience that are created in a 2,000-student facility versus a larger facility, and that LPS principals feel are important for faculty and students. Both East High Principal Sue Cassata and Lincoln High Principal Mark Larson felt schools slightly smaller than 2,000 students had the best balance of offering diverse course offerings while remaining manageable from a logistics standpoint while facilitating staff/student relationships.

Since our facilities are designed for an 80-100 year life span, intelligent planning and design should take into consideration the possible need to expand facilities to accommodate larger student populations. Design should look at how core facilities including multipurpose/cafeteria, kitchen, library/media center, administrationoffice space, and student common services areas can be organized to accommodate future expansion in the most cost efficient manner while also allowing for classroom additions. Corridor design must be a key component considered in facility design because corridors are one of the primary constraints in both facility expansion and initial construction cost.

Purposeful facility forward planning can help preserve facility options for future LPS Boards and administrations to accommodate educational delivery.

## Schools as Community Centers

Lincoln high schools are more than educational facilities. They are actually "full service community centers" where a multitude of activities are conducted well beyond the traditional hours and scope of school operations.

Starting with smaller high schools affords LPS the opportunity to add future capacity based on changes in educational delivery, curriculum, and student needs.

How many new high schools (1 or 2) and/or high school spaces?

Two 1,000-student high schools with all the same facility elements and scaled back square footage to meet the population of the school $(230,000$ sq. ft .) master-planned to expand the square footage to a total of 360,000 sq. ft. over time to serve 2,000 students.

## What types of spaces (i.e., media, theater, pool, athletic and activity spaces) should be included in a new high school design? Should the physical elements (i.e., media, theater, pool, athletic and activity spaces) of a new high school or schools be consistent with the other six high schools?

Core facilities should include a multipurpose/ cafeteria area, kitchen, library/media center, administration-office space, and student common services/locker area sufficient to accommodate the student population at full buildout. Also,
initial gymnasium and other sports-related facilities should be built to accommodate student capacity at full buildout and an auditorium/ theatre built consistent with a 2,000 -student high school model. The physical design elements should be generally consistent with the existing six high schools.

## Where (i.e., which quadrant of the city) do we need additional high school capacity today and in the future? How would the recommended location(s) best serve the entire city?

New high school capacity should be added in the northwest and southeast quadrants of the city.

While all quadrants of the city continue to show residential growth, the south and east areas are currently experiencing the strongest growth. These areas are also projected for strong growth under the city's long-term growth plan. Extending the sanitary sewer south in the Stevens Creek Watershed and construction of the South Beltway will continue to open up new areas for residential growth. Both East High and Southeast High are currently over capacity (East High 129\% and Southeast 105\%).

North central Lincoln and northwest Lincoln currently have high student populations. North Star High School opened its doors in 2003 to 1,150 students. It is now at an enrollment of 2,202 or $123 \%$ of capacity. Lincoln's oldest high school, Lincoln High with 2,304 students, is Lincoln's largest high school currently at 117\% capacity. Both schools draw students from north and west Lincoln. Air Park has a high population of high school students. A new high school located in the northwest quadrant would be more accessible to students in Air Park and Fallbrook, and would also draw students from west Lincoln, south of O Street. The upgrade of the Highway 77 bypass to freeway status will improve access from new residential development in southwest Lincoln to the northwest quadrant.

New high schools in the northwest and southeast quadrants will help meet Lincoln's needs for high school facilities in the near term.

Although there has been growth in east Lincoln north of O Street (Waterford, east Holdrege, and east Adams Street areas), the Stevens Creek floodplain limits growth east of Stevens Creek and north to Cornhusker Highway and plans are
in place to extend the sewer south of O Street. Lincoln Northeast High School has additional capacity for more students as current enrollment is less than $100 \%$ of full capacity.

The southwest quadrant was not selected due to lower growth as measured by building permits compared to other quadrants.

What is the committee's feedback on equity across the city for students to access the high school experience? How is it impacted by school choice through transfer and the design elements of the new schools (i.e., comprehensive)?

It is important to distinguish between equity in programs/curriculum and equity in facilities. Facility equity means that each facility includes certain core elements: multipurpose/ cafeteria area, kitchen, library/media center, administration-office space, and student common services. Classroom space depends on the number of students served. Facility equity does not mean the same educational programs are offered at each high school. Educators and administration determine what programs are offered in each high school. Parents love the fact that each high school is different and that each school is recognized for its own "personality" and special capabilities. Each school will define its own niche. Neighborhoods help determine the character of each school.

The equity theme across all Lincoln high schools was strong throughout discussions of the 2018 High School Task Force and continued in SFAC discussions. Facility equity across all high schools is important and has served Lincoln students well.

A new high school may include one or more focus programs in its curriculum offering based on student needs.

Although LPS has achieved facility equity in all its high schools, LPS has not adopted a 'one size fits all' approach in delivering educational programs at each high school. Nonetheless, LPS has done an excellent job of creating equitable
learning environments across its high schools in buildings ranging from 20 years old to nearly 100 years old. Over this history, LPS has been able to design space more efficiently reducing the square footage required by nearly 25 percent.

In conjunction with the New High School Subcommittee's assignment, the Sub-committee asked LPS to poll high school students who had transferred from their designated high school to determine why students chose to attend a different high school. The survey received responses from 944 students, which is a $25 \%$ response rate.

Results of the survey are summarized below*:

- $44 \%$ or nearly half said that the decision was made by both the student and their parents.
- $44 \%$ made the decision to be with friends.
- $35 \%$ chose the school based on family member attendance.
- $32 \%$ made the choice to participate in a program or class offered by the high school.
- $29 \%$ wanted a "fresh start"; and
- $25 \%$ made the choice based on athletics.
*Students could select more than one reason for making the transfer.
- The International Baccalaureate Program at Lincoln High was the overwhelming reason for those students who made their choice based on a program offered, while Music/Art/Theater was second at $16 \%$ and athletics came in third at $12 \%$.
- Of those making a transfer based on a program, $76 \%$ were still involved in that program and $96 \%$ felt the program met or exceeded their expectation.

Full survey results:
https://home.lps.org/sfac/wp-content/blogs. dir/150/files/bsk-pdf-manager/2019/04/Student-Survey-Results-High-School-Transfer.pdf

## Summary of Sub-Committee's Work

## High School Athletics \& Activities Complex Sub-Committee

The High School Athletics and Activities Complex Committee focused on recommendations related to new construction and/or enhancements to existing facilities to support athletics and activities.

Student participation in athletics and activities positively influences the high school experience. The current LPS athletic and activities facilities have limitations that create scheduling stresses and event conflicts for the existing schools. One or two additional high schools will add several more teams and events and the current facilities are insufficient to accommodate that expansion. The sub-committee feels that investment in athletic and activity facilities is required. The highest need for the school district is a complex that includes varsity level playing fields for football and soccer. The second highest need is a complex to support softball, baseball, and track \& field.

In addition, the committee reviewed the installation of synthetic turf on practice fields and improvements to current facilities (concessions/ restrooms) at the existing high schools. The committee felt such an investment would have the greatest impact for programs at the existing high schools and would address equity concerns for all high schools in the district.

When exploring the question of a stand-alone complex versus a complex located on a high school campus, the subcommittee learned that an athletic complex at an existing high school could save an estimated \$4 million in construction costs of duplicate facilities. The cost savings can be used to support other needs at existing high schools.

## Critical Questions and Key Information Discussed

## What is the need related to spaces to serve athletics and activities?

LPS has needs for varsity level playing fields/ facilities for five sports - football, soccer, track and field, softball, and baseball. Varsity level fields can be used for competition at all levels to include junior varsity, reserve and freshman teams when appropriate

## Should the district invest in a district athletic and activities complex?

Yes.

## Where should an additional district athletic activities complex be located?

Facilities should be located with the proposed new high school(s) due to cost savings.

## What should be included in a new complex?

Playing field(s), support facilities, and associated ancillary facilities should be included. The number of fields and seating capacity should be based on LPS data.

## Could it be completed in phases?

Yes, the work could be completed in phases. The committee recommends that additional facilities for each of the five sports and improvements to existing high school facilities be addressed in the initial phase. The new high school(s) athletic facilities should be master-planned to allow for easy and cost-effective addition of fields and facilities in future phases.

## What size should the facility be?

The sub-committee recommends using LPS data to determine the seating capacity and number of fields.

## What should be included in the design that would be neighborhood friendly?

Facility planning should address lighting, traffic, and access concerns with the surrounding area. It is anticipated that the new high school site(s) will be located in undeveloped areas where these concerns can be easily mitigated.

## If the complex is at a high school site, how will that impact equity across facilities?

The sub-committee recommends locating the new athletics complex(es) at the new high school(s) due to cost savings of shared infrastructure and efficiency of design at new sites compared to existing high school sites. The sub-committee recommends addressing the facility needs in part at each of the new high schools, if two high schools are recommended. This creates equity amongst the new high schools. The sub-committee recommends improvement at each of the existing high schools to address needs and equity concerns. The sub-committee recommends consideration of geographic distribution of athletic facilities for equity concerns.

Are there opportunities for enhancements at each high school to address the need?

As noted above, the sub-committee recommends enhancements at each of the existing high schools to address needs and also to create equity. These improvements may include synthetic turf, additional practice areas, additional support facilities, or other needs identified by high school athletic directors.

Are there needs at existing facilities even with the investment in a district athletics and activity complex?

These improvements may include synthetic turf, additional practice areas, additional support facilities, or other needs identified by high school athletic directors.

## Are there any opportunities for community/ business partnerships?

Several community and business partnerships at varying levels of certainty were discussed. The sub-committee recommends that LPS consider beneficial community/business partnerships that are beneficial to LPS and support the priorities of the sub-committee.

## Summary of Sub-Committee's Work

## High School Focus Programs \& Alternatives Sub-Committee

The High School Focus Programs and Alternatives Committee focused on recommendations related to the physical space and facility needs of new focus programs and/or enhancements to the existing programs.

Focus programs provide students with an engaging learning opportunity and engaged students are more likely to be hopeful. Focus programs provide a sense of community; students with similar interests participating in a focus program become a neighborhood within the larger high school community. Through focus programs, students have an opportunity to explore various careers. Students who participate in focus programs have higher graduation rates and standardized test scores (ACT/SAT).

LPS currently serves students in the following focus programs:

- Arts and Humanities (643 S. 25th Street, across from Lincoln High)
- Science Focus Program (commonly referred to as 'Zoo School')
- International Baccalaureate (Lincoln High)
- Air Force Junior ROTC (Northeast)
- The Career Academy (88th and O Street) (12 Career Pathways - Agriculture/Bioscience, Business Entrepreneurship, Construction, Criminal Justice, Culinary, Early Childhood

Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Information Tech, K-12 Education, Precision Machining, Welding)

The sub-committee believes that partnering with community organizations and businesses enhances a focus program. Partnerships enhance students' skills, building a stronger workforce for the future. Organizations and businesses can identify, nurture, and recruit high-quality talent proactively. Partnership provides businesses with a civic opportunity to share their business in new ways, enhancing visibility and providing community service. Students can engage in authentic experiences that assist them in planning for their future. Partnerships create the context for students to apply learning and discuss a profession. Adult connections create additional opportunities for mentoring, internships, and job training. Focus programs with partnerships often offer worksite experiences and expose students and staff to state-of-the-art technology. Partnerships can provide financial assistance, goods, and/or services to schools.

## Critical Questions and Key Information Discussed

What percentage of high school students do we
believe will access programs outside of their home high school boundaries?

For each school, a significant percentage of students attend outside of their attendance boundary.

2018-19
High School Membership

|  |  | Attendance Boundary Residing In |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Lincoln High | East High | Northeast | Southeast | North Star | Southwest | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Option } \\ & \text { In } \end{aligned}$ | Unknown |  |
|  | Lincoln High | 1,302 | 104 | 269 | 200 | 293 | 88 | 29 | 11 | 2,296 |
|  | East High | 49 | 1,546 | 261 | 157 | 55 | 47 | 54 | 36 | 2,205 |
|  | Northeast | 95 | 140 | 1,300 | 32 | 150 | 13 | 15 | 8 | 1,753 |
|  | Southeast | 415 | 196 | 72 | 1,032 | 77 | 202 | 33 | 9 | 2,036 |
|  | North Star | 94 | 14 | 183 | 13 | 1,838 | 4 | 17 | 15 | 2,178 |
|  | Southwest | 268 | 72 | 17 | 237 | 68 | 1,248 | 59 | 13 | 1,982 |
|  | Total | 2,223 | 2,072 | 2,102 | 1,671 | 2,481 | 1,602 | 207 | 92 | 12,450 |

## What is the enrollment of our current Focus Programs and TCA?

Currently $7.3 \%$ of all high school students attend a focus program, but that number might be limited by the number of choices. Currently, students from all six high schools as well as private schools attend each of the focus programs.

Overall, 912 students from grades 9-12 are attending a focus program out of 12,542 students.

|  | $2017-18$ | $2018-19$ | $\%$ change |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Arts \& Humanities (A\&H) | 72 | 67 | $-7 \%$ |
| Science Focus (Zoo School) | 104 | 94 | $-11 \%$ |
| The Career Academy (TCA) | 368 | 483 | $+25 \%$ |
| International Baccalaureate (IB) | 179 | 188 | $+5 \%$ |
| Air Force Junior ROTC | 96 | 80 | $-20 \%$ |
|  | total | $\mathbf{9 1 2}$ |  |

What is the utilization and capacity of our current Focus Programs and TCA?

|  | \# of Students | Capacity | \% utilized |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Arts \& Humanities (A\&H) | 67 | 100 | $67 \%$ |
| Science Focus (Zoo School) | 94 | 120 | $78 \%$ |
| The Career Academy (TCA) - <br> Includes AM \& PM sessions | 483 | 968 | $50 \%$ |
| International Baccalaureate (IB) | 188 | --- | --- |
| Air Force Junior ROTC | 80 | --- | --- |

## What new focus areas has LPS explored?

The following list of options is not intended to be exhaustive and may evolve based on ready partners and/or community needs. Engineering, STEM, and Entrepreneurship were explored as standalone focus programs, but are not listed in the table because they may be infused into all career fields.

| Nebraska Career <br> Education <br> Career Field | Focus Program(s) <br> Explored |
| :---: | :---: |
| Agriculture, Food, and <br> Natural Resources | Agribusiness, Agricultural (or Urban ag), <br> Biotechnology, Environmental Studies |
| Communication and <br> Information Systems | Data Science and Computer Science |
| Skilled and Technical <br> Sciences | Aviation/Flight, Architecture, Urban Planning |
| Health Sciences | Health Professions, Biotechnology |
| Business, Marketing and <br> Management | Global Business |

## Should a focus program be housed at a high school or in a separate location?

The sub-committee recommends that new focus programs be located in existing or new high schools.

## Are there any opportunities for community/ business partnerships?

Yes. Duncan Aviation is currently working with the district to create an Aviation Focus Program. Explore other opportunities to develop similar relationships with local industry leaders. Explore opportunities to have classes based in high schools paired with hands-on opportunities at businesses.

## What data does LPS have on student interest in focus programs?

As part of the high school option task force work this fall, students, parents, and counselors were surveyed and focus groups were conducted at three high schools (students $n=10+522$ evaluation surveys; parents $n=41+196$ evaluation surveys; counselors $\mathrm{n}=22$; focus groups conducted at Northeast, East, and North Star). A theme that emerged from the surveys and the focus groups was a perceived need for additional focus programs.

## New Elementary \& Middle Schools and Alternate Grade Level Configurations Sub-Committee

The New Elementary \& Middle Schools and Alternate Grade Level Configurations SubCommittee focused on recommendations related to new construction and/or additions at the middle school and elementary school levels.

LPS is growing and has need of additional facilities in every quadrant of the city. The committee reviewed the needs under the assumption that LPS has historically had a bond issue every seven years. Therefore, it will likely be eight years until the next cycle of facility investments. By 2028, LPS will add 3,500-4,000 elementary and middle school students if the district growth continues at the same pace as the past 12 years. The committee reviewed the Lincoln-Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan as context for recommendations related to facility needs. The acceleration of construction of the South Beltway and the likely rezoning of land on NW 48th Street from commercial to residential are not fully recognized in the current plan but must be considered in planning facility needs. As the city grows in an ever-expanding diameter and multi-family housing becomes a greater proportion of housing in the city, it increases the challenge of determining the best location(s) for constructing an elementary or middle school. LPS has experienced significant growth and is projected to continue to grow well into the future. The recommendations and needs for new elementary and middle school facilities are directly related to this growth.

The committee found there is a willingness in the community to consider alternative grade level configurations, especially a K-8 model, if students are likely to receive the same, rather than a perceived lesser experience. An alternate grade level configuration such as K-8 could be used to address facility needs in a strategic way.

The sub-committee conducted a survey of parents in Northwest Lincoln to understand community perceptions of grade level configurations. Overall, 6,099 parents were surveyed and 803 responded. The majority of respondents, 79 of 94 responses that referenced grade level configuration, were against changing the established LPS grade level configurations. The majority of survey respondents preferred building a new school to solve overcrowding in Northwest Lincoln. The sub-committee conducted three follow-up community forums and found that there was support for a K-8 grade level configuration if an alternate grade level configuration became necessary.

The sub-committee uncovered a potential for perceived inequity in elementary schools built in the past 30 years. The perception is that a greater number of large schools have been built in west and north Lincoln, schools that tend to serve more ELL and free \& reduced lunch students. In addition, the perception is that smaller schools have been built in south and southeast Lincoln.

The sub-committee supports renovations of specialized classrooms in middle schools. A consistent theme the sub-committee heard from community members was the desire for the same level of educational experience for all students. Out-of-date classrooms for specialized curriculum areas in some of the older middle schools are providing a perceived less than experience.

The following includes the recommendation for new construction organized by each geographical quadrant of Lincoln.

## Northeast Lincoln

A new elementary school east of 84th Street and north of O Street.

- There are existing concerns with elementaryaged children crossing 84th Street to attend Meadow Lane, Kahoa, Pershing, or Norwood Park.
- Recent completion of water and sewer infrastructure to Stevens Creek will open further development to the east of 84th Street.
- The middle schools serving this area of town, Culler, Mickle, and Dawes, likely have the capacity needed for the next 7-10 years. However, it is likely a new middle school will be needed at that time if the city and this area continue the same pattern of growth.
- The sub-committee's best estimate is that this quadrant needs a four-section elementary school to serve approximately 550 K-5 students.


## Southeast Lincoln

A new elementary school south of Rokeby Road and east of 56th Street.

- It is challenging to predict exactly where growth will occur in this area, but there is consensus that this will continue to be the fastest growing part of the city.
- There is capacity to add two additional sections to Wysong (currently a four-section school). However, there is consensus that a) adding two additional sections would not add enough capacity to meet the expected development in this area of the city, and b) the construction of the South Beltway will likely drive residential development further south at a faster rate than previously predicted. A new six-section school should meet upcoming needs but if not, the option to add the two additional sections to Wysong should be the first priority.
- As water and sewer infrastructure to Stevens Creek has yet to commence south of O Street, it is unlikely that there will be great demand for additional capacity between O Street and Hwy 2 that can't be met by Pyrtle, Maxey, and Kloefkorn Elementary Schools. If this prediction proves incorrect, the first action
suggested is to add three sections to Kloefkorn. Kloefkorn currently has three sections but was designed with core facilities to serve six.
- The committee's best estimate is that the recommended new elementary school should be a six-section elementary school to serve approximately 820 K-5 students.
- Moore Middle School likely meets the needed capacity for the next 7-10 years. When additional facilities are necessary, we suggest future groups consider the K-8 format recommended in this report for other areas of the city.


## Southwest Lincoln

Explore a new, flexible-platform facility that would open as a $\mathrm{K}-8$ facility serving both elementary and middle school students south of Yankee Hill Road and west of 56th Street.

- There is a need for immediate relief for Scott Middle School and additional elementary capacity given the pace of new development in this part of the city and the acceleration of the South Beltway construction. It is unclear if both a full-size middle school and full-size elementary school are merited for the next 7-10 years.
- A flexible platform school would allow future planning groups and Board of Education members the ability to either maintain the facility as-is, convert it to a full elementary school, or convert it to a full middle school depending on how growth and development occur in the next decade.
- There is some evidence that K-8 facilities are beneficial to student achievement, and the format has been adopted by districts in rapidly growing areas of Colorado. Thus, there are models to study regarding ways to ensure the facility encourages a safe and developmentally appropriate learning environment for both young children and adolescents.
- The committee estimates that the recommended facility should be designed to serve approximately 550 K - 5 students and 450 middle school students.


## Northwest Lincoln

All areas of Lincoln have unique geographical and infrastructure features that affect facility planning, but the northwest quadrant provides especially challenging issues created by the airport, a large section of industrial area, a floodplain, two Interstates, and Highway 34.

The sub-committee recommends exploring a new, small-format, flexible-platform facility that would open as a K-8 facility serving elementary students and middle school students north of Interstate-80 and west of the Lincoln Airport and a new elementary school north of Superior Street and west of 40th Street.

- After consideration, there appears to be no feasible location to construct one facility that would serve the capacity needs of both north and west Lincoln. The areas of rapid development (North 14th Street and NW 48th Street near I-80) are separated by nearly 5 miles, an airport, and a floodplain.
- There is a need for immediate relief for Kooser and Arnold Elementary Schools and Schoo Middle School. All three are expected to be over capacity within two years. While neither area is expected to grow as rapidly as the south or southeast areas of town, both are continuing to experience robust construction of homes and multi-family units.
- Exploring a small version of the same flexibleformat K-8 facility recommended for south Lincoln makes sense in west Lincoln and should provide capacity needed for the foreseeable future. If growth continues to exceed expectations, the facility can be re-formatted if an additional facility is deemed necessary (e.g., change the facility to a full middle school and build a new elementary school). The subcommittee estimates this facility would need to be constructed to serve approximately 420 K-5 students and 300 middle school students.
- A small elementary school in north Lincoln would alleviate overcrowding and provide capacity for the foreseeable future unless there are significant updates to the city's comprehensive plan. The committee estimates this would need to be a three-section elementary school to serve approximately 420 K-5 students.


## All quadrants

The recommendations set forth would accommodate approximately 3,500 K-8 students.

| Recommendation | Add'l K-5 | Add'l 6-8 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| NE \& E - New elementary | 550 | 0 |
| SE - New elementary | 820 | 0 |
| S - New, K-8 flexible-format facility | 550 | 450 |
| W - New, small-scale K-8 flexible-format <br> facility | 420 | 300 |
| N - New elementary | 420 | 0 |
| Middle school renovations | 0 | 0 |
|  | TOTAL | $\mathbf{2 7 6 0}$ |

The capacity numbers do not include preschool students that may be part of any new elementary facilities. This is not an oversight; rather, we wanted to respect the work and recommendations of the Early Childhood subcommittee.

## Critical Questions and Key Information Discussed

## What is the need for new elementary schools?

The sub-committee recommends exploring the following options:

- One four-section K-5 school east of 84th and north of O Street.
- One six-section K-5 school south of Rokeby Road and east of 56th Street.
- One three-section K-5 school north of Superior Street and west of 40th Street.
- One flexible-platform K-8 school south of Yankee Hill Road and West of 56th Street (foursection elementary).
- One flexible-platform K-8 school north of Interstate-80 and west of the Lincoln Airport (three-section elementary).


## What is the need for new middle schools?

The sub-committee recommends exploring the following options:

- One flexible-platform K-8 school south of Yankee Hill Road and West of 56th Street (four-section elementary and 450 middle level students).
- One flexible-platform K-8 school north of Interstate-80 and west of the Lincoln Airport (three-section elementary and 300 middle level students).

Would a different grade level configuration provide opportunities to address the need for new schools?

- The committee supports exploration of K-8 schools as an option to meet needs.
- We discussed the option of moving 9th grade students back to middle school but unanimously agreed to recommend that 9th graders remain in high school facilities.
- We discussed other grade configurations as short-term solutions; a separate facility for primary grades, moving 5th grade to middle school, or moving 8th grade to a new high school. None were widely supported.


## What are the curriculum and instructional impacts of an alternate grade level configuration?

- The committee believes there are minimal instructional impacts within a K-8 facility, but other configurations would bring significant curriculum and extracurricular challenges.

Would we recommend a different grade level configuration for only one geographic area of the city?

- The greatest priority for parents is that students have access to an experience that is as good as their peers' experience. They are not opposed to alternative configurations in general, but need assurance that an alternative configuration will have a neutral or positive effect.
- We would recommend an alternative configuration for one area of the city if it would solve needs for facilities and was positive, or at least neutral, on student experience.
- As we discussed the potential benefits of a K-8 facility, we felt that the configuration answered the needs in both north and south Lincoln.

Would alternate schedules and/or calendars provide opportunities to address the need for new schools?

- After careful consideration of Lincoln's previous experiments with alternate schedules and calendars, the sub-committee does not believe either alternate schedules or calendars can sufficiently address facility needs.


## What grade configurations and calendars has

 LPS tried in the past?- In late 1990s, two elementary schools ran both traditional and year-round calendars. Both schools abandoned the year-round calendar due to community issues.
- In its history, LPS has operated the following grade level configurations:
- (P)K-5
- K-6
- K-9
-6-8
-7-9
-7-12
- 6-12
- 9-12
- 10-12


## Appendix A

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEN (10) YEAR FACILITIES \& INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN - "Facilities"


[^0]
## Appendix B

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEN (10) YEAR FACILITIES \& INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN •"Facilities"


## Appendix C



## Appendix D



## Appendix E



## Appendix F



## Appendix G

## 2018-2019 Program Capacity

12/11/2018


## Appendix H




[^0]:    "The Board adopts the LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEN YEAR PLAN as its guideline, subject to annual review and change as circumstances and conditions may demand.

