

LARKSPUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment, Land Use and Facilities Committee

(Concerns were comments made by community/parents at June 27 Board meeting)

Concern	Response
How to get parents involved in the next/future committee.	A long range Facilities Master Plan committee will be open to parents to attend and join. Look for meeting announcements on the website or email your interest to vpitts@marin.k12.ca.us
Desire for smaller classroom sizes.	Our classes are staffed at a ratio of 20:1 (K-3) and 25:1 (4-8). Class size is a function of board policy, union contracts and state funding. Smaller class sizes require additional teachers and impact the budget accordingly.
Desire not to give up any instructional minutes and to maintain integrity of smaller instructional break-out groups.	We are committed to maintaining our current number of instructional minutes. Student learning is our focus - instructional strategies are developed by teachers who work to achieve student learning goals.
International Baccalaureate Program (IBP) plan and how it relates to growth plan.	The IB program requires extensive research, training, staff buy in, time and money. We are learning more about the program through attending workshops and visiting programs but there is no relation of the program to enrollment growth.
Ensuring accuracy of enrollment projections and effects of housing development.	We combine three methods to determine our enrollment projections and we have data from the past 20 years. Straightline projections, housing turnover rates and cohort survival techniques are used to calculate anticipated student numbers. While no method is perfect, the past few years LSD has met its projections within 5-20 students.
Safety concerns for kindergarteners being near water in recommended location.	Any facility built near water will be appropriately fenced as required by law and as exist in the front of Neil Cummins and the current Kinder area.
Preference for 4 th graders to be where kinder complex is proposed, as they are more self-sufficient, can more readily access the library, etc.	This will be considered as part of the long range facilities master plan. A separate school in close proximity to NC for pre-K and K is considered ideal by staff – kinder staff work together in ways unique to other grade levels – to create an environment conducive to learning for all students, Kinder works best. Specialists services can be provided in class, or in general assembly room minimizing the need to access other parts of the campus.
How proposed growth would affect Hall in the future and desire not to be short-sighted in that regard.	Hall school site has the capacity to handle an enrollment of 650 students. There is room to add portables at the back of the campus when needed. As an alternative or in addition, the district offices could be relocated and used for classroom space.
Whether Marin Primary was a location that had been looked at to address expansion needs.	Marin Primary/Middle would require costly renovation, or new construction to house students to public education standards. In addition, lease revenue from this school contributes approximately 500K to the general fund/educational programs
Bonding capacity.	Our current bonding capacity is 15 million. Bonding capacity is calculated by secured assessed value of real estate x .125 %. CA Ed Code requires compliance
Need for Trustees to review positives and negatives of each of the four options, given concerns over parking in the recommended option.	Please see ELF Options/Advantage/Disadvantages Chart
Further consideration of San Clemente as an option for those in East Corte Madera.	This option is being considered but has the following impacts: 1) reclaiming the school site from Lycee would mean a reduction of lease revenue of approximately 400K. 2) A new small school sharing the site with Lycee would be inequitable to the students it served UNLESS facilities, funding and programs provided were equal to what is currently available at Neil Cummins. We would need to find money to fund ongoing costs as well as start up and construction costs and revenue to replace the loss of lease income. A parcel tax is possible but must be renewed to sustain and is not recommended for operational costs. A bond would be necessary and only possible when our bonding capacity increases. Bonds and Parcel taxes are reliant on voters. The use of San Clemente school site is a long term, multi-agency, community discussion that will be joint between the district and the Town of Corte Madera
Parking and traffic congestion at NC and at the park.	This is also a joint, ongoing discussion with the Town of Corte Madera.. We are considering closing the loop at NC in the afternoon. The district is also providing 50% subsidies to students who wish to ride public transportation.
Need for further clarification as to where kinders will play—with the existing play area at the park or in a new fenced in area/courtyard, and educational soundness of noise interference within classrooms due to nearby play areas.	See Kinder Complex proposal
Clarification of where new art, PE and library facilities for kinders will be, and how long the trek will be if they have to use facilities in current locations.	See Kinder Complex proposal
Whether putting 7 th and 8 th graders at San Clemente had been considered.	Yes. All the above considerations apply to this option. 7/8 graders require more classrooms than younger students.
Space adequacy for portables at the recommended location and desire to see photo illustrations.	See attached photo representation. The Town of Corte Madera has concerns and mixed response from community members regarding the use of the space behind Twin Cities Preschool. The other option for adding portables is to use the current soccer field .

Need for additional administrative help so as not to overload Principal Clark if recommended solution becomes a reality.	The district would assign a coordinator to help with the management of a pre-k –Kinder program. This would lighten the load for principal Clark.
Unsure as to how school will feel smaller with the kinders still being at the site.	The Kinders would have a separate entrance and self-contained area. They would rarely be on the bigger campus.
How was Strawberry re-opened.	Strawberry was re-opened due to
Ratio of families living in East Corte Madera and attending NC and Hall and desire to consult Reed School District as to how they accommodate three campuses and are still successful.	Approximately 275 children K-8 reside on the east side of Corte Madera. Reed schools are all within 1-2.5 miles of one another. Our district spans five miles from SC to Hill View in Larkspur. Magnolia Ave is a major thorough fare for commuters and we have two other private schools contributing to traffic. Reed has fewer private schools and no high school traffic. There is no question we could do three campuses with significant budget adjustments. Without a large bond and parcel tax it is cost prohibitive? The issue becomes affordability and sustainability. Will it be equitable for students and families? Will it result in a better educational program than we currently have? Is it a fiscally sound thing to do?
Possibility for fund-raising to accommodate other solutions, not just bond measures.	The CMLSF is setting its goal at one million this year which requires an incredible amount of fundraising. A new parcel tax structure is a possibility but requires political strategy and is a long term planning issue.
Whether the Trustees really desired a 750-student campus, as several of the options would result in, and the bigger picture in 5-10 years and how money being proposed to be spent now should be considered, given the long-term vision.	This is the purpose of the long term Facilities Master Planning committee and bi-annual strategic planning processes. A 750 elementary school campus is only considered large by our standards. There are many successful elementary schools operating with 800 + students in this state and others.
NC already operating at capacity and support for school-within-a-school idea.	There are many strategies currently being implemented or considered for creating and sustaining nurturing environments at Neil Cummins. These include recess and lunch schedules, grouping classrooms by grade level and the creation of protected learning time for self-contained classrooms.

- *Thankfulness for the work and time the ELF Committee has expended the District.
- Keep in mind the interim report, short term recommendation and long term facilities master plan
- *Compliments to Supt. Pitts for a comprehensive presentation.