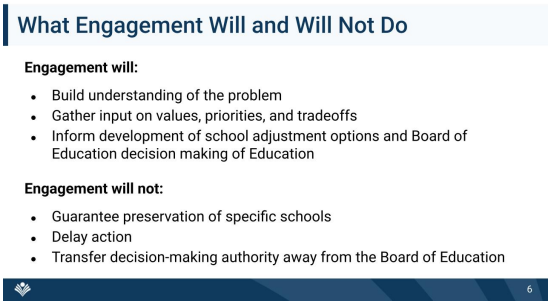
From "Randy Barber <randy.barber@bvsd.org>" <randy.barber@bvsd.org>
Subject **Correction Requested**
To Jenna Sampson <jenna@boulderreportinglab.org>
Date April 28, 2026 4:15:49 PM MDT

Thank you so much for adding the note to the story. I appreciate it.

While I understand your perspective, only the district may designate who speaks on its behalf. It would have been unfair to expect a principal serving as a table facilitator to step into that role.

I was present that evening, along with several district leaders, and we would have been happy to answer your questions — either during the session or in a follow-up conversation.

Regarding Mr. Johansen's question, I would say it was very similar to the question you asked during your interview with Superintendent Anderson. It is natural that community members — and reporters — want to dig into the data. However, that was not the stated purpose of these engagement sessions.



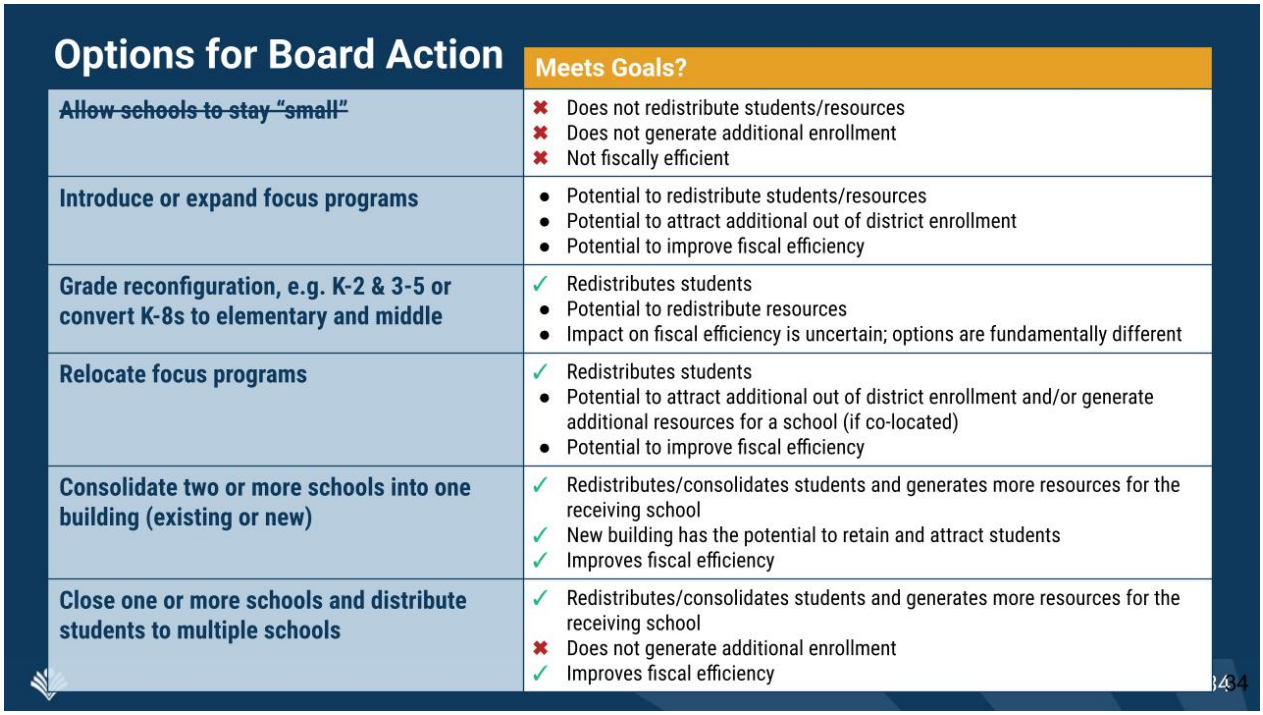
Participants were not being asked to make decisions, where that level of data might be most useful. They were being asked to share their values, priorities and perspectives on potential tradeoffs. By that measure, the sessions were a great success.

We are also receiving feedback from some participants who feel the article did not accurately capture the event. Is there an avenue where you would prefer those comments be directed?

Randy

On Mon, Apr 27, 2026 at 4:49 PM Jenna Sampson <jenna@boulderreportinglab.org> wrote:

> Hi Randy - thanks for the email. I'll let my editor know about the poor wording in the description you raised.
>
> Feel free to share more about the district's response of the criticism and I will take it to the next relevant piece. In this case I felt the district spoke for two hours and the facilitator at my table had no answer to the question so I left it at that.
>
> Jenna
>
> On Mon, Apr 27, 2026 at 12:57 PM Randy Barber <randy.barber@bvsd.org> wrote:
>
> > Jenna,
> >
> > We request an immediate correction to your story: Inside BVSD's final meeting on possible school closures as declining enrollment forces tough choices.
> >
> > In the article you state:
> >
> > > The schools most likely to face closure or consolidation are elementary campuses with low enrollment or excess capacity. Several, including Flatirons, Heatherwood, Kohl and Eldorado K-8, are already operating below half capacity. District projections also identified Whittier International, Louisville Elementary, Monarch K-8 and Columbine Elementary.
> >
> > As was stated during the meeting and during your previous interview with Superintendent Anderson -- **the district does not, yet, have a plan. As a result, it would be inaccurate to report a list of schools that are "most likely to face closure."**
> >
> > What we have said is that any decisions will:
> >
> > - Be limited to schools serving elementary students (K-5 and K-8)
> > - Be in three regional areas: Boulder, Broomfield and Louisville/Superior
> > - Not include our mountain schools
> >
> > Additionally, closure and consolidation are only two of the five options under consideration:



Options for Board Action	Meets Goals?
~~Allow schools to stay "small"~~	✖ Does not redistribute students/resources ✖ Does not generate additional enrollment ✖ Not fiscally efficient
Introduce or expand focus programs	• Potential to redistribute students/resources • Potential to attract additional out of district enrollment • Potential to improve fiscal efficiency
Grade reconfiguration, e.g. K-2 & 3-5 or convert K-8s to elementary and middle	✓ Redistributes students • Potential to redistribute resources • Impact on fiscal efficiency is uncertain; options are fundamentally different
Relocate focus programs	✓ Redistributes students • Potential to attract additional out of district enrollment and/or generate additional resources for a school (if co-located) • Potential to improve fiscal efficiency
Consolidate two or more schools into one building (existing or new)	✓ Redistributes/consolidates students and generates more resources for the receiving school ✓ New building has the potential to retain and attract students ✓ Improves fiscal efficiency
Close one or more schools and distribute students to multiple schools	✓ Redistributes/consolidates students and generates more resources for the receiving school ✖ Does not generate additional enrollment ✓ Improves fiscal efficiency

You would be correct in citing that there are a number of low-enrolled schools in the district, as identified by our Long Range Planning Committee. While LRAC helped set up a system to monitor and support schools experiencing declining enrollment, the Board set that system aside when it decided on the current approach. Consequently, that data will help the process but won't be the deciding factor for actions taken at specific schools.

Beyond the correction request I wanted to raise a concern that the district was not given an opportunity to respond to this criticism:

> Luke Johansen, a parent of two students at Louisville Elementary and founder of Sloyd Experience, a nonprofit that teaches traditional woodworking in schools, said the meeting felt "squishy." He wondered why people were being asked to rank issues they knew little about.

> "For a data-driven district, why aren't they giving us any data to use so we can give actual feedback?"--

While community perspectives are an important part of this process, the district was not given an opportunity to respond to this claim before publication. Providing that opportunity is essential to ensuring accurate and balanced coverage.

Randy

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