Long Range Advisory Committee

MINUTES
Monday, March 10, 2025
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Se ofrece traducción de los materiales de la reunión a español por pedido. Por favor comunicarse con bvsd.operations@bvsd.org.

Committee Members in Attendance: Jeff Anderson, Laura Baukol, Brooke Daerr, Trish De Fries, Gavan Goodrich, Tina Marquis, Dan Ryan, Yvette Salas, Mamta Saxman, Jessica Seevers, Cori Shaff, Della Smith, Caleb Starbuck, Ezra Veno, Nick Vanderpol

Staff Members in Attendance: Rob Price, Robbyn Fernandez, Sierra Espinoza, Glen Segrue, Susan Cousins

Board Members in Attendance: Kitty Sargent

I. **Welcome**
Chairperson Jeff Anderson opened the meeting and welcomed the committee.

II. **Public Comment**
No members of the public were present.

III. **Committee Governance**
A. Upcoming Important Dates
a. Next LRAC meeting - TBD - Fall 2025
b. Next Update to the Board - Fall 2025
c. Upcoming BOE Meetings on Enrollment
i. Attendance Boundary Review (cont.) - March 11
ii. Attendance Boundary Review (cont.) - May 20
iii. Focus Schools - May 27

B. The January 27, 2025 Minutes were approved.

C. Committee Communication
a. One committee member provided comment: It seems that many families are choosing Superior Elementary over Eldorado and that is causing the school to get too large. The district should have smaller class sizes because parents want it and are choosing for it. One of the reasons families choose to homeschool is class size. If we continue to give families their first choice and they OE in the school they prefer, students will not get the experience they deserve when the class size is too large.

IV. **Information/Discussion**

A. Sr. Planner Glen Segrue and Assistant Superintendent Robbyn Fernandez gave a presentation about the Middle School Experience. Segrue presented enrollment projections for the next 5 years for middle level schools. Fernandez shared the mission, vision and values developed by the Middle Level Task Force and described how enrollment decline impacts staffing and can affect the student experience.

B. Key takeaways from the presentation include:

    a. Three schools are predicted to drop below 300 students: Casey, Eldorado K-8, and Meadowlark.

    b. The District is watching Eldorado closely because the school is projected to drop to 195 students and 39% capacity in five years at the middle school level.

    Although Eldorado is still in the Advisory Phase, staff have begun preliminary conversations with families who have chosen to leave the school to better understand their reasons. While this does not yet constitute a formal engagement process, the district is committed to launching a community engagement effort this fall. In the meantime, we are actively exploring innovative approaches to staffing at the school to support student needs.

    c. Although Casey's enrollment is predicted to decline, staff feel that administrative changes at the school will reduce the downward trend.

    d. Meadowlark operates a little differently than the other middle level schools. It has a physical capacity for 250 at the middle level and is predicted to remain at over 90% capacity.

C. Committee members had the opportunity to discuss the mission, vision, and values developed by the task force and provided comments to the group and staff. Highlights of comments from the committee include:

    a. One committee member commented that there is a wait list for Louisville Middle School which could indicate that families are choosing a traditional middle school program. Staff responded that physical capacity and programmatic capacity can both be reasons for a waitlist at a school. For example, Louisville Middle has a waitlist in 6th and 8th grade due to programmatic capacity. There is no waitlist in 7th grade. Overall physical capacity is 89%.

    b. Some parents may love the K-8 experience, but many parents OE to a standard middle school to get the true middle school experience. Monarch could maybe feel more like a true middle school and that might help to keep students there.

    c. Committee members expressed concern for lack of transparency related to starting community engagement with Eldorado. This had not been

shared with the committee previously. This is notably different from the good communication related to the Heatherwood process.

d. Committee members voiced the need for clear criteria at the middle level for action and decision-making for the Board so that the public can understand the reasons for taking action or not, in particular related to Eldorado and Casey.

e. One committee member commented that there can be a "Contagion Effect" with enrollment at some schools. If a group of students decides to OE to another school because they want to be where their friends are, that behavior spreads. These are intangible factors that play a part in declining enrollment. The fact that there are no constraints on open enrollment helps feed the Contagion Effect.

f. The committee also commented that at the middle level, students have more voice and choice as to where they want to go to school. Parents make the decision in elementary school. If a parent pulls a middle level student out of a school and they have siblings, those siblings are most likely being pulled out of the elementary school as well.

D. Assistant Superintendent, Rob Price previewed the Attendance Boundary Worksession Discussion the Board will have this month. Staff will present 5 boundary changes for the Board to consider. Highlights of committee comments include:

a. There is no way to predict what parents will decide to do if the boundaries change. They still have the option to open enroll.

b. This is a great time to do this because parents can go wherever they want.

V. Agenda Setting

A. Attendance Boundary Review

B. Secondary School Capacity Calculations

C. Jeff Anderson requested input on future agenda topics from the committee.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

LRAC Membership **LRAC Website**