

104 community members, teachers and assorted School District representatives participated in conversations at the **Design Session at J.A. Fair High School on September 10, 2018**. Working from a draft handout describing possible Facility Upgrade Options across the District in the next five years, small groups developed ideas and recommendations that were posted on sheets at the meeting. These are the raw notes transcribed from post-its and written comments.

You can download the Draft Facility Upgrade Options that describe an initial set of facility uses and possible future student-teacher re-assignments as buildings might be changed over the next several years at www.lrsd.org/LRSDCommunityBlueprint.

On the same webpage, you can also sign up to provide personal feedback on all the facility upgrade challenges and options.

Area One Overview – McClellan High School Area:

- 1. **McClellan students will attend Southwest High School in 2020.***
- 2. **We hope to have the new McClellan built that will house a K-8 with a capacity of 1400 students by 20222 (cost \$45 – 50 M).***
- 3. **K-8 schools have several benefits.** (1) K-8s centralize the younger grades while providing separate buildings for elementary and middle school students, (2) K-8s decrease the number of transitions the student has to go through, (3) K-8s add stability and retention in public schools, (4) K-8s enable more wrap-around services and learning environments for student support, and (5) K-8s broaden the attendance zone for areas of town where we have dwindling populations.*
- 4. **Right now, we are approved to build a new McClellan for grades 6, 7 and 8, and move the Cloverdale Middle School students to that new facility using state funding.***

Starter Ideas for the New McClellan:

- 1. **Other than the current gym, the entire facility will be brand new.***
- 2. **Learning environments will be set up to separate elementary from middle school students.***
- 3. **Each classroom will have light and be designed to enhance multiple, flexible learning options.***
- 4. **Science and STEM labs and career center will be built.***
- 5. **Maker spaces and project-based learning spaces will be built.***
- 6. **A state-of-the-art playground will be built.***
- 7. **Improved traffic patterns will be designed for easy entrance and exit by parents.***

Community Input on McClellan Area One:

Changes – ideas

1. Equal Opportunities
2. Enforce policy
3. Have relationship activities
4. Discipline
5. Restore students
6. Have positive attitudes
7. Show care
8. Make Henderson a Pre-K school

9. "changes can be good"
10. Show interest

Area Two Overview – J.A. Fair High School Area:

1. *J.A. Fair students will go to the new Little Rock Southwest High School in the fall of 2020.*
2. *J.A. Fair is a campus in excellent shape.*
3. *It could be ready to receive students in the fall of 2020.*
4. *The school's ideal capacity is at 1,051 students.*
5. *More families with children are moving into the neighborhood around Romine Elementary.*
6. *K-8 schools have several benefits. (1) K-8s centralize the younger grades while providing separate buildings for elementary and middle school students, (2) K-8s decrease the number of transitions the student has to go through, (3) K-8s add stability and retention in public schools, (4) K-8s enable more wrap-around services and learning environments for student support, and (5) K-8s broaden the attendance zone for areas of town where we have dwindling populations.*

Starter Ideas for the New J.A. Fair:

1. *The new J.A. Fair will have an environmental science theme concept. The school could become a model environmental science program for the District that other schools could visit.*
2. *It will have superior lab spaces and classrooms equipped with observation mirrors for new teachers.*
3. *Fair could also become the facility where district-wide and state-wide science fairs could be held.*
4. *Our hopes are that the new media center will include digital books, a separate state-of-the-art computer lab, and flexible, bright individual student and group learning and seating spaces.*
5. *The building is well-suited to divide elementary and middle school students.*
6. *The design will include safe arrival and dismissal for elementary and middle school students.*
7. *There will be flexible seating to meet the needs of various learning styles.*
8. *There will be attractive outdoor learning spaces.*
9. *J.A. Fair is a quality building with two gyms.*

Community Input to the Proposed J.A. Fair Area Two:

1. [Love] idea of state of the art media center - pro
2. Favorite Future options
 - Henderson [to become] sports complex
 - Romine [to become] birth [through] pre-K
 - Dodd [to become] use land and build new
3. JA Fair has two gyms – pro
4. [Love] idea of district science fairs in more central location - pro
5. K-8s decreases the number of transitions the students have to go through – pro
6. Creating an Afrocentric emphasis school – idea
7. K-8 decreases the number of transitions the student has to go through.
8. How will they divide middle and elementary?
9. In 2022, where(s) the 1420 kids come from?

10. How many different sport teams will they have?
11. J.A. Fair has two gyms
12. Surrounding schools
13. Different activities for different grade levels
14. Parent center includes info for each grade level/community activities
15. Continue doing what they're doing
16. Compete on all levels
17. Have quality teachers/stuff come from each school that the school district is closing
18. Allow community members to use the space when school is out.
19. Bring diversity from teachers to staff; Have no attendance boundaries varies teaching styles and learning styles. Have different electives that interesting for students
20. Change the image of the schools – people think the schools are bad. Take pictures post on social media parents come and tour schools – like open house
21. K-8 good idea because parents are able to take their children to the same campus if they have more than one child. Make it more convenient for the parents instead having to go to more than one campus.
22. The ideas below are starters:
 - Keep # 2 and 4
 - Need a pool will bring in students into the district. Swimming would be a big pull and draw for the school district.
 - Have trade skill at all schools
23. Curriculum but need something long-term, with less Euro-centric curriculum to advance goal of self-realization
24. Concerns: staff morale of Romine and Dodd for 2 years
25. Losing pre-K in neighborhood- CON
26. How long will the kindergarteners be on the bus to get to fair? – con
27. How many different sport teams will they have? – con
28. Make Fair with 5-8 – con
29. Will K-8 all be on the same bus? – con
30. Concern: what would happen to duplicate specialists in combination plan? Ex: Dodd, Romine, Henderson
31. Music, PE, Art, Library, etc.
32. How will the lunches be? How many will they have? – con
33. How will they divide elementary and middle at J.A. Fair? – con
34. 1 Question: Student and staff for new JA Fair will come from Romine, Dodd, and Henderson and JA Fair.
35. Use Dodd space for adult community English language lessons?
36. Ensure teachers from closed/consolidated schools have jobs still
37. Continue EAST program in JA Fair building w/ combine K-8
38. Use renovated Dodd location for PD and rent out to public meetings
39. Make Henderson Jr. High/Pre-School
40. Create some sort of restorative alternative to suspension that separates “disruptive” students. Tendaji has a role, s does social/emotional curriculum, but need something long-term with less Euro-centric curriculum to advance goal of self-realization

Area 3 Overview – Hall High School Area:

1. *The Hall High School student population could potentially be reduced by 300 students who could shift to the new Southwest high school.*
2. *Hall High School has an Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) designation as a school of innovation that offers opportunities for career development and possible flexibility with state and district requirements.*
3. *Hall has significant 2nd language delivery offerings that will also be made available at the new Southwest High campus.*
4. *Hall has a capacity of 1600 students and a recent history of decline in population.*
5. *We are mandated to make a boundary adjustment in 2020 for Hall High School. Studies for that begin in the summer of 2019.*

Starter Ideas for Hall High School Area Three:

1. *We can create a stronger tie and relationship between Hall High and Forest Heights that could include 8th graders having classes at Hall. This would expand the numbers served at both campuses. We could make a wing at Hall High for a Forest Heights Stem 8th grade academy. 8th graders could take 9th grade classes and could have access to wet and dry labs.*
2. *Hall High School could become the STEM high school for the district. We could enhance Hall's innovation status by inviting the medical community to help develop career strands within Hall High. Hall High School could turn into a medical and science school in partnership with UAMS, creating pathways to research and certifications related to nursing, medicine, research and medical technology.*
3. *We could develop a hi-tech high university studies focus at Hall.*

Community Input on Hall High Area Three:

1. Advertisement/PR – plus
2. Sports/shadowing/parents/current ss vs. recruit
3. Perception. Change Hall perception now!!

Area 4 – Pinnacle View Middle School:

No feedback.

Area 5 Overview - Old Hamilton-SW Jr. High and Bale Elementary Area:

Southwest Junior High/Former Hamilton Learning Academy Capacity and Facility Factors

1. *Its capacity is 750 students, and it is considerably under-utilized.*
2. *The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) has already received a request to access the use of this property for a charter school.*
3. *It ranks fairly high in terms of facility upgrade needs according to the facilities study.*

Bale Elementary Capacity and Facility Factors

1. *Bale has a capacity of 476 students. Its current enrollment is below 400 students.*
2. *It ranks fairly high in terms of facility upgrade needs according to the facilities study.*

Starter Ideas for Old Hamilton-SW Jr. High and Bale Elementary Area

1. *We could consider a K-8 option that would utilize both the Bale Elementary and Southwest Junior High School. Bale would house Pre-K through 2 and Southwest would house 3-8.*
2. *UALR could work closely with this school and use it as a teaching lab for UALR students, accelerating academic performance. It is centrally located. It is close to UALR.*
3. *The 3-8 grades at Hamilton could be gender-based classes similar to the San Antonio Young Men's and Young Women's Leadership Academies. It might also be dual language. Bale could be repurposed as a PreK-2 Co-ed.*
4. *Community members, parents and district officials could work collaboratively to create an innovative education delivery with new funding resources. Partners who have expressed interest include the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the Central Arkansas Library System.*
5. *There would be no attendance boundary.*
6. *The Bale site could include a library and the Hamilton building could house the K-8.*

Community Input on Hamilton-Bale Area Five:

1. Bale into a Pre-K through 2nd, Southwest would house 3-8 - pro
 - Great idea – some parents may prefer smaller children separated from older
2. Teaching Lab housed at Bale - pro
 - Promotes teacher training and retention
3. Partnering with UALR and CALS will enhance our educational resources offered – pro
4. No attendance boundaries would promote diversity of student populations – pro
5. No gender based this idea doesn't promote diversity of population - con
 - But it provides an option to draw families that are interested into the district working example – Jeffrey Kennedy model
6. Offer languages starting at the pre-k through 2nd level - idea
7. Create a variety of school electives – schoolwide – idea
8. All siblings in same school (k-8) – idea

Area 6 Overview –Downtown Elementary Schools Area (Central & Eastern LR)

1. *At the elementary level in this area of the city, we are at 60% capacity (2,696 students with a 4,537 student capacity). The compounding effects of dwindling enrollment and aging buildings make it costly and challenging to operate all of our elementary learning facilities.*
2. *We need a lot more affordable, **high quality Pre-K options** in Little Rock. This is a great strength of the School District and several quality Pre-K facilities are in operation in the area.*
3. *The Charter e-Stem enrollment has increased significantly in this area as has construction of new buildings. Now there is an e-Stem Downtown Elementary, East Village Elementary, Downtown Jr. High, East Village Jr. High and e-Stem High School. In the same area, the new charter has opened at the remodeled Mitchell School.*
4. *The School District has existing STEM and Arts programs that could be enhanced and leveraged.*

Starter Ideas for Area Six:

1. *Rockefeller Elementary could become a Birth to Pre-K Center.*
 - a. *Rockefeller's K-5 students could go to Washington Elementary.*
 - b. *We could combine Booker and Carver students (664 total students).*
 - c. *Pre-K at Carver could be sent to Rockefeller.*

- d. Move Pre-K at Booker to Rockefeller.*
- e. Move Washington Pre-K to Rockefeller. This would be 436 Pre-K total at Rockefeller.*
- 2. We could consider creating a STEM or STEAM emphasis at Washington with improved technology and without district boundaries. Consider alternative funding sources and involve the community in that decision.*
- 3. We could consider an innovative, high-performing K-8 in this area without boundaries.*
- 4. Carver could have a true partnership with the Museum of Discovery and STEM. We could make it stronger and attract new enrollment.*

Community Input to the Proposed Central & Eastern Neighborhoods

1. Where do these students go to middle school? – thought
2. Provide extended care/daycare for working parents – thought
3. Promote downtown elementary! There are great! – thought
4. EAST/Central has great schools! Keep them alive and promote them! – thought
5. Close Booker/close Carver. Build new Elementary school downtown – thought
6. Change magnet fair location for better visibility – thought
7. New Pies (Partners in Education) and commercial development in EAST Village and SOMA – keep LRSD presence! – thought
8. “Pie-Brand” - Washington Elementary to change parent and community perception – thought

LRSD Idea Lab

This is the collection of ideas and concerns that were offered during the breakout sessions about Little Rock School District, in general or other schools.

1. Build schools and the LRSD by recruiting students that are not currently attending the LRSD – thought
2. Develop a transportation timeline to/from school for students with proposed plan
3. Invest more time with parents and students in each school to be sure that they are aware of the proposed changes and areas where they can suggest options changes – thought
4. Central to all strategies that are pursued I think LRSD should adopt a core commitment to establish the most diverse school populations in the city – thought
5. Create a facilities plan that is a growth rather than a shrinkage model - thought
6. Build community and corporate relationships that will partner and invest more in the LRSD based on producing better academic outcomes – thought
7. Build better personal relationships with LRSD staff and parents, guardians, and students – thought
8. A quality facilities plan include creating and maintaining better relationships and communications within school families currently throughout the district to help establish a plan that the LRSD parents and guardians will be more apt to commit to supporting and helping recruit others – thought
9. Pinnacle view pre k – 8? Try to build from the youngest children in area of most growth and least represented in elementary schools and early childhood – thought
10. Build a better relationship with the City of Little Rock to help attract younger families to the city and to public schools - thought
11. Decide now what you want the culture to be and sell that – thought
12. Sell diversity as relationship – thought

13. Bring City Year to one of the schools who are closing. Let that be the new office space. Maybe a huge City Year after-school program at one of the schools. – thought
14. Promotional campaign around the metropolitan area. – thought
15. Aggressive recruitment of new teachers to the district – thought
16. Specialized schools for students that excel in the Arts, STEMs and science.
17. Look at similar cities with demographics that mirror Little Rock for ideas – thought
18. Need small classroom size – thought
19. This plan based on getting larger ☺ - thought
20. Get business and industries to support the LRSD \$\$\$ - thought
21. Open attendance zone for possible new Pinnacle High School – thought
22. LRSD student recruitment/retention plan promoting “diversity” inclusive but (not just race) in every manner/level – thought
23. Other community services, such as ESL – thought
24. Keep classroom sizes smaller (fewer students/teacher) (not close) –thought
25. Add to schools you’re thinking of closing – thoughts
 - a. Adult learning center
 - b. Parenting classes/resource center
 - c. Drop-in clinic for vaccinations, routine wellness checks
 - d. Other community services such as ESL
26. Make teaching/understanding diversity of opinion and culture an underlying principle for teaching and learning – thought
27. Recruit businesses for financial and PR support – thought
28. Recruit alums for financial and PR support - thought
29. Increase amount of parent and teacher interaction – thought
30. Build up LRSD as a center for:
 - a. Community services
 - b. Expanding students’ understanding of living in diverse culture
 - c. Vocational education, i.e., education for students with variety of abilities and aspirations
31. Who is moving the teacher’s classrooms? What will the transition look like? – thought
32. Integrate and promote technology as a draw 1:1 (with purpose) – thought
33. LRSD should choose a few things to excel in – and publicize what those few things are Ex: foreign language opportunities from K – 12
34. Study % of residents who are going to LRSD schools in various parts of town compared to where we are opening and closing schools – thought
35. More training should be incorporated into LRSD to represent the “restorative justice” aspect. - idea
36. Buy out retirement age – Eliminate those just “hanging on” – thought
37. Training for teachers on what/when/how/why restorative justice is important – thought
38. LRSD can win back students and families by honoring teachers and getting staff input when big announcements go to the news before employees feel disenfranchised and morale is down – thought
39. An all 9th grade academy #just9thgradeonly!! – idea
40. Spend money on PR! – thought
41. Fund destination imagination for creativity a 21st Century skill – thought
42. Retain some of LRSD’s best student and staff by continuing to fund programs like destination imagination – thought

43. IDEA – move Gibbs to Washington along with Rockefeller K-5 and use Gibbs as a home for axillary needs/admin needs – idea
44. Can teachers be told how they will be affected? – thought
45. How will teachers be selected? – thought
46. Give teachers a raise – thought
47. PD for staff to visit each other’s schools for ideas and showing/growing best practices – thought
48. Upgrade district Wi-Fi and Internet capability (other AR districts have) (weakness)
49. Wireless broadband
 - Improve as selling point – thought
 - Provide support to area around school for student support at home (like suburbs around Hot Springs) – thought
50. Current “Best Brands” include Central and Parkview. How to build more? Rockefeller? WRF? – thought
 - a. Internships
 - Would get great students in community and build the brand
 - b. Might attract new students and would improve economy.
 - c. AfAm entrepreneurship – LABS work with Venture Center & Remix ideas – thought
 - d. Establish an entrepreneurship program – Hot Springs Math [ASMSA has one, and there would community support] – thought