

82 community members, teachers and assorted School District representatives participated in conversations at the **Design Session at Bale Elementary School on September 20, 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](http://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 2022 (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:**

Plus

1. Merge SW HS students as we do with Pinnacle View: start with 9<sup>th</sup> grade only in Year one. Year Two add 10<sup>th</sup> graders, etc.
2. Merging 9-10-11 for first year—no seniors; talk with Bentonville West administration.
3. If students go to a K-8 school do they go to ONE high school or will they go to separate high schools - or attendance zone?
4. Ensure school safety by adequate security, strong administration, and classroom management professional development.
5. Possible repurpose for Cloverdale: a Child nutrition Center with greenhouse.

### **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:**

**Plus**

1. *J. A .Fair remodel with Dodd kids going in*
2. *Large library and lab space is a good idea.*
3. *Need pre-K in this area*

**Concerns**

1. *Question: how do we ensure diversity if J.A. Fair becomes a K-8 school?*
2. *Question: what will happen to the students coming from Dodd, Romine and Henderson?*
3. *Henderson 15 basketball courts seems like a lot: why so many?*
4. *Insure specialists are placed within the district after the combination occurs [between Fair and McClellan at the new Southwest].*

**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. Collaboration between Hall and Forest Heights staff and students build partnerships now.
2. Can Hall students become mentors?
3. Concerns over the community perception of Hall.
4. Who wants to be first?
5. Creative utilization of the space **now**
6. Strategic letter grade improvement.
7. Career education and development
8. STEM versus STEAM
9. Community partnerships is good. Build partnerships now

**Minus**

I don't know if having Forest Heights eighth graders taking classes or being funneled into Hall High would be a good idea. I don't think Hall fits FHSA kid's plans very well – not good fit.

**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. Small classroom sizes ++++ (four pluses) with academic support will help us compete
2. Two buildings, one campus – beautiful idea for Birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> and then 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. Amazing advantage of bi-lingual education
4. Win students back!
5. Actual or preconceived idea that public school discipline is not good is this a factor? Uniforms help solve the class problem.
6. Like UALR teaching Lab. Library at Bale is OK but money money money.
7. I think no attendance zone is a good motivator to be Best school there is!
8. Library partnership and UALR collaboration; smaller classroom sizes and dual language all positive ++++
9. Having a library with lots of technology is good idea. Our children are technology-driven.++
10. Library partnership positive; teachers should work with students in both schools.
11. Improved salaries positive ++++
12. And the pre-K option was positively viewed +++++, like the K-8.
13. K-8 campus creates better community.
14. Birth+++ to 8 keeps siblings together.
15. K-8 with birth to K2 at Bale and 3 to 8 at Hamilton a good idea but need adequate space for each grade, four specialists, not closets. Need good gym, highly qualified teachers, super facilities, bathroom and super programs.
16. Like UALR teaching Lab but teachers must be competent, effective, qualified. Don't call it "lab" as if we are experimenting on the students.
17. Dual language beginning early positive Yes! Si! ++++++
18. No attendance boundaries positive, but current attendance participants get first choice. Want to keep all kids together. Open boundary can be an attendance driver.
19. Some excitement around PreK-8 grade ++++
20. Teaching "lab" or "experiential learning" is ++++
21. No attendance boundary+
22. No zone is a good motivator to be the best school there is.
23. Community partnerships need to be enhanced.
24. Mountain biking opportunities – Boyle Park

**Minus/Concerns**

1. Gender-based classrooms several negative reactions. Gender classes in my opinion is bad. (4 minuses) It disregards non-binary students and censors students from non-binary identities. It decreases student's communication learning opportunities with other students, makes kids more rebellious, and mainly makes reverse progress in this time of gender and orientation visibility.
2. What pros are there to separating kids? Isn't exposure the best way to understanding?
3. People from other areas could be negative for the community.

4. Consider 3 to 4-year-olds if space permits. Parent may have all children in one school. Do not like greater expense to accommodate smaller children.
5. Concerns that losing Bale as K-5 is “change for change sake.”
6. Consider K-3; 4-5; 6-8 in divided sections of the campus ++.
7. Bale PreK-4<sup>th</sup>. Hamilton one side 5-6, 7-8 on other.
8. Or Bale: PreK-5 and Hamilton 6-8<sup>th</sup>.
9. Keep 3-8 grades separated from PreK-2.
10. Where will students go after 8<sup>th</sup> grade?
11. Give 1<sup>st</sup> choice attendance to parents in this area, then open enrollment after that.
12. No closing Bale or Hamilton.
13. No to getting funders who will help partner with current schools and support current students
14. Did not like idea #4: collaboration around innovative deliver with new resources. “Find funders who will partner with current schools and students.”

#### **Alternative Ideas on SW-Bale from Community**

1. Study the real efficacy and cost benefit of gender-based classes before trying it.
2. Consider science and technology focus with exploration, learning and collaboration.
3. Find funders willing to support current schools and students.
4. If Library is included, it should be in the Hamilton facility.
5. For middle schoolers: horticulture, learn their world—explorational learning. Lots of extra-curricular activities. No contact sports.
6. Can we include ARTS emphasis here: a magnet?
7. Do we have room and funds to include music and sports in the 6-8 grades?
8. Engage realtors to promote the neighborhood.
9. CALS only if we keep both buildings as schools.
10. Community center or Boys & Girls club.
11. Bring in more social workers
12. Also partner with UCA for Bale
13. A really good PR campaign to change the stigma of safety within LRSD
14. Daycare services
15. Literacy-based face painting with the Library
16. We need enhanced partnerships.
17. We need a gym.

#### **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. Agree with pre-K. Is it or will it be the income-based?
2. What will class sizes look like not wanting to miss learning components?
3. What will conduct and behavior issues look like?
4. What will happen with the principals?
5. Market the educational benefits of the schools in this zone and LRSD as a whole.
6. Provide an arts or STEM choice for parents as a competitive advantage against charter schools.
7. Allow magnet school pre-K3 to automatically roll up to pre-K4 and kindergarten.
8. Need pre-K in all areas
9. Convert Booker arts to a STEAM school either K-5 or K-8
10. School theme: Coding in the Arts. Infuse technology into already existing arts programs to compete with charter schools.
11. Booker is the only school in the district with elementary arts program. Can be infused with technology by using Music– Earsketch; Art—PencilCode, Video--Vidcode; and Theater – Film Production.
12. Booker has student capacity of 634. Convert it to K-8. Smaller classrooms. Popular location to compete with charter or convert to a STEAM school
13. Resolve Booker land lease – what is the agreement?
14. Booker has high potential: location, track, gym, and can host large events. Currently ranked in the top four for low facility upgrade costs in Fanning-Howey.
15. Central and east elementary need a community resource center: Could combine social services hub, food bank, counseling, etc.
16. Allow pre-K student to remain in assigned school without having to complete an application for example PK3 to PK4 and PK4 to kindergarten.
17. Maintain pre-K programs in the elementary school: parent involvement and attend with siblings in K- 5.
18. Maintain integrity of the magnet school themes. Give parents the choices they want.
19. Rebrand these as neighborhood schools.
20. Maintain integrity of original purposes of the downtown elementary schools. Example – Stephens - community center. Example - former incentive schools Rockefeller and Washington.

***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. Lower class sizes will bring people back to the District.
2. Training faculty, teachers, staff how to communicate effectively with parents. Team approach.
3. I believe we are not losing people to gender-split schools and wouldn't get anyone back that way: gender split= bad.
4. Gender split is a minor issue. People are leaving the district because of safety concerns, bullying, and curriculum. Turn this around with lower ratios, raise reading scores, decrease behavior issues, and bring families back with higher connection and parent involvement. Parents want the focus on their child.
5. Student Outreach. Instagram campaign, possibly student-run where students get to give input on things that concern and affect them, and provide ideas rather than having adults make all our decisions for us. Instagram can do polls, reach a lot of students, keep students updated, and students can comment with ideas and thoughts. Then, students can express ideas, etc. and stay informed. This could give LRSD important info about what the kids want and allow student perspective to be heard by adults.
6. Billboards on I-30 about arts and STEM in the area.
7. Give successful schools what they need to continue to be successful.
8. Improve and advertise extra-curriculars: Destination Imagination, Chess Club, Drama-Arts programs, Math Teams, Robotics—things we have and Do Well.
9. Homework centers after school.
10. K-8 programs: cafeteria-lunch schedules [are hard], moving kids—transportation and responsibilities for younger kids.
11. No more community schools--doesn't look good for the District. Loss of community involvement.
12. Has data been collected on current K-8 to see benefits? Has it shown improvement, staff retention/turnover, and student retention, etc.?
13. Year-round, continuous LRSD Recruitment Specialist
14. All children stay within Comfort Zone as opposed to venturing out further away from home. Saves resources and all students staying within the community.
15. Open enrollment for the new high school.
16. Henderson is centrally located (has plenty of parking) and could combine: IRC, Administration, Student Registration, Child Nutrition, and other departments that are spread out through the city.
17. As a student at Parkview I don't think Parkview would work being split, but turning Henderson into a sports place and letting Parkview sports students use their field and stuff might be a good idea to solve multiple things.
18. Are there plans to address the "meshing" of Fair, Hall, and Southwest students? They don't necessarily "mix" well.
19. Less testing, more teach time.
20. At the present time our registration process for new students are not parent-friendly.