

Cordley Elementary Consolidation Working Group Presentation



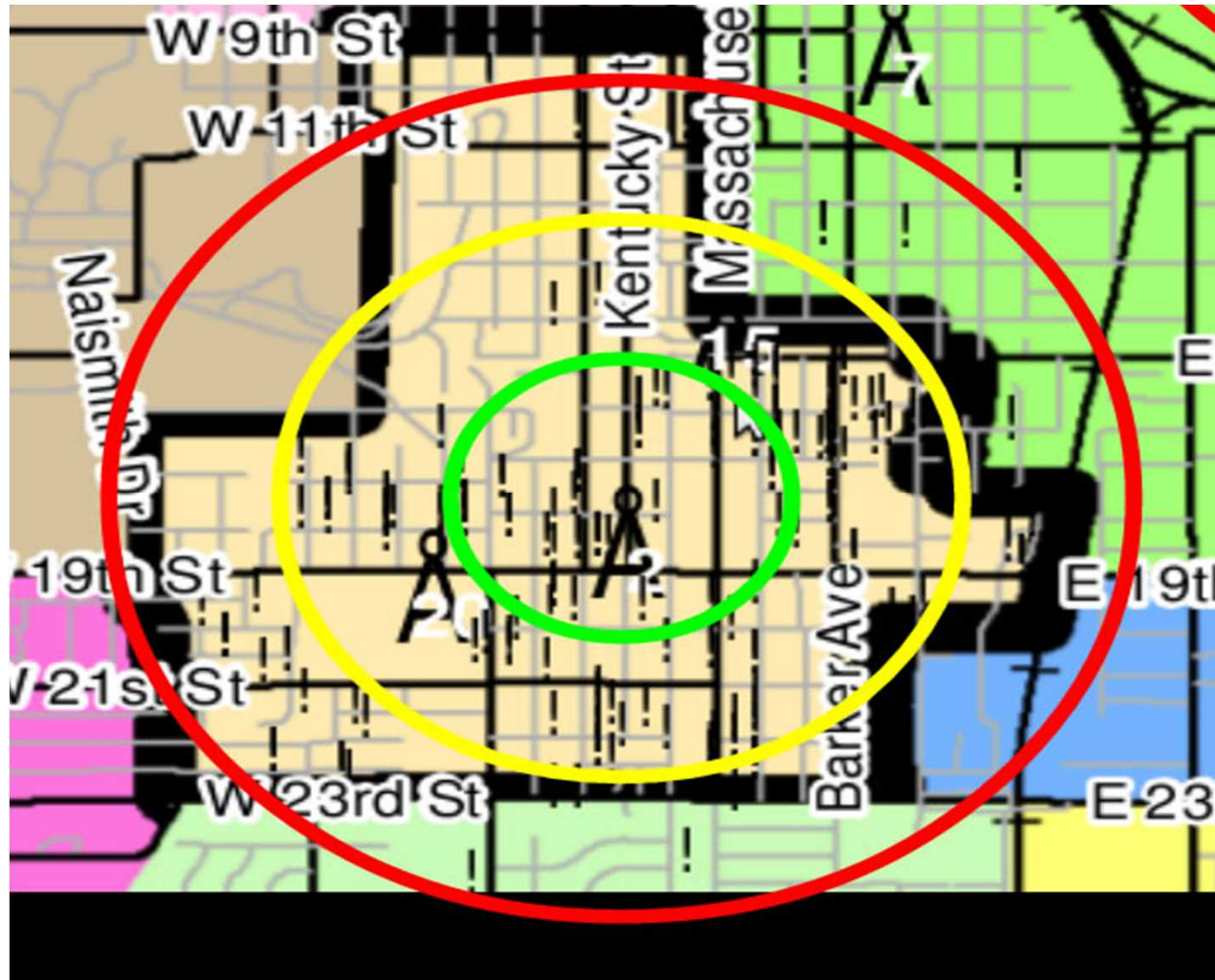
Merits to Retaining a School at Cordley Location

- A 1915 historic elementary school
- 1950s wing has good size rooms for instruction
- Can be expanded to 3 sections
- Strong community that prioritizes inclusivity & has an active parent volunteer base
- Successful ELL cluster site w/ accomplished teachers certified in ELL instruction
- Walkability from 3 catchment neighborhoods: Barker, University Place, & Centennial

Merits to Retaining a School at Cordley Location

- **Cordley could serve as a relief valve for near-south schools**
- **Closing Cordley leaves a large area of Lawrence with no elementary school**

Cordley Catchment



Additional Criteria

- **Plan comprehensively for the long term.**
 - Ensure enrollment in remaining schools will not be higher than 90% of elementary capacity
 - Keep enrollments generated in Lawrence's old core neighborhoods in the urban core
- **Maintain ESL Cluster Sites at some location.**
 - Keep concentrated ELL instruction, less concentrated instruction leads to losses in educational attainment

Three Consolidation Scenarios

- Consolidate Cordley and Kennedy in the area southeast of 15th and Haskell
- Consolidate New York and Kennedy in the area southeast of 15th and Haskell
- Consolidate New York and Cordley at the Cordley site.

Common Concerns Across Cordley Proposed Consolidations

- Impact on equity for at-risk populations
 - Increases in school size
 - Increases in class size

- Impact on long term planning
 - Consequences for urban core neighborhoods
 - Inability to accommodate growth

Mitigating the Harms of Consolidation

➤ Handouts:

- How consolidation increases class sizes
- Suggestions for mitigating inequities

Task Force: *90% Enrollment Capacity is the Ideal Maximum Utilization*

- Beyond 90% capacity, there is no room for flexibility or growth
- Beyond 90% capacity, classes cannot split if it becomes too large because there is no room for an additional class-section

Current Capacity

- **2011 Elementary enrollment: 4,644**
- **Percentage of capacity: 87.6%**

Elementary Enrollment: Growing faster than anticipated

- **Task Force analysis assumed a 2016 enrollment of 4,743 (4.7% growth from 2010)**
- **In contrast, RSP Consulting projections suggest a 2016 enrollment of 4,892 (8% growth from 2010)**
- **Total Projected Growth by 2016= 366 elementary students, which is about the equivalent of adding a Hillcrest size school.**

Status Quo

- If we do nothing (close no schools and add no additional seats):
 - **In 2016 we will be at 91.2% of elementary school capacity**

Where is the Growth Projected?

- Growth is concentrated in near-south & central Lawrence.
- There is a need for near by schools to act as relief valves.
 - i.e. Cordley, Sunset Hill
 - If you close a school, you have to add it's capacity back in somewhere else so that we're not over capacity as a whole

Conclusion

- Plan for projected growth
- When possible, protect urban core neighborhoods
- Consider realistic cost benefits
- Do no harm (*What's best for ALL kids*)
 - **At-risk students should benefit from any proposal; they should not bear the burden of consolidation**

