

Lawrence Elementary School Facility Vision Task Force

The Board of Education of Lawrence Public Schools hereby creates an elementary facility task force to recommend a community vision and plan for the school district's elementary facilities that reflect the varied community and educational values and how to best reflect those values given the restraints of current and anticipated district resources.

In forming its recommendations, the task force should develop an understanding of the district's PreK-5 elementary educational programming and review the facilities used to house that programming. Recommendations are sought for improvements to facilities to better meet the current programming needs.

"Improvements" include capital items such as replacement, remodeling and closure of facilities. "Improvement" can also include non-capital items such as utilization of facilities for alternative programming.

The board is not asking this task force to make recommendations that would fundamentally change the district's PreK-5 curriculum. The task force should, however, suggest areas other than facilities for future review that it believes warrant possible change.

In developing its recommendations, the board asks the task force to:

1. Review the history of current facilities, reflecting on when and why the community constructed these facilities. This review shall include a look at the educational programming existing at various times of construction.
2. Update and review the current physical condition of existing facilities.
3. Review educational research with regard to elementary school size and class size and the appropriate staffing for an elementary school.
4. Review research with regard to the role elementary schools play in community design.
5. Review operating costs of various buildings and non-financial factors that the board should consider in determining the most efficient use of facilities.
6. Review and articulate the meaning or meanings of "neighborhood school."
7. Review current district planning practices and recommend changes to facilitate better coordination with city and county planning practices. Particular emphasis should be placed on how the district could guide growth.
8. Develop factors to be considered before constructing an additional elementary facility to meet the educational programming when such construction is warranted.
9. Develop a recommended elementary facility for future new construction intended to replace an existing facility or facilities.

The task force shall be limited to approximately 25 members. Two of these shall be board members appointed by the president of the board of education and they shall serve as co-chairs. The remaining members shall be appointed by the superintendent in accordance with Board Policy BBC. The superintendent shall seek to have the membership reflect the diversity of people and values of the school district. The superintendent shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

The superintendent shall call the task force to its first meeting as soon as possible following appointment of the membership. The task force should complete its work by February, 2011. Reasonable amounts, approved in advance by the board, may be spent by the task force in conducting its work.