

HAWTHORN SCHOOL DISTRICT 73

District Office Education Services Center

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Special School Board Meeting

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Questions & Answers

1. Let's plan for the future when considering technology and collaborative spaces (not just catching up to districts around us). Let's leap frog and be leaders.
2. Can we give all of the schools the same opportunities? i.e. the librarian at EN has great ideas for a 21st century library can we bring those ideas to all of the schools? Also, MSN has a STEM lab; can we bring one to MSS?

A. We are looking for ways to build consistency within all our buildings and programs. This would include taking good ideas from all of the buildings and supporting implementation throughout the district.

3. Since our buildings are all in "good/decent" repair, what is the solution for the lack of space? Our district has been rezoned but spacing seems to be a huge issue in all the buildings.

A. DLR Group is working with the Board of Education and Administration to determine the best long-term solution to our growing enrollment and programs. There may be a need to build additional classroom space. The plan is to determine where and how to create this additional space to resolve the space issues and minimize the impact on other factors. As an example, how to not increase traffic concerns at pick up/drop off times.

4. Since we are spending the time and money to complete the evaluation, could the space needs be assessed with overall smaller classrooms (e.g. 20:1 or 22:1 or 18:1)? 25:1 seems too large.

A. The Board of Education asked DLR Group to begin with 25:1 as a baseline understanding that the class size goals are fewer students ideally. The 25:1 is an ideal maximum class size design guideline. Where possible, class sizes would be lower. Decreasing the class ratio will require additional classroom space to be

created above our current need due to growth. The DLR Group is evaluating all options for the District.

5. Is 25:1 a best practice or guideline?

A. It is a guideline, but is not out of line from research on appropriate student-teacher ratio.

6. Could a floor be added above or a basement under existing buildings?

A. A floor above or a basement can be added to a building, but this is usually cost prohibitive, can take longer due to safety concerns, and is challenging to ensure minimal damage to the existing building.

7. Can courtyards be converted to more useable space?

A. Yes, these spaces can be converted into usable space. Usually these spaces can't be turned into general education classrooms due to fire codes. These spaces do not generally have direct outside access for emergencies. These can be converted into other usable space that may provide opportunities for additional small group rooms or project spaces.

8. Would this be translated to a different language?

A. I will look into getting this done.

9. With looking at a redesign of space, when will technology come in to meet the space design?

A. The use of technology will be considered within the design of the spaces.

10. How much has the board paid for the work done by the architect so far? What is the projected cost for the architect's services?

A. The total cost of the master plan and assessment services is \$84,700. The professional services will be paid out as the work progresses in phases.

11. Why is the board using the Series C model (besides worse case scenario) and why will the board not consider redrawing boundaries?

A. The Board is using series C to be sure we plan for the highest potential expected enrollment. This should provide the best estimated amount of space needed now and in the future. The Board stated that redrawing boundaries was not a primary factor for consideration in addressing the building capacities.

12. What was the cost of the demographics report that was done in January 2016? Why was a section dedicated to racial/ethnic composition and is this important to the space issue?

A. The report cost \$4,900. The demographic study provides us information on projected enrollment and other potential changes to the district. This information is collected by the State of Illinois and was included from the Illinois Report Card. This information does indicate changes within the population of our community that may impact some programming such as resources for English Language Learners.

13. What is the likelihood of having to build a new elementary or middle school in the next 5 years because of increasing student population? If yes, can an existing structure (building) be used and converted into a school?

A. We don't know if a new building will have to be built. Existing structures within the district may not be big enough to be used as a stand-alone school. There may be other spaces within the district boundaries that could accommodate a school. Those options will be explored.

14. Please consider STEM labs at least at the middle schools.

15. Somewhat common theme of libraries to 21st century. What are the ways schools are better "repurposing" library space?

A. Libraries are changing in many ways. Five years ago, many communities wondered if the purpose of a traditional library wasn't necessary anymore with technology changes. Today, the trends are a blended technology and book format with a focus on media literacy and creation of content rather than just a repository of books.

16. How can we be certain of the growth projections?

A. These are projections and therefore, have some variability in the numbers. We are confident these are close as the previous projections done in 2012 have been accurate.

17. Are we considering adding on building space?

A. Yes.

a. If so, when would a project as such be completed?

A. Depending on the size and location on site, it could be anywhere from 9-18 months after a Board decision on the project.

b. Where would we get the funding?

A. The Board will be looking at all options of funding.

18. How can we embark on large development projects when we: 1.) Don't know how the state will change our funding; 2.) If pensions will be moved to local dollars; 3.) We are running a projected spending deficit of \$3.84 million! How can we be increasing taxes in such large gains when we are growing at such a healthy pace? Shouldn't property taxes

be coming down and because they aren't, do we not risk losing our diversity? I do agree HES is overcrowded.

A. All of these issues are being considered into the potential solution.

19. According to Illinois Report Card, class sizes were 16:1 in 2014. How have they grown to 22 in 2 years without new development?

A. The state takes the enrollment and divides by the number of teachers. This may not take into account how the students are distributed across the district. It is just an average. Also, the district has increased enrollment each year for some time. This increased enrollment, we believe, is due to a change in families moving into the district.

20. With the grandfather clause in place for the next five years, how will the district address the immediate need for more classrooms? Class size has not decreased for many grades. Some have even increased. What's the band-aid?

A. The district has added instructional assistants to help and will be adding teachers for the 2016-2017 school year to help address some of these large class sizes.

21. Energy use seemed to be an issue at nearly all buildings. What might be appropriate remediation and benefit expectation for payback? Is there still the option of using park district space for kindy? If so, would that elevate the crowding?

A. DLR Group is recommending that the buildings be "tuned up" just like you might tune up a car to ensure that they are working as designed from an energy standpoint. The findings thus far could be remedied through that process. We will know more after that is completed. We are looking at all options for space and working with the Park District is still a consideration. This could potentially help with enrollment in the buildings.

22. Will they be looking into options for taking the dual language program K-8 as a part of this since as of right now there is an educational gap for these students?

A. Expansion of the DL program to a K-8 model is a different issue and is being considered separately.

23. Can Aspen/Elementary South get more parking spaces? Why not combine Aspen/Elementary South into one school?

A. There is very limited space and we don't think we can add more parking at this time. There is no plan to combine the schools at this point.

24. When DLR makes more specific recommendations for building/space and repairs/upgrades are they relying on published guidelines only or are they investigating options from the private sector?

A. DLR Group is the largest primary and secondary education firm in the world with expertise in planning and design of K-12 schools as well as higher education and corporate design. They'll draw upon public and private work, their experience and most importantly how we plan to deliver education as a district in order to plan the facility options.

25. With the possible expansion of Dual Language to middle school, should that be a factor considered when discussing space and future use?

A. Only if it would require additional space at the Middle School level.