

Q&A

Booth Middle Replacement School or Transformational Re-model

1. When was the decision made by the board to not redistribute students and when was that decision made? What was the rationale used to justify this decision?

a. It has not been necessary for the board to consider this option. There was an issue earlier regarding Spring Hill Elementary and Fayetteville Elementary schools where some students were spot rezoned. There was also an issue of overcrowding at Huddleston Elementary School; the board had a number of public conversations about possibly rezoning at that time. The board exercised the option to close the school to out-of-zone permissions, and to not move approximately 35 students.

2. How much notice will be given if/when the board decides to redistrict?

a. This process will take up to a year or longer and will include public notifications and public hearings.

3. Why did the board buy property that was not on a main artery, was on a dead-end street, and was not accessible?

a. There are other schools within the system that are not on main arteries. There have been conversations about Stagecoach Road cutting through to Ebenezer Church Road. This would eliminate the “dead-end” concern. If the board chooses to proceed with the Stagecoach replacement school, the property will be accessible from two points, with the possibility of three.

4. Does the replacement school’s sewer system tie into the city’s sewer system?

a. Yes

5. Have you considered that there is a cemetery and funeral home nearby?

a. The school system is aware of both of these and will be willing to coordinate with both entities, as needed.

6. What extent do you deconstruct high schools?

a. The structure used for the school system’s high schools and Career and Technical Educational (CTE) programs is very expensive; thus, not every course is offered at each high school. Having CTE programs at the Center of Innovation allows the school system to centralize the upper-level pathways and offer student choice. It also allows dual enrollment courses to be provided in a central location to eliminate the need for students to travel out of the county.

7. Has the district looked at other locations to house students while remodeling the existing middle school?
 - a. We do not feel that we have adequate and efficient space in a single location to house all 1,200 Booth MS students.

8. Would eliminating students on special permission help relieve the overcrowding at Booth?
 - a. A total of 47 students (sixth grade: 22; seventh grade: 14; eighth grade: 11) are on special permission at Booth, all of them are children of employees. As per Fayette County Board of Education policy (JBCCA: Student Assignment to Schools) and Georgia rule (O.C.G.A. 20-2-293: Student Attending School in System Other Than System of Student's Residence), a student shall be allowed to attend the school in which a parent or guardian is a full-time teacher or employee.

9. Why can't a two-story addition be added to the current site?
 - a. Multiple options have been reviewed by the board.

10. Was the school system given land by John Wieland Homes in the West Village in Peachtree City?
 - a. Yes. There was a seven-year option to build a school on the land provided by the developer. The option has expired, and the land went back to the developer.

11. Why were Peachtree City officials not involved when planning the replacement school?
 - a. Several meetings were held with Peachtree City leadership and administration. **SEE TIMELINE.**

12. Why has the cost increased from the \$10 million listed in the original ESPLOST list?
 - a. The ESPLOST list included an estimate for a basic renovation of the existing school. The scope of the project changed as well as an increase in the cost of construction and labor costs since the project list was developed.

13. Some of the questions asked assume that the FCBOE has a list of capital projects prioritized based upon cost and expected positive impact to student learning. Does the FCBOE have such a list? If so, where does the incremental cost of building a NEW Booth M.S. rank? When will the FCBOE share this list with the public?

a. The ESPLOST III list of potential projects can be found on the school system website under Departments/Finance/ESPLOST. This list was developed with the ESPLOST III committee, school system staff, and board member input. The projects were aligned with the school system's strategic plan. Each project was assigned to a phase 1, 2 or 3 to be addressed as funds become available. There are always more facility projects than there is funding. The district has been addressing facility needs and is in a sense "playing catch up" with many deferred facility necessities. The projects in ESPLOST III were projected to cost significantly more than what would be collected in the five-year ESPLOST. All construction projects in the Five-Year Facility Plan are based on projections and priorities and are addressed in order of need. Projects not completed in this cycle will be rolled over to the next five-year cycle.