



**To:** Task Force Members

**From:** Cozy Hannula | CH

**Date:** July 17, 2019

**Comm. No:** 9999

**Subject:** Independent School District #720  
Community Facilities Task Force Meeting #2  
July 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

**Task Force Members:**

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**Absentees:**

Natalie Weatherman, Middle Level Teacher

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Aaron Kahnke, Community Member

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**Discussion Topics:**

- A. The group reviewed enrollment history compared to projections in the past.
- B. The group reviewed Districtwide capacity including:
  1. An overview of what capacity is, what it means, and how it is determined was given.
  2. Difference between “ideal” capacity, which is used for planning how spaces are used in best case scenario, and “maximum” capacity, which is how spaces can be used to accommodate more students when there are periodic crowdings at individual schools.
  3. The group reviewed how capacity compared to projections for the next five years.
  4. It was noted that Pearson or C.F.C. was not counted in the overall capacity at this time.
- C. The group concluded that we have capacity at all levels and should have capacity in the District for the foreseeable future. Current buildings that are near capacity are related to how students are distributed between schools, not overall available seats.
  1. The group discussed elements that affect distribution of students.
    - a. West Middle School is fed by three elementaries (Eagle Creek, Jackson, and Sweeney) which are some of the larger elementaries, while East Middle School is fed by two smaller elementaries.
    - b. Middle school uses feeder system. Elementary boundaries (for the most part) determines middle school.
    - c. It was noted that enrollment has been affected by slow birth rates related to the recession as well as increase in aging – in-place – homes where families remain even after kids have left.
      - 1) It was noted that elementary schools that currently have space, used to be the fullest.
- D. The group reviewed information requested at previous meeting.
  1. Map of Shakopee buildable area was reviewed by the group.
  2. Open enrollment and non-public enrollment data was reviewed by the group.
    - a. It was noted that some students in non-public options enter the District at fifth or ninth grade because SACS and Living Hope only go through eighth grade and fourth grade, respectively.
- E. The task force broke into small groups to discuss key takeaways from the meeting.
  1. Capacity:
    - a. We have sufficient capacity in the District and should for the foreseeable future.
    - b. Enrollment is very unpredictable and that will always make capacity challenging.
  2. Communications/Open Enrollment:
    - a. Communication is key for how people understand which students attend which school and for the perception vs. reality of how different buildings are thought about by the community.
    - b. People are most concerned with what is relevant to them.
    - c. Open enrollment and communications are trending in the right direction, but there is opportunity to improve.



- d. Is there a way to use marketing/communication to retain more students?
- e. How will the academies model at the high school affect enrollment in future years?
- 3. Pearson:
  - a. Pearson is not needed in near future, as an elementary could it be set aside as an elementary school or be used for something else?
  - b. There is a perception that closure at Pearson was just a monetary decision, but it was noted that it was always planned as potential swing space. If home building and students moving into the District had been on the higher side of the projection, it would have been needed after the referendum as an elementary.
- F. Information Requests:
  - 1. Why are people leaving the District/open enrolling into other districts?
  - 2. How do other districts manage boundaries? Do other districts use feeder systems?

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LW/9999/ISD\_720/min/5.15.19 Task Force