

Repurposing /
Closing Saxvik
Elementary School

Monday, April 25, 2016

Recommendation to Close / Repurpose

- Based on application of the committee's criteria, concerns that students are provided a learning environment that is as equitable as possible, and an effort to seek efficiency by controlling current and ongoing expense, the recommendation is that Saxvik is repurposed / closed and students are educated in Myhre, Murphy, Pioneer, and Will-Moore Elementary schools.

Background: Timeline

- Nov. 2015-Mar. 2016 5 Facility Planning Committee Mtgs.
- Spring 2016 3 Public Forums
- March 31 Consultant report to School Board
- March 31 Board directs Admin. to apply criteria to elementary schools re: closing/repurposing
- April 6 Admin. reports to Board; suggests Saxvik
- April 6 Meeting with Saxvik staff & email to parents
- April 11 Meeting with Saxvik PTO
- April 12 Meeting with Saxvik parents/staff
- April 18 School Board meeting
- April 25 School Board decision (tonight)

Background:

Community Facility Team Meetings & School Tours as it Relates to Saxvik

- 75 people, 2 reps from each school (1 parent, 1 staff) + community people, served on the committee
- Reviewed BPS enrollment trends & academic and other data & toured schools
- At two parent forums, equity was a big issue with all parents, K-12
- Facilities Committee was asked to develop criteria to use to determine whether BPS should close/repurpose an elementary school

Background: RSP Associates Report from Community Committee to School Board at March 31 Meeting

- RSP presented Facility Committee recommendations to Board.
- Board:
 - Decided to hire an architect to get better cost estimates to add on to all 3 middle schools and perhaps address equity at BHS and CHS.
 - Directed Administration to apply the committee criteria to elementary schools for possible closure/repurposing.
 - Directed Administration to begin studying micro-boundary changes that might reduce crowding in some elementary schools.
- Elementary principals applied criteria to K-5 schools on April 1
- Saxvik Elementary School met much of the criteria and had declining neighborhood enrollment.

Committee's Criteria Applied to Saxvik Elementary School Building

- ADA/handicapped compliant (*3 levels; no elevator, some ramps*)
- Adequate parking (*6 parking spots*); traffic flow & safety concerns
- Adequate green space & playground (*playground owned by Parks, located across street, not fenced in*)
- Cost to renovate (*+/- \$2.4 million*)
- Need for infrastructure for today's technology
- Enrollment projections (*313 capacity; 221 students; 196 next year, includes 46 transfer students so actual enrollment will be 150.*)
- Room at nearby schools; in same feeder if possible; school choice

Committee's Criteria Applied to Saxvik Elementary School Building, Continued

- Cost to bus kids to other schools (*similar*), minutes on bus (*30 min. or less*)
- Well-suited location (*Saxvik is in the middle of a residential block; lacks adequate parking, playground, green space, etc.*)
- Parent, staff, neighborhood feedback
- Demographics/socio economics (*Saxvik has 30% student turnover a year*)
- Building use, if the school is repurposed (*unknown, discussion has been offices space, day care, family services center, an adult training center, a community center where the gym and kitchen can be used, open gym, etc.*)
 - Market value of building; historical/intrinsic value (*Saxvik is 64 years old; most schools in the U.S. are abandoned at age 60*)

Why Now?

- Our community keeps growing, yet not all areas of the city show K-5 growth:
 - Demographer Rob Schwarz of RSP Associates developed enrollment projections through 2019-20. His predictions have been about 99% accurate.
 - Overcapacity or approaching it: Highland Acres (central), Liberty (NW) in 17-18, Lincoln in 2018, Solheim (south Bismarck) 2017-18, and Sunrise (northeast Bismarck now to 2019-20)
- We work to provide equity to students & be fiscally responsible to taxpayers.
- Students would need to be bussed past one or more elementary schools to reach Saxvik
- Four other schools near Saxvik have space to welcome the Saxvik students.
- There is opportunity to provide jobs to Saxvik staff in other locations.
- While Saxvik is 2nd oldest school, renovations to achieve equity for students = +/- \$2.4 M
- Fiscal responsibility (energy costs, staffing, etc.) must be considered.

Enrollment Patterns at Saxvik

- Current Building Capacity 313
- Current Enrollment 221
- Next Fall Enrollment w transfers 196 *1/3 of space unused*
- Transfer requests into Saxvik 46 *(w 5th graders)*
- Neighborhood enrollment, estimated 150 Saxvik students in the fall 2016

Space at Potential Receiving Schools:

<u>School</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Projected 2019-20</u>
Murphy	625	461	564
Myhre	424	266	308
Pioneer	290	260	217
Will-Moore	312	231	282

Transfer students would be assigned back to their neighborhood schools and could put in for a transfer to one of the schools above. (No transportation is provided for students who transfer out of their boundary).

Report to Board: April 6

- Presented criteria & recommended Saxvik for consideration
- Looked at one-time costs to upgrade, *except for crawl space (problematic to fix)*:

\$500,000 ADA/elevator

\$665,000 Storage (e.g. lunch tables, shared cafeteria and gym)

\$200,000 Parking

\$450,000 Green space & playground

\$465,453 Future heating/ventilation

\$100,000 Carpet replacement over 5 years

\$2.4 million (campus is small and reduces opportunities)

Estimated Potential Cost Savings *(current costs)

- Also looked at ongoing annual cost savings:

\$211,542 move principal & head secretary to open positions in BPS

\$210,000 move 3 reading teachers to open positions in BPS

\$51,158 annual maintenance costs at Saxvik

\$8,900 extra duty contracts (e.g. Assistant principal, AdvancED stipend)

\$481,600 Total savings for 1 year (\$4.8 million over 10 years, for example)

- Positions that may be absorbed (no cost savings but increased efficiencies):

Hours for instructional coach, social work, physical education, music, school nurse, library aide, food service staff

Estimated Reduction in Current Enhancement Requests

\$420,000

Four teachers across the district

\$140,000

Two special needs teachers

\$144,045

Instructional aide time (*best estimate to date)

\$110,000

Two custodians (one head custodian; 1 custodian)

\$70,000

.5 music teacher and .6 counselor

Estimated Reduction in Current Enhancement Requests, Continued

\$46,000	.3 library media and .3 levels of service/gifted
\$33,560	second secretary position
\$30,000	new Benchmark Literacy books for K-2
<u>\$7,180</u>	playground supervisor time
\$1,000,785	Per year (ongoing, without inflation = \$10 million over 10/years)
+ 481,600	savings from current annual costs
- 92,000	Possible full-time assistant principal at Murphy
\$1.4 million	Per year savings, assuming enhancements were granted

4/6 Board directive to Administration:

- 1. Get feedback from Saxvik staff and parents (*ongoing*)
- 2. Ideas for repurposing Saxvik to April 25 board mtg.
- 3. Draw new boundary lines for Saxvik students to go to Murphy, Myhre, Pioneer and Will-Moore (map sent to parents on 4/21/16)

Summary of feedback: April 6 Staff Meeting

- Staff discussed what was best for students.
- They also wanted to know if they would have jobs in the district.
- If Saxvik is to be closed/repurposed, most seemed to feel it should be done this year so students can begin building new relationships with teachers and friends.
- We assured staff that we are in a unique position this spring, due to retirements, resignations & increasing class sizes in the district at other schools, to employ all or nearly all in same or like positions.
- They had other questions about specific jobs, moving, transition activities for students and staff, etc. which we have answered in an email to them today.

Summary of feedback: Parent Questions: Boundaries, Transfers & Feeders

- Boundaries were shared with parents and Board on 4/21/16.
- Parents who wish to may make a transfer request to another school.
- Students already at Saxvik on a transfer request will be assigned back to their neighborhood school, but they can also put in a transfer request.
- Our goal is to honor as many transfer requests as we can.
- We also plan to honor requests for families to stay in their feeder if they wish.
- Saxvik feeds into Simle, then Legacy High. So do Murphy and Pioneer. Myhre and Will-Moore feed into Wachter and Bismarck High.

Summary of feedback: Parent Questions: Class Size + Teachers

We would add teachers where we need them for Saxvik students, so we don't anticipate average class sizes to be greater than they are now. Each year, BPS adds teachers or aides to certain schools to maintain adequate class sizes district-wide.

<u>School</u>	<u>Avg. Class Size 2016-17</u>
Murphy	21.7
Myhre	20.2
Pioneer	21.7
W-Moore	21.4
Saxvik	20.0
K-5 District Avg.	20.0

Summary of feedback: Parent Questions: Summer & After School Programs

- **Jump Start**: we are checking on where this program can be held. The grant was written for Saxvik.
- **Camp Ed**: we want parent input tonight on whether you'd like Camp Ed held at Saxvik this summer, if we repurpose the school, or if you would rather your students attend Camp Ed at their "new" school. Also let us know if transportation would be an issue, as that could be provided to the new school.
- **After School Programs**: Murphy does not have MREC; it has BLAST (Parks & Rec). Both programs have said they would work with us to get students into these programs, despite the registration deadline dates. W-M, Pioneer, and Myhre all will have MREC Programs.

Summary of feedback: Parent Questions: Busing

- All Saxvik students who qualify for busing can be bused at no cost to families.
 - Assume most Saxvik students will qualify for busing to their new schools
 - Criteria is their home must be a ½ mile from the school they are to attend
 - Bus stops are within 4 blocks or less of a student's home
 - Believe the longest a student would be on a bus going to Murphy, Myhre, Pioneer or Will-Moore would be 30 minutes
 - Have not started registering for busing yet for the fall of 2016
 - Do not believe the plan to repurpose Saxvik would significantly increase total busing costs because the routes going to the other four schools are not full.

Summary of feedback: Parent Questions: District & PTO materials

- Our goal is that PTO-purchased materials & technology (Chromebooks) will follow Saxvik students to their new schools.
- District-purchased Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) repurposed as needed.
- Donated audio enhancement systems would also follow Saxvik students; the receiving schools have this equipment, though it is not available in all classrooms in all schools across the district, which is something we are working on.
- Curricular materials would also follow students, where needed.
- Our Tech Dept. notes that older schools do not always have outlet capacity for more technology so it becomes difficult to add new technology to aging buildings. This includes smart boards, projectors, computers, etc.

Summary of feedback: Parent Questions: Opportunities for students

Murphy: Student Council, Chess Club, Parks/Rec after school program

Myhre: Student Council, Maker Space Club, Science Club, Parks/Rec Basketball, Chess Club next year

Pioneer: Student Council, can pursue Chess Club if find an advisor

W-Moore: Student Council, Geography Club, Lego Robotics for gr. 4-5; Chess Club next year

NOTE: all academic, regular education, and special education services for students are comparable throughout the school district.

Summary of feedback: Parent Questions: Transition Activities

- IF Saxvik is repurposed or closed, the following schedule of events will be put into place.
- Kindergarten open houses at receiving schools:

Murphy: May 3 (same as Saxvik)

Myhre: May 5

Pioneer: (done; would hold a special open house for any Saxvik K)

W-Moore: May 5

- School tours at receiving schools this spring: yes
- Transition activities for staff & students this spring & fall: yes

Summary of feedback: Parent Questions: Board Meetings

- Mon. April 18 Hughes, 806 N. Washington starts 5:15 pm

This meeting was recorded and is playing on Govt. Channel 2, as of Wed. April 20, at 5 pm.

- Mon. April 25 City-Co. Bldg., 221 N. 5th St. starts 5:15 pm

Broadcast live on Ch. 2; admin. to present directives from Board at April 18 mtg.

Board to make decision whether to pursue repurposing / closing Saxvik.