

Executive Summary

A result of the small group work activity

Community Engagement Session #4 • March 24, 2022

An estimated 27 participants attended the fourth ***Building Our Future Together*** community engagement session on March 24, 2022.

The topic for the third ***Building Our Future Together*** community engagement program was “*Developing Recommendations*.” Participants heard a presentation by the Building Our Future Together Community Chairs and Chief Financial Officer Tony Inglese. The presentation featured a review of the process, community recommendations and enrollment projections.

To view the presentation, visit www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement. Following the presentation, participants worked in five small groups to complete the tasks discussed below. Following is a summary of the responses from the groups. Verbatim responses can be found at www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement.

Task#1: Questions

What questions do you have about the material we've presented?

Many of the questions from the participants were related to additional information about the three options (A, B and C). However, these questions were varied, with some being about funding and costs of the options and others being more focused on projects within the options. In addition, there were three questions specifically related to the timeline for implementation of the options.

There were also questions about the specifics of the plan, the open houses, and how those who are not district parents can be informed and involved in the process.

Task #2: Clear-Clarify-Takeaways

Clear - We would like to know which three to five key points from the presentation are clear to you.

Many of the groups touched on finance when explaining which points were clear. With one group highlighting that they have a better understanding of BPS's current financial health/position and three groups mentioning they have a good understanding of the impact of property taxes on District funding. One group even noted, "running a school district is expensive."

Three groups noted that they have a "clearer picture of the needs of the District," with two specifically mentioning every building needs updates. Three groups also touched on points related to the birth rate and declining enrollment.

In addition, three groups mentioned the options specifically. With one noting, "it is very clear that option A is not a viable option," another writing, "option B defers decision on what to do with 2 of the elementary schools, and the third noting, "there are three options (A/B/C) to consider." Another group referred to the options saying, "eliminating an elementary school is not a popular choice within the community."

Clarify - We would like to know up to five points that are somewhat unclear and must be better explained to improve understanding for others.

Six of the groups specifically listed topics related to the cost of the projects, but these points were varied. For example, one group asked how increased materials costs during construction would be handled. Another wanted assurance that "the cost estimates are realistic and representative of the quality that we hope the new schools will have." Some groups also requested additional details about the specific costs for the facilities projects.

Five of the groups would like clarification on the impact on students during the facility update process. With one group writing, "Provide more robust details about anticipated changes to student experience during construction, and another noting, "Plans to limit student disruption if new schools are built."

Four groups listed that they would like clarification about the challenges at each individual building, with one writing, "The level and description of the most serious issues at each of

the schools,” and another noting, “Community members are going to want to know what specifically is wrong with the schools and how they got into such bad shape.”

Three groups emphasized that the tax impacts must be clearly explained, and two noted that enrollment and demographic information must be clarified.

Takeaways - what are the three key takeaways you think everyone in Batavia should know?

The takeaways provided by each group were different. However, there were two common threads amongst some of the groups. Three groups mentioned that the community needs to be informed about the needs of our schools, and three groups listed that there are community benefits to updating BPS schools that need to be communicated to the community.

CONSENSUS POINTS

- The following items are key takeaways from CES 4:
 - BOFT participants have a clear understanding of:
 - The District’s current financial picture and the implications of the facility options on the District’s property taxes.
 - The facility needs of the District and enrollment trends.
 - The options available to update District buildings.
 - BOFT participants would like clarification about
 - The specific costs of the proposed projects.
 - The impact of the facility updating process on students.
 - The specific facility needs of each building.

**For a complete listing of all responses,
see the CES #4 Verbatim Response Document on the website.**