

# Growth and Capital Needs Committee

## Public Forum

### May 2, 2016



## Charge

The Growth and Capital Needs Committee (GCNC) is charged by the superintendent to study district needs and issue findings and recommendations related to new construction, facility additions, per pupil school improvement dollars, capital renewal/improvement, and district infrastructure technology needs. The committee will use the collaborative input model to guide its work.

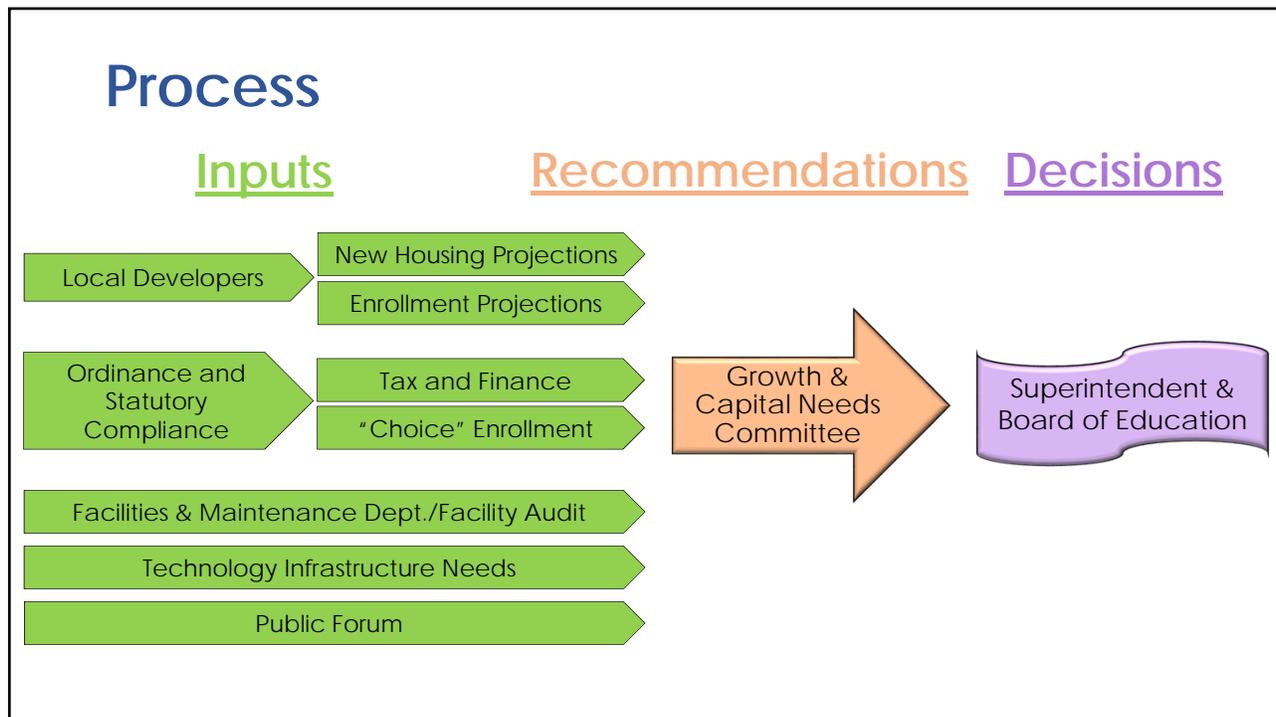
## Membership

- ✓Three principals (elementary, middle, and high);
- ✓Two charter school representatives;
- ✓Eight parents who are not District 20 staff members (four elementary and four secondary);
- ✓Three teachers (one elementary, one middle, and one high);
- ✓Three patrons at large (those who do not have children attending any District 20 schools);
- ✓Three classified staff members (one school-based; one non-school based; and one classified administrator);
- ✓Three students (currently sophomore or juniors); and,
- ✓Three representatives who are developers, business leaders, community leaders, or architects who live or work in District 20.

## 12 Meetings To Date

- ✓October 27, 2015
- ✓November 10, 2015
- ✓December 8, 2015
- ✓January 5 and 26, 2016
- ✓February 9 and 23, 2016
- ✓March 8 and 29, 2016
- ✓April 12, 23, and 26, 2016
- Final meeting is May 10, 2016

All from 5:30 – 8:30 at the Rampart High School Technology Presentation Room



## School Site Improvement Committees (SSIC)

- ✓ Each school principal formed a committee that represented students, faculty, staff, parents, and neighborhood patrons of the school and school programs.
- ✓ Each committee was charged with identifying and prioritizing the capital needs of the school facility and then presenting needs to the GCNC.
- ✓ Recommended capital projects will result in a physical improvement that will benefit the school for many years.
- ✓ Projects could include long term technology improvements, not computers or mobile devices, such as iPads.
- ✓ The main focus of the school committee was to identify school improvement projects that would likely not otherwise be funded or be highly prioritized on a district maintenance/capital improvement list. For instance, the committee might consider new/different flooring, paint, furnishings, playfield improvements, stage lighting/sound, etc.
- ✓ School committees have all presented.

## Communication Plan

- ✓ Minutes are posted on the District 20 website.
- ✓ Facilitators will regularly inform the superintendent of the committee's progress.
- ✓ One interim written report to the superintendent and board.
- ✓ One public forum
- ✓ Additional stakeholder groups will be updated monthly as follows:
  - ✓ Principals
  - ✓ Superintendent's Cabinet
  - ✓ Parent Sounding Board
  - ✓ District Accountability Committee
  - ✓ Superintendent's Student Advisory Council
  - ✓ Teacher Communication Council
  - ✓ Classified Liaison Committee
  - ✓ Superintendent's Communication Council

## Information Shared and Discussed

- It's been 15 years since the last bond issue passed in 2001. Enrollment is 7,000 more students than in 2001.
- The Jan 1, 2015 approved city master plan includes nearly 13,000 unbuilt residential units. Local developers conservatively estimate 6,250 of these will be constructed by 2022. This translates to approximately 3,800 new students by 2022 (4,800 by 2025). The balance of 6,750 units are anticipated for completion after 2022 (and translate to approximately 4,700 additional students).
- **Only** the Academy District 20 Board of Education can declare, by passing a resolution, that the district will have a ballot question for a bond for November 2016.

## Information Shared and Discussed

- What is a bond? What does bond money buy? How do districts finance bonds? Academy District 20 last asked voters to approve a bond in 2001 for \$163 million. Legally, bond funds are only for capital construction and capital equipment. (Infrastructure, building improvements, furniture, technology)
- Presentations by representatives of three major developers confirmed that the housing market is improving and construction in developments in the north and east portions of the district expect to continue a high rate. The addition of new residential units is expected to add more than 3,800 new students to the district in the next seven years (2022).

## Information Shared and Discussed

- By city ordinance, developers proposing to build new homes must dedicate land or pay fees in lieu of land for schools and parks. Developers in Academy District 20 generally dedicate land for school sites.
- The district does not legally accept the sites until the district has funding to construct schools and intends to use those sites. Although several future school sites have been platted, the district only owns one of the sites.

## Common Questions

**Q: Which schools are experiencing the most pressing needs for space?**

A: Current data indicates that the most pressing need for additional space to accommodate growth will be in the high schools and east side schools. If a bond is approved in November 2016, the earliest a new high school could open is the fall of 2020.

**Q: What about students who are “choiced” in to our schools?**

A: State law requires Colorado public schools to enroll students on a space available basis. As the number of in-district students increases, the district will accept fewer and fewer out of district students.

## Common Questions

**Q: Won't a new school stretch resources?**

A: Opening a new school requires additional resources for such things as utilities, maintenance, transportation, and core staff. Per pupil funding determined by the state follows every student enrolled in the district. Therefore, any new school generates its own additional funding for teaching staff and most support staff. The district already has staffing formulas for teachers, counselors, etc., that would follow students to any new facility. Also, growth that is occurring throughout the district will require additional resources for transportation to existing schools.

## Common Questions

**Q: Will principals at existing schools be able to keep all of the successful programs they have implemented and will they be able to expand innovative and supportive programs that benefit students?**

A: Yes! (assuming the state does not further reduce k-12 funding)

**Q: Will all Academy District 20 schools benefit if voters approve a bond in November?**

A: Yes, bond dollars for capital needs will be distributed to every school based on a formula driven by the age of the building, needs identified by each School Site Improvement Committee, and needs identified by a combination of the district facilities department and a third party audit.

## Why Now?

- ✓ Existing capital needs and enrollment growth
- ✓ Property values are recovering and new construction is accelerating resulting in an increased assessed valuation (tax base). Tax base growth is anticipated to continue.
- ✓ By statute, the district must levy fixed mills toward the School Finance Act and must levy mills for abatements. The balance of the 60.216 mills is dedicated to mill levy override collection and to debt service collection (determined by electorate).

## Why Now?

- ✓The combination of an increasing tax base and principle debt reduction over the last 8 years is timed such that the district could meet many capital needs within the same tax levy that has existed since 2004 (requires voter approval).
- ✓If the board decides not to be on the ballot or they decide to be on the ballot but the ballot issue fails, the levy may decrease beginning in 2017. Capital needs would not be addressed.
- ✓In 1999 the district total levy was capped at 60.216 mills (approximately 6%) and remains in place. The district must pay for both operations and capital within this tax levy.

## Draft Recommendations Under Discussion

- What is the right number of schools we will need to accommodate growth? We're considering new construction based on projections from developers and demographers.
- What is the right formula to use for the per pupil funds that will go to each school? We're considering facility age, enrollment, square footage, and demographics.

## Draft Recommendations Under Discussion

- What are the additions and remodels that need to occur? We're considering both the school presentations, school tours, and new construction tours as we make this recommendation.
- What are the capital renewal needs and how much money can be allocated?
- What technology needs must we address?

## In the end ...

- The committee's **only** goal is to make **recommendations** to Superintendent Dr. Mark Hatchell by May 2016 regarding each of five categories: new construction, per pupil school improvement dollars, capital renewal/improvement, remodels and additions, and district infrastructure technology needs.
- The superintendent can accept all or part of the recommendations from the committee.
- **Only** the Academy District 20 Board of Education can declare, by passing a resolution, that the district will have a ballot question for a bond for November 2016.

## Questions?

Please write comments and questions on notecards even if you have a chance to ask them this evening so that we can capture them to share with the full GCNC on May 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Thank you for your attendance and a reminder ...

- ✓ Please visit the GCNC website to get more specific detail about the work of the committee
  
- ✓ Please contact Tom Gregory, Chief Financial Officer, or Karin Reynolds, Deputy Superintendent, with subsequent questions.

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- Karin Reynolds, [karin.Reynolds@asd20.org](mailto:karin.Reynolds@asd20.org), 234-1200