



School District 16
Facilities Utilization Study Update
May 24, 2005 School Board Meeting

Task Force Consensus Considerations

1. All schools need to be updated and equipped for this generation of students and the generations of students to come.
2. There should be a school district presence in all three cities (Blaine, Spring Lake Park, Fridley), and ideally a presence in the new high-growth areas of Blaine. We will continue to use the latest and best-available demographic data to guide our decision-making.
3. We need additional classrooms at Westwood Middle School due to enrollment growth and changing and expanding academic programs.
4. We must update and “re-zone” the high school for safety and educational effectiveness. This includes additional security measures, additional parking and better traffic flow, and a turf field to vastly increase use by physical education classes, sports teams, and the community, in a complex with too-little space.
5. The oldest parts of the high school complex should be re-built, especially the fifty-year-old sections, currently used by Early Childhood and Learning Alternatives programs, to provide additional, up-to-date high school academic space.
6. Services in the Board of Education Building should be relocated and the building torn down to provide additional high school academic space, parking, and/or athletic fields in this land-locked complex.
7. We must have academically and physically appropriate schools. In a competitive educational environment, we also recognize that facilities must be up-to-date, well-maintained, and aesthetically pleasing.
8. The benefits of a bond referendum must be visible and must benefit each school.

Issues Affecting Task Force Considerations

1. Our present structure utilizes four elementary schools. The District cannot efficiently utilize five elementary schools. Depending on the size of our elementary school buildings, we could effectively serve our students with three.
2. Closing a school is not desired but may someday be necessary. Utilizing a school building for other district departments, programs, or services is an option.
3. If the oldest sections of the high school are rebuilt, the Fine Arts Center, the present two-story structure, and the football complex should be among the facilities that are retained.
4. With the probability of a vote on a large bond project in 2006, consideration should be given to multiple ballot “questions” or even two separate bond referendums. Although the facility needs are great, the District should assure the public that the cost of a proposed bond referendum would be perhaps \$15-\$20/month, but would not exceed \$25/month, for the average homeowner.