2020 Danbury Public Schools Task Force

Options for the Future

February 11, 2020
Introduction

- Enrollment Growth and Areas of Need
- Short and Long-Term Facilities/ Enrollment Options
  - Elementary
  - Middle
  - High
- Recommendations
- Next Steps
High Model

- Prepared low, medium and high projections
- Using high projection model for space planning purposes due to most recent high levels of in-migration
- Prepared PK projections
  - Based on 8-year trend in annual growth continuing for the next three years (in line with projected years of elementary growth)
  - Held static from 2023-24 on, as funding and policies may change
PK Trends

- Increasing trend of identified special needs preschoolers
- Average annual growth of 8.6% in identified special needs preschoolers over the last 8 years
  - In line with average annual estimated in-migration rate to the District of 8.4% over the last 8 years
- Projections reflect continued growth in PK programs – estimate an additional 4 classrooms from current (District already implementing 1 additional classroom next year)

Special Needs Preschool Identification Trends

Sources: Danbury Public Schools and CT DPH
Peak enrollment in K-5 projected for 2022-23 at 193 more than current.
Projected to be above current enrollment levels for the next seven years.
- In-migration of students into the Downtown area
- Concerns for growth due to capacity at:
  - Ellsworth
  - Hayestown
  - Mill Ridge
  - Park
- District has already had to close grades to new registrants at these schools due to lack of capacity
- Measured neighborhood trends in **two areas** of the Downtown to better understand potential options for short-term solutions to overcrowding
- Eastern side of Downtown growing faster, higher rate of in-migration
- Western side growing, but not as fast
Downtown East

- 8% growth in K-5 students over the last four years in Downtown East
- 10-14% of grades 1-5 residing in the area were identified as new to district over each of the last three years
  - New to district in area for grades 1-5:
    - 2017-18: 84
    - 2018-19: 79
    - 2019-20: 115
- Downtown East K-5 enrollment projected to grow 2% over the next three years
Downtown West

- 6% growth in K-5 students over the last four years in Downtown West
- 7-12% of grades 1-5 residing in the area were identified as new to district over each of the last three years
  - New to district in area for grades 1-5:
    - 2017-18: 78
    - 2018-19: 55
    - 2019-20: 92

- Downtown West projected to grow only .3% over the next three years
- Greater level of churn in students in Downtown West
### 2020-21

- Shift 7 existing classrooms of early childhood SPED and PK programming from Hayestown and Great Plain to leased spaces
  - Creates additional K-5 capacity:
    - Great Plain: 95 (25 per 4 classrooms, 95% utilization); for a total k-5 capacity of about 375
    - Hayestown: 71 (25 per 3 classrooms, 95% utilization); for a total k-5 capacity of about 470 (excluding EAS/Kindergarten program which occupies 2 classrooms)
2020-21 continued

- Use additional capacity to alleviate enrollment burden at Ellsworth, Hayestown, Mill Ridge and Park
  - Close new 1st-5th grade enrollments at those schools
  - New registrants from Downtown East area assigned to Great Plain
    - Estimate about 110-115 K-5 students
    - Some students will shift from Hayestown to Great Plain
  - Assign about 60-65 new registrants from Downtown West to Hayestown
    - Estimate about 85-90 total new students in sending area

2021-22

- Continue to close new 1st – 5th grade registrations at Ellsworth, Hayestown, Mill Ridge and Park, and send to Hayestown and Great Plain via Downtown East and Downtown West sending areas
- Maintain leased spaces
Elementary Options

2022-23
- Renovated Ellsworth Annex (Osborne Street facility) opens - 7 additional classrooms
  - 4 classrooms for early childhood SPED programs (1 currently at Osborne St. and 3 to be shifted out of leased space)
  - 3 classrooms for Ellsworth K-5 overflow use
  - Re-evaluate Downtown sending areas – continue as needed to relieve growth pressures at Ellsworth, Hayestown, Mill Ridge and Park

2023-24
- Maintain Ellsworth Annex, Downtown sending areas and leased spaces as above

2024-25
- Maintain Ellsworth Annex, Downtown sending areas and leased spaces as above
Elementary Options

2025-26

- 15 newly constructed additional classrooms and program area open at Great Plain
  - Shift 15 early childhood SPED and PK classes out of leased spaces and into Great Plain (incorporates anticipated growth of 4 classrooms from current year)
  - End leases
  - Maintain 4 classrooms of early childhood SPED at Ellsworth Annex
- Re-evaluate need for Downtown sending areas
Great Plain

GREAT PLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Early Childhood - 15 classroom addition

Google Earth
Elementary Summary

Short Term Solutions (2020-21 through 2025-26)

**Leasing Options**

- **Hayestown**: 3 SPED CR
- **Great Plain**: 4 SPED CR

Opens a total of 7 classrooms at Hayestown and Great Plain for K-5 growth in the Downtown – establish sending areas

**New Lease**: 8 Classrooms 3+4+1 for growth

Long Term Solutions (2025-26 and Beyond)

**Renovations and Additions**

- **Great Plain**: 15 CR Addition Opens in 25-26 (8+4+3 for growth)
- **Ellsworth Annex (Osborne St)**: 7 CR Addition Opens in 2022-23 (1 Ex. PreK + SPED Growth + K-5 Ellsworth)

Once Great Plain addition opens in 2025-26 (3 PreK CR + 1 Ex. PreK CR + 3 CR for Ellsworth K-5)
- Projecting enrollment to surpass current levels by at least 120 students over the next five years.
- Projected enrollment peak in 2027-28 and 2028-29 of about 325 more middle schoolers than this year.
Middle School Options

Long Term Options:
1. Add 13 modular classrooms to each of the 3 existing middle schools
2. Build 13 additional classrooms at Broadview
   - Expand existing program and redistrict
   - Or, open academy with unique programming
3. Build 13 additional classrooms at Westside
Middle School Options

Long-Term Option 1

- Add modular classrooms to each of the three middle school buildings for occupancy in 2025-26 to distribute additional students
  - Each school’s capacity increases by about 85-110 students
  - No redistricting required
  - Magnet program expansion

- However, determined infeasible due to:
  - Soils not supportive of modular classrooms at Rogers Park
  - Lack of site space at Westside (can only accommodate up to only 2 modular classrooms)
  - Therefore, unable to proportionally distribute the modular classrooms
Middle School Options

Long-Term Option 2

- Construct 13 additional classrooms at Broadview for occupancy in 2025-26
  - **Option 2a:** Increase capacity for current programming by about 280 students for a total capacity of about 1,300
  - **Option 2b:** Incorporate stand-alone core facility features in addition to build a self-contained academy program for about 280 students

### 2018-19 Enrollments of Largest CT Middle Schools

<table>
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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>School</th>
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<th>7</th>
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<th>Total 6-8</th>
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<td>Middlesex Middle</td>
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<td>Broadview Middle</td>
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<td>321</td>
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*Source: CSDE Edsight*
Option 2a

- Would become largest middle school in state at about 1,300 students
- Would require redistricting portions of Rogers Park to Broadview
  - Potential to consolidate King and Stadley Rough to send entirely to Broadview
  - Potential to send Morris St. to Broadview
  - Avoids further splitting elementary school feeder pattern
- Would overtax existing facility’s core capacity (cafeteria, gym, media center, etc.)
Option 2b

- Construct additional core spaces to develop stand-alone programming area
- Develop self-contained educational program for a new academy
- Draw students from all over District, similar to Westside
BROADVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
13 CLASSROOM ADDITION
Middle School Options

**Long-Term Option 3**

- Construct 13 additional classrooms at Westside for occupancy in 2025-26
  - Increase capacity by about 280 students for a total capacity of about 1,030
  - Expand magnet programming by 280 students who will be pulled out of Broadview and Rogers Park districts

- Construction concerns at Westside
  - Need for/ lack of swing space during construction
  - Parking issues with additional staff and program
- Projected to exceed 3,500 students beginning in 2021-22
- Nearing 4,000 students in 2024-25
## High School Options

### Long-Term Option

- Construct new 9th grade academy for 1,100 students on-site for occupancy in 2024-25
- Options would eliminate either current parking or playfields on site

### Table: 9th Grade Academy and Danbury Public High School Enrollments

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### Chart: Peak Enrollment

- Peak Enrollment: 4,086 students (688 greater than 19/20 school year)
- 559 students in five years
- Option: Construct a new Freshman Academy for 1,100 students
High School Options

DANBURY HIGH SCHOOL
9TH GRADE ACADEMY

OPTION A

OPTION B

Google Earth
# Options Summary

## DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Project Implementation Schedule**

February 5, 2020

### DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - Short Term / Long Term Options

<table>
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<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<th>2023</th>
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### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Peak Enrollment: 3,731 students (192 greater than 19/20 school year)
  - Options - Short Term
    - Potential Lease 2 Classrooms
    - Existing Lease 7 CR at Sacred Heart
  - Options - Long Term
    - Renovate Osborne Street (7 CR) Annex to Ellisworth
    - Construct 15 CR plus program spaces addition at Great Plain - Early Childhood Center

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Peak Enrollment: 3,064 students (390 greater than 19/20 school year)
  - Options - Long Term 1
    - Construct Modular CR at ea. of 3 cr. Middle Schools
  - Options - Long Term 2
    - Construct Broadview Addition - 15 CR
    - Construct Broadview Academy - 13 CR with program spaces
  - Options - Long Term 3
    - Construct addition at Westside (15+ CR)

### DANBURY HIGH SCHOOL

- Peak Enrollment: 4,086 students (688 greater than 19/20 school year)
  - 2022 students in five years
  - Option
    - Construct a new Freshman Academy for 3,100 students

![Color Legend]

- Blue: State Grant Process
- Brown: Design
- Red: Construction
- Green: Occupancy
- Blue Star: Peak Enrollment

Note: Project timeline from 3/30/20 to 6/30/21.
Recommendations

**Elementary**
- Pursue leased space and Ellsworth Annex renovation to provide short-term capacity when projected to be needed the most – in the next three years
- Construct addition to Great Plain to relieve the District of leases in long-term

**Middle**
- Pursue addition to Broadview as a stand-alone academy
- From a constructability, and operations stand-point, most prudent option to ensure capacity available when need becomes imperative: 2025-26

**High**
- Construct 9th grade academy to ensure sufficient capacity as soon as is possible
- Construct on existing parking because replacement parking areas can be scattered around the site
Next Steps

- Discuss options and decide on path forward
- Refine project options and estimates based on final selections
- Pursue bonding for implementation
- Develop Ed Specs and prepare state grant applications
- Submit grant applications