

Manchester Public Schools



SMARTR Committee Board of Education Update January 2013



School Modernization and Reinvestment Team Revisited Charge

During their Joint meeting on January 30, 2012, the Board of Directors and Board of Education proposed establishing a working group, School Modernization and Reinvestment Team Revisited (SMARTR), to develop and recommend a long term big picture strategy for finishing this decade's school building investments to include recommendations for:

1. The number of schools required to provide appropriate and sustainable educational facilities for the next generation.
2. The impact of enrollment data and student demographic data on grade level configuration and racial balance in our schools.
3. The impact of curriculum and instructional changes over the next twenty years on school design and functional use of school building space.
4. Capital Improvements necessary for appropriate and quality space given a recommended strategy including priority immediate investments.

Team membership shall consist of:

4 members of the Board of Education, selected by the Board of Education;

4 members of the Board of Directors, selected by the Board of Directors;

1 member of the Building Committee, recommended by the Committee to the Board of Directors for approval;

4 members of the public to be approved by the Majority and Minority Leaders of both Boards.

The team shall have an initial budget of \$30,000 with which to engage appropriate expert advice/analysis. The team shall report out to the Board of Directors and Board of Education jointly at the end of July 2012 or sooner if the process dictates.

Guiding principles established to meet charge

- Identify a school design(s) to provide appropriate and sustainable educational facilities for the next generation.
- Meet the needs of current and projected enrollment data and student demographic data on a grade level configuration.
- Allow for a racially balanced school district.
- Provide equitable access to high quality education options.
- Consider the impact of curriculum and instructional changes over the next twenty years.
- Identify capital improvements necessary for appropriate, high quality, engaging learning environments.
- Demonstrate long term fiscal responsibility with consideration given to cost-sharing and education legislation.

SMARTR Committee - Leadership, Plan Framework and Timeline

- **SMARTR Leadership**
 - Chair – Mike Crockett
 - Vice-Chair – Megan Alubicki Flick
 - Secretary – Jason Doucette
 - Committee Facilitator – Sarah Walton
- **Major Plan Phases**
 - Educational and Program Model
 - Facility Design
 - Architectural Design
- **Timeline**
 - Tentatively targeting delivery of a recommendation supporting a potential November 2013 Referendum
- **Other Plan Highlights**
 - Regular Updates to the Board of Education and the Board of Directors
 - Development of a Survey Tool

To grow and develop the Manchester Public Schools and remain educationally competitive, the SMARTR committee makes the following initial proposals for consideration:

(consistent with guidance from the Board of Education)

- A. development of a Kindergarten through 4th Grade Model for all Manchester elementary schools
- B. creation of a 5th Grade and 6th Grade Campus at Cheney / Bennet with a fully renovated/expanded Cheney School and with shared common spaces (i.e.: Gym, Kitchen, Library, Unified ARTS)
- C. development of design feasibility parameters for new or like-new renovation for Washington School and Robertson School
- D. creation of a magnet school within the district

Rationale for initial proposals:

A. K-4 model:

- create capacity for growth and/or swing space
- enable schools to potentially house PreK in the future

B. 5th/6th grade campus:

- allows students to acclimate to each location for longer
- educationally sound and widely-used model

C. Washington & Robertson:

- both schools currently at capacity (other approaching capacity)
- demographic projections predict continued growth, especially for these two areas

D. Magnet school:

- allows for innovative, theme-based learning for Manchester students
- would help Manchester remain competitive, given the region's many school choices

Actions taken to date in support of the initial proposals:

- A. None: this is contingent upon results of feasibility study

- A. In progress: A Request for Qualifications / Proposals (RFQ /P) is currently circulating, which solicits design firms to present the town with a cost for developing a feasibility study for like-new renovation (and possible expansion) of the Cheney Building and site.

- B. In progress: A Request for Qualifications / Proposals (RFQ /P) is currently circulating, which solicits design firms to present the town with separate costs for each facility (Washington and Robertson) for a feasibility study detailing the renovation/ replacement (and possible expansion) of the schools.

- C. Phase I research completed(by SMARTR): Determined value of potential magnet school through presentations and research

SMARTR Committee

2013 Proposed High Level Timeline

Receive RFQ/P Responses , Develop Short List	Late January
Conduct Interviews, Complete Final Selection	Mid to Late February
Complete Feasibility Study	Late March
Submit Proposed Schematic Design and Cost Estimate	Early to Mid-June
Review and Approve Recommendation (SMARTR)	Early July
Review and Approve (BOE)	Late July/Early August
Review and Approve (BOD)	Late August/Early September
Submit Plan to the State	Mid-September
Present Referendum to the Voters of Manchester	November

Future Priorities

(not listed in order of importance or proposed attention)

- NEASC report (i.e. locker rooms, synthetic multipurpose athletic field, indoor track, etc.)
- Possible Central Office relocation (to accommodate and improve Robertson)
- Bentley relocation (for space at MHS and independent site for Bentley)
- Central location for facility crews (for time and cost efficiency)
- Attention to Critical Assessment (addressing critical repairs at all schools)
- Enhanced Security Measures (as described in Dr. Kisiel's recommendations)