

## **Columbia Public Schools: Attendance Area Virtual Q&A Session | May 9, 2024**

1. Will rising 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders be permitted to remain at their current schools? What about siblings?
  - a. While the Board is considering this, it is not guaranteed. The Board will be presented with facility utilization information accompanying the final options in June related to allowing 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and siblings to remain so that they can be informed when making a decision.
2. What is the timeline for Board decisions on Phases 2 & 3?
  - a. The Board will be presented with final options at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate a vote will take place on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. Phase I was to fill Russell Boulevard. Why are students being moved out of Russell Boulevard Elementary in phases 2 & 3?
  - a. When the new Southwest Elementary opens, it will need to pull in the neighborhoods surrounding it from Beulah Ralph Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, and Rock Bridge Elementary. When this occurs, some of these schools become underutilized, so we need to pull in additional areas to the now-underutilized schools that currently attend more northern schools, Russell Boulevard included. The goal is to balance utilizations among the west-side schools, as well as leave room for some growth in the southwest corridor.
4. Do you also consider other options besides the five options you provided on the website?
  - a. Yes! As much as possible, we try to show every feasible attendance area change within the initial options to get the feedback that we need to narrow these changes down to finalized options. We are currently reviewing all the feedback received to combine and create new options based on what we heard from the community. The final options presented in June will not look exactly like any of the initial options presented in late April.
5. Why does every option show the high schools being overutilized in the future?
  - a. CPS has some large classes moving through the system, followed by smaller class sizes. Along with this, over the last 10 years, every 8<sup>th</sup> grade class has grown when they enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The projections are showing overall growth at the high school level as these larger classes make their way through the system and grow year after year, causing the overutilization.
6. Why were the Grant boundaries in the old southwest moved to Russell Boulevard in some options again? They were already on the first survey, the community responded, and the board voted against moving Grant's boundaries.
  - a. The Board voted for a different area moving into Russell Boulevard for phase 1; they did not vote against the other options, nor was it stated that this area would not be impacted in phases 2 or 3. Grant is projected to be heavily utilized over the next 5 years, and moving the northwestern-most portion of that attendance area into Russell Boulevard is a feasible option to prevent future overutilization. We will be reviewing the feedback for phases 2 & 3 to determine if that change will make it into the final options.