



COLLIERVILLE SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION POSITION STATEMENT ON FUTURE ENROLLMENT AND FACILITIES

Operational in 2014

In December 2013, the Collierville Schools Board of Education began their work as the body elected to set policy and guide the long term vision for Collierville Schools. Collierville Schools officially started operations on July 1, 2014, and the first day of school was August 4, 2014. Collierville Schools is now over half way through the first school-year as a new school district. Our first semester was very successful and our schools, as well as our students, are exceeding our expectations. Collierville Schools has become a model for other districts, and families are moving from all corners of our region in order to experience the quality of education that is available in our community.

While growth is positive, it is also creates capacity issues that must be dealt with over the coming years. Facing this issue head-on is the approach approved by our Board of Education. To that end, Collierville Schools is currently undertaking a Five-Year Strategic Plan that will help us navigate and set goals that will serve to assist our Board and district leadership in planning for the future of education in Collierville. While we have been very successful thus far in our current school settings, there is growing concern that our lack of capacity in our middle schools and at Collierville High School could hamper educational achievement if not addressed over the next few years.

The Immediate Issue of Over Crowding

As early as January 2014, the Collierville Schools Board of Education identified capacity issues at our middle schools and high school as an urgent issue that must be addressed immediately. In an effort to resolve this issue on a temporary basis, a three-year interlocal agreement was reached with the Germantown Municipal School District. This agreement allows Collierville residents attending schools in Germantown at the middle and high school level to remain through their exit grade or graduation. 525 students who live in Collierville are currently under the interlocal agreement and attending Germantown Municipal Schools. If these students attended Collierville High School this year, the student population would be 2,687 students compared to the current Collierville High School enrollment of 2,152 students. This agreement with Germantown expires in 2018, and then all students in Collierville will be zoned for Collierville schools, thus pushing our middle schools and high school far beyond maximum capacity.



Addressing Student Population Growth at Collierville High School (CHS)

- Originally Designed CHS Student Capacity - 2,000 students
- Current CHS Enrollment in 2014 - 2,152 students
- Projected CHS Enrollment for 2016 - 2,300 students
- Projected CHS Enrollment for 2018 - 2,800 students

To help the Collierville Schools Board of Education develop a plan to address the growth in student enrollment, a Feasibility Study was commissioned through Fleming Architects. One of the initial goals of the Feasibility Study was to examine the possibility of expanding the current Collierville High School campus to accommodate an enrollment of 3,000 students. The study found that the buildings at Collierville High School are structurally sound and the infrastructure, such as plumbing and electrical wiring is in good shape. The primary concern noted in the Feasibility Study was that the current High School campus barely accommodates today's current enrollment of 2,152 students, as the campus was originally designed for an enrollment of 2,000. Fleming Architects study concluded that the current 50 acre Collierville High School site is not large enough to accommodate a projected student enrollment of 3,000 and that attempting to increase capacity through more portable classrooms is not feasible due to space limitations. In addition, key areas of infrastructure, such as the cafeteria, restrooms, gymnasium, size of hallways and adequate parking spaces for staff and students, would prove to be inadequate to serve the increased student population.

Addressing Middle School Capacity Issues

Fleming Architects did determine that the existing Collierville High School campus can be upgraded to satisfactorily serve a smaller student body enrollment. One of the recommendations in the study is to repurpose the existing Collierville High School campus into a middle school, thus creating a third middle school. Schilling Farms Middle School and Collierville Middle School are currently at or above capacity with student enrollment. Collierville Middle School has a capacity of 914 and a current student of 871. Schilling Farms has a capacity of 976 and a current population 1,049. Middle school student population is expected to increase by 160 in 2016 as a result of students transitioning back from Germantown Schools. Normal population growth would naturally put these schools over capacity requiring a third middle school.

If the high school campus is converted to a third middle school, there would be additional space available at the site for other opportunities such as creating a maintenance center for the district or developing a professional development/training center for Collierville teachers and administrators. In addition to those options, space could be available for general use by the community for things such as classes and activities for seniors, community use of meeting rooms and partnership opportunities with the Town to use the athletic fields. The future cost savings related to using the existing site for other functions in addition to a middle school would be significant.



Focus on the Future ... Operational to Aspirational

In a work session on February 12, 2015, the Collierville Schools Board of Education made a presentation to the Collierville Board of Mayor and Aldermen outlining their five year capital plan and the Fleming Architects Feasibility Study. Their presentation included a recommendation to construct a new high school and repurpose the existing Collierville High School into a middle school.

Now we turn our focus to the future and towards the aspiration of our mission to prepare our students for a life of scholarship, integrity, and service. To accomplish this, we understand that it is incumbent upon us to provide a learning environment where students feel safe, comfortable and a sense of belonging. These future capital improvements will be vital to achieving these objectives.

We realize that there is a lot of information to be consumed to have a full understanding of all the issues surrounding the future of our schools. Rest assured that we are in the early stages of determining the solutions and a definite plan for moving forward has not been established. As we continue to gather information and refine the details of our plan we will keep you updated.

We welcome your feedback on this important matter. Please look at our website ColliervilleSchools.or, where you will find the Five Year Capital Plan, The Fleming Architects Feasibility Study, a list of frequently asked questions and a link to the Town of Collierville's website www.collierville.com. There you will find similar information, including specifics about potential funding.