

Personal Notes

June 21st 2023 board of education meeting notes. These notes have not been vetted for spelling or accuracy.

Public comments

- Triplet, teacher 3rd grade. Asks for transparency and a long term plan.
- colleen Vitengroober. Teaching in dps for 8 years. Wants 6-8th students to be together. Opposes mobile classrooms. Asks for stephen d to include 6th?
- kemberly taylor. 25 ys teaching, 5th in the district. Encourages listening.
- krista hudson. HS english teacher @ Garfield. With district since 2010. Concern about combined classes, moving schools, and other frequent changes. Move to stephen d really concerns her. Concern about fights and behaviorqly challenged kids.
- sara nave (vocal onfb). 6th yr at dennis. 12th in district. Wants to keep dennis 6th-8th together. Bc of district negligence, being torn out of dennis
- ashlyn hyger. Dennis alumni. Does not support combining schools (stephen d & dennis) bc sports, personal experience.
- denise swarhout sending emails during public comment
- emily kelly, 1st grade dennis teacher. Family feel w/staff and students. Sad about 7th & 8th being excluded. Address feelings of families. This is traumatic. Keep us together.
- kyle hennel, klingner and associates. Helped but together the structural investigation
- kevin ellis. Same thing
- kristen krim. Mom of a 6th grader at dennis. Been there since kindergarten. He wants to graduate from dennis 8th grade. Wants to keep k-8th together
- kaitlyn west, just finished first year teaching. Emotional appeal. Encourages answers.
- josh liza/lipa?. Athletics coach? No answers yet for athletics. Run athletic program simultaneously with stephen decatur, but separately
- phil winicke. Dennis teacher. Creates problems for garfield too. Also send 6th to stephen d to be with other dennis kids. Mobile classrooms are barely just enough. Need long term strategic plan brought to the public. Don't abstain from this or future votes.
- lisa holman... not present.
- ashley Tyler. Dennis parent since pre-k. Now 6th grade. He first asked about project based learning. Then graduating from dennis. Also works at dennis. Started at french. Had same concerns about the structure when she started there. 7 mindsets, accountability, asking board for accountability.
- Homer lyushas? Concerned citizen. Excel manufacturing building? Possible permanent campus there, suggest cheaper than the Garfield plan.

Public comments finished.

Reports from admin. Principals reached out and offered support. Thanks dennis community.

- summarizes damage to buildings.
- tells room shaking and daylight in floor story.
- some back and forth about scheduling.
- Prelim report received may 31, need full report.
- Short term plan about getting belongings from dennis (need to figure it out)
- long term plan. Says they've looked at every viable option and had previous meetings but this is first community involvement.
- Move garfield k-12 to its own wing at stephen D.
- Dennis k-6 go to garfield & 7th 8th dennis go to stephen D. 6 module classrooms.
- still figuring out relocation. Metzger speaks about relocation. Started making arrangements to get boxes/moving materials. Pending board decision, modular will continue prep work, put out a schedule, and figure out where admins will go.
- Staffing, dianne holman hr interim director. Hr is looking at special certifications, special licensure, and communicating with DEA to comply with contract.
- Food is brought to dennis students currently??
- admin. Want inout from admins about where they'll go.
- Security. ... idk.
- Dr mike curry. Transportation team is ready to build plan tomorrow depending on decision tonight
- long term plan. Connecting with "another outside party" to look over the report. Wants specialist in masonry work, not necessarily bldd. Wants community engagement from staff, parents, etc.

Questions from the board. Returning to table.

- mark reynolds. Asks about extra mobile classrooms to keep 7th & 8th grade. Clark she has access to 6 new, maybe 2 or 3 used ones. Metzger says there is space for more modules, but it depends on supply of mobile classrooms.
- Wetzel. Where coming from. Vendor, market? Dr curry. Desta or vesta modular & jmo
- Schneider. 2023-2024 school year. Schnieder says whole year is misleading & clark says however long it takes. Asks about stairway repair. How long would that take. Metzger: 3 consultants here. Steve oliver from bidd. Philip holthaus from bfw. Kyle hennel from klingner. Century + old building. Old planning/construction was less documented than modern planning. Very unique situation. Want to get input from expert masonry repair ppl.
- Klingners kyle hennel. Need to make design of repair then bids from contractors & the contractors would have a better idea of timelibe. Kyle guesses stair repair is a quicker project than kaleidoscope.
- Schneider quotes klingner reccomendation. Asks about building demolition. Kyle says maybe partial demolition, but not dull demo of building.
- wetzel. How many active school buildings have you seen in this situation. Kyle. None as bad as the bowing at kaleidoscope. Wetzel. In your opinion, are the buildings salvageable? Kyle. Anything can be repaired & how long will the repair survive & will other issues pop up. Wetzel. Root cause?? Kyle. Unclear, lack of bracing, water infiltration over time, no one clear single cause.
- Reynolds. What can be done to let staff get their items & for district to extract equipment. Metzger. Parts of buildings are not compromised. After meeting, putting together formal schedule to allow staff to get their belongings. Limited time frames for extraction. Some areas are not safe and are inaccessible. May be opportunities for buildings and grounds to retrieve items on teachers' behalf from those areas. Nobody will go in by themselves.
- Schneider. If not totally compromised, what is possibility of having classes in unaffected areas? Garfield concerns ... would like to find single place for dennis k-8. Mentions kroger and star tek and thinks they should be considered. Try to avoid forcing garfield to move. Need to move fast. Mentions demoing buildings and that would take 2 years. Encourages repairs. Says question of cost is their responsibility, not contractors. He says travel to europe & they have multi hindred year old buildings & wpuld hate to see dennis torn down. Can we keep k8 together? Or at least the middle school. He supports the modules, thinks that needs to happen regardless.
- clark. admin will not recommend any parts of either campus to be utilized. Fairview plaza. Metzger talked to them. Metzger. They've intellectually walked through all the vacant places in decatur and said it ultimately came down to timing, and that lead times on construction materials are long. Said its not possible to get partitions in time. Classroom is very digital. Wiring is challenging too. Says there's just not timr for big box stores.
- Wetzel. Top 3 places brought up & why didn't they work? Clark. Tech academy, also had significant damage and wiring issues. Looked at HS but don't want elementary at HS building. Looked at Stephen D but classroom splitting. Wetzel. Decade hls survey. Dennis plan was abandoned. Any 2013-2022 engineering reports? Clark says none since 2013, one due this year.
- schneider. Could teachers go with buildings staff? Metzger. We've hired professionals for their opinion & should respect that opinion. Says if catastpphic, should minimize risk. Says admin has to make decision about taking on that risk. Clark also says no, no teachers, and no to her own staff.
- wetzel. No prior relationship with klingner or bfw? Clark. No. No previous ties with city? Don't think so. Don't know. Wetzel. Timeframe for roadmap if decisions, community forum, etc. Clark. Waiting on specialist. Wetzel, how will we engage people outside internet & traditional media? Clark, will put together committee and then put together reports like this. Wetzel. How can ppl ask questions, give feedback? Clark. Use website, call.
- Schneider. Need survey if dennis community for long term planning. Clark is sure committee will want same
- wetzel. What sre possible negative effectsbon students & how will we mitigate those? Clark. Kids are not always responsive to change. Remind them we're still here for them. Cannot start staying what will happen. Want to have wrap around service for students. Vague answers....
- clevenger. Asks steve to run us through lead times for stem building. Says 1 year lead times. Says contractors are busy and its difficult to even get bids on projects. Asks steve how long to get drawings. Steve says 60 to 90 days. Clevenger hopes to repair building. Says bigger dps61 issue is leadership turnover. Kent here about 18nmomths. Mike 1 year. Clark 1.5 year. Larry 1 year (who larry?). Worked with 17 school superintendents during his tenure at park district and wants to keep staff around.
- schneider. I'm not hearing that we are statting to move on repairs. Wishes they were taking a vote on these next steps and wants it on the next board agenda. Dr curry. Kent working on plan to get specialists in. Says time is your biggest enemy. Curry says rhey are moving ahead on assessing the repair possibilities.
- clevenger asks schnieder to back up and explains board process about superintendent bringing forward recommendation. Says they need a nod from board before they dig deep on a recommendation. Clark says it is not simple. She talks about how complicated it is. Asks for patience and to let us do our jobs.
- Schneider encourages stair repair and wants to move quickly.
- Wetzel. A year ago. At gens office found board makeuo violated OMA??? How will board hold themselves accountable? Clevenger. Says hes worked with OMA for 40years and will try his best. Will ensure legal counsel follows through. Transparency is always a mantra. We cant hold every individual meeting with contractors in a public forum. Thats what our staff does. Staff brings recommendations & then its uo to board for a finak decision. Its time to put the oma behind us and its our intent to fully comply with that.
- schneider. Would there be locked doors vetween stephen d & garfield portion of bdd. Metzger. Looking to place partitions, and also need fire plan. Will separate populations as much as possible.
- schneider. By tuesday, have discussion about k-8 staying together at garfield mobile modules. Clark says it is on tuesdays board meeting.
- Clevenger. Asks dr curry to vring cost to tuesday meeting if adding more modulars. Curry says this one is still available as of 5 minutes ago.
- Votes. Clark recommends YES. Wetzel. Asks if tuesday will include discussion of extra modulars. Schnieder will vote in favor with assumption of getting more modulars. Curry clarifies LEASE, not purchase. 4 aye, zero nay, 3 absent.
- june 27 @ keil. Motion to adjourn.