



8/12/14

## **FACILITY PROBLEMS IN THE HELENA ELEMENTARY DISTRICT ARE COMPLEX**

### **HERE ARE SOME OF THE DISTRICT'S CHALLENGES**

- Elementary school buildings are quickly approaching the end of their life cycle
- Students and families are moving to areas where schools are not located or big enough to meet the growing enrollment
- Principals manage numerous facility inadequacies to meet the needs of students
- Teachers are teaching and students are learning in a patchwork of classroom spaces, e.g. basements, remodeled storage areas and modular units located outside the main school building
- Technology infrastructure is inadequate for student learning
- Adjusting school boundaries does not solve the facility issues

### **SOLVING FACILITY PROBLEMS WILL TAKE A LONG TIME**

- Take a fiscally prudent **1<sup>st</sup> step with an elementary bond** to address extensive facility needs
  1. Build new Jim Darcy
  2. Renovate Warren
  3. Build new Central
  4. Create Tech Centers at all schools
- **Improve schools** educationally for students **today and into the future**
  - Place 41% of K-5 students in new or renovated school
  - Provide 100% elementary and middle school students with up-to-date technology

**NOTE:** The Board adopted an **Elementary School Facility Plan** on June 25, 2014 which is now **delayed**. The **Helena City Commission** must **decide** whether the current Central school can be demolished.

## Jim Darcy

Current Problems	Phase One Elementary Bond Solution	City of Helena Commission Decision	Status Quo Options "Then What?"
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Growing enrollment of students and families living in the North Valley</li> <li>2. Overflow students to all other schools in district</li> <li>3. Inadequate classrooms and learning spaces</li> </ol>	<p>Build New Jim Darcy School at existing site to accommodate enrollment needs; purchase four acres; adjust boundaries with Rossiter Elementary School</p> <p><b>Cost: \$18,291,000</b></p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue busing students to schools across the district</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Starting Fall 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin busing new kindergarteners</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin busing fourth grade students to other schools</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create grade specific cluster schools with Rossiter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Determine how to manage common space, cafeteria, gym, library</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adjust elementary school boundaries for school attendance areas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ul>



## Warren

Current Problems	Phase One Elementary Bond Solution	City of Helena Commission Decision	Status Quo Options "Then What?"
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Respond to students and families living in the west valley</li> <li>2. Eliminate student overflow into other elementary schools</li> <li>3. Inadequate classrooms and learning spaces</li> </ol>	<p>Renovate Warren School to accommodate enrollment needs, purchase six acres, address wastewater and fire suppression needs</p> <p><b>Cost: \$9,828,000</b></p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue busing students to schools across the district</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Revert to smaller school so there is ample common learning spaces and bus more students to other schools</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adjust elementary school boundaries for school attendance areas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ul>



## Central & 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gymnasium

Current Problems	Phase One Elementary Bond Solution	City of Helena Commission Decision	Status Quo Options "Then What?"
<p>1. Students are displaced to the Lincoln site</p> <p>2. Inadequate classrooms and learning spaces</p>	<p>Build New Central at existing site maintaining historical characteristics</p> <p><b>Cost: \$17,030,000</b></p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> School district must submit application to the Helena City Commission which has 60 days to respond</p>	<p>Application to City Commission is denied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Offer solution that addresses our needs without the option of demolishing Central</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitate school and move forward with the Phase 1 Bond</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Delay Central decision to the next facility bond phase to provide time for a thorough discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shift focus to other East side elementary schools for renovation/construction to address facility/student needs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintain shuttered school in city center at \$48k/year and continue to send 260 students to temporary Lincoln site</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sell buildings and land</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adjust elementary school boundaries for school attendance areas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to bus students to Lincoln site</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adjust elementary school boundaries for school attendance areas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ul>



## Bryant

Current Problems	Phase One Elementary Bond Solution	City of Helena Commission Decision	Status Quo Options "Then What?"
1. Bryant facility challenges	Close school	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep Bryant open <input type="checkbox"/> Close Bryant regardless of bond because building is an inadequate facility for students and staff <input type="checkbox"/> Adjust boundaries for students to attend other elementary schools that are closest to where they live <input type="checkbox"/> Other

## Technology

Current Problems	Phase One Elementary Bond Solution	City of Helena Commission Decision	Status Quo Options "Then What?"
1. Insufficient technology infrastructure 2. Inadequate learning tool for students	Technology Tech Centers in elementary and middle schools  Cost: \$2,182,128	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue using current level of resources to meet the ever evolving technology needs <input type="checkbox"/> Other



## **Boundary Adjustments:**

- Simply adjusting boundaries does not solve our facility issues because it does not address the educational adequacy of the buildings.
- The idea of balancing schools or pushing students south through boundary adjustments is not a viable option. The obstacle this creates is eventually a large block of students will be bused past one school to reach their new neighborhood school. For example, if we move Jim Darcy students to Rossiter and Rossiter students to Four Georgians then Broadwater is quickly filled. It could be very possible that students would be pushed past Broadwater to attend Hawthorne or Kessler. In reality trying to balance our schools through boundary adjustments is just the reintroduction of mass busing.