

DRAFT
Summary of Themes
Public Meetings on BISD Configuration of Schools

Below are summarized “themes” taken from small group discussion notes and report out across all the public meetings. We have intentionally kept out information related to preferred paths or options, in favor of the more neutral information that the SCC needs to continue with objective analysis.

Please review our summary and edit where you may feel the information is inaccurate or biased, AND add any themes that we have missed.

- Why are we planning reconfiguration now? What problem(s) are we trying to solve?
- For all options, how does the immediate savings balance against the real costs of facilities and disruptions?
- We need to be sure we don’t lose students through disruption and change in the current model.
- Will current Commodore options programs remain? Will they continue in the same model? Will they grow to meet demand?
- If options are expanded with a central location, how does that affect enrollment at the other schools?
- We assume the demographic data is “right”. What if it’s wrong?
- What are the real costs of disruption? How do we know any change will be better programmatically?
- What about the revenue side of the finances? What is the plan to increase revenue through increased enrollment? We need to attract students from both private schools and off-island through distinct programs.
- Do we really understand the combination of features that have made BISD successful academically? Do we understand those features and others that that could draw increases in enrollment and how is that considered in options?
- Is our current 5/6 and 7/8 model the right one for today, given early maturation and teen culture?
- What is the fall-back plan if changes are initiated with a “jump-start” and the bond fails?
- How acceptable are increased portables as part of this change? Are they safe? Do they compromise programs? Do they isolate kids from the core school? How likely are they to become long-term capacity?
- How important is transportation to this decision (costs, route complexity, convenience to families, effect on island traffic patterns, etc.)?
- We need more information from the legislature about elements that will strongly affect costs and revenue equations. (e.g., class size, transportation, unfunded mandates, etc).

- What constitutes over-crowding at schools? Concern that all the options trigger over-crowding at Woodward and limit flexibility for increased enrollment in future years.
- We have stability now in a system that works with the ability to change in the future if we grow or if the economic picture worsens. We have too little information now to initiate major change.
- Disrupting school culture is a major factor. Is change proposed by options other than the present configuration worth disruption of school cultures?
- Is the SCC open to other good options brought forward by the public?
- Openness and transparency of data and analysis behind any recommendation/decision is critical. How will the district insure timely, transparent information updates for public access as planning progresses?

Other: (Please list only those things that are NOT preferences...e.g., variables that would influence how or what and how future analysis is done).

Thank you for your help.