

Bainbridge Island School District
School Configuration Committee (SCC)
October 2012

Charge to the Committee

The School Board charge to the committee is to develop school configuration options that best accomplish the district's mission, vision, and guiding principles within the constraints of the district's economic and demographic limitations. It is expected that the committee will analyze multiple scenarios and bring to the School Board a recommended set of options to be considered for implementation.

Committee Tasks and Responsibilities

The term "configuration" refers to the relative disposition or arrangement of the parts or elements of an object or system. In this case, the School Configuration Committee is being asked to consider factors such as school size, school locations, grade levels served, and the relationship of these types of elements to educational programs and services. The committee is being asked to accomplish a number of tasks as it develops and considers a number of options:

1. Consider relevant research regarding school size and grade level configurations in determining options.
2. Consider educational programs and services in relation to space and facilities needs in determining configuration options.
3. Consider size and location of school populations that would make any recommended configuration a viable option.
4. Consider enrollment patterns and projections to determine time frame possibilities and constraints relative to configuration options.
5. Consider the current condition and location of existing facilities and implications for configuration options.
6. Develop both short-term and long-term configuration options, ranging from the option of no change to closing school(s) and combining school populations.
7. Communicate with constituent groups regarding committee activities and deliberations and solicit feedback for consideration.

Assumptions

Assumptions that will frame the work of the School Configuration Committee include the following:

- The district's primary goal is to utilize available resources to provide the students of Bainbridge Island with the highest quality educational opportunities in alignment with the district's mission, vision, and guiding principles.
- The School Configuration Committee will analyze multiple scenarios and recommend a set of options to be considered for implementation.
- The Board of Directors will make the final decision regarding the school configuration plan.
- The committee will need to balance two priorities:
 - maintaining or enhancing student learning and the quality of the district's educational programs, and
 - utilizing available resources in the most cost-effective manner.

- The SCC will address the following 4 variables in formulating its recommendations:
 - The grade levels to be served by the district's schools
 - The size of schools for various grade levels
 - The number of schools in the district
 - The location of schools in the district
- The committee will consider the potential impact of recommended options on the General Fund, Capital Fund, and Transportation Fund, including the potential for
 - Cost savings
 - Future levy and bond requests
 - Transition costs
 - Staffing changes
 - Transportation costs
- The committee will consider the potential impact of recommended options on existing programs.
- The committee will consider the potential impact that recommended options could have on schedules and logistical considerations for students, families, and staff.
- The district does not currently anticipate significant reductions in state allocations for K-12 education funding in the next biennium, due to the recent Supreme Court ruling in the McCleary lawsuit. However, state economic projections do not provide a foundation for optimism that K-12 General Fund allocations will be significantly higher in the immediate future.
- School configuration changes can provide the context for consideration of new educational opportunities or programs for students. The SCC will consider the work of the K-6 Educational Programs and Innovations Committee as it formulates its recommendations.
- The committee is expected to gather input from parents, staff members and the community at large prior to formulating its final recommendations.

Operating Principles

The School Configuration Committee members will:

- Utilize the district's mission, vision and guiding principles and the educational goals and priorities established by the Board of Directors as the primary tools for assessing school configuration options.
- Conduct its deliberations in a manner that is open, honest, respectful and cooperative.
- Develop realistic recommendations, using all pertinent educational, financial, operational and facilities information.
- Ensure development of recommendations that consider both short-term needs and long-term implications.
- Communicate with constituent groups regarding committee activities and deliberations.
- Adhere as closely as possible to established timelines for decision-making, providing sufficient time and opportunity for parents, staff, and community members to review and respond to proposed options and committee recommendations.