

Space Committee Considerations

If the district were to make programmatic decisions regarding elementary space in the next five years, (e.g. full day kindergarten, enrollment growth, enrollment imbalance, etc.) what are the pros and cons of the following options? Please note – changing small class size is not in consideration at this time.

	Pros	Cons
<p>1. Add rooms to each elementary school. (Note: multiple small additions are more expensive than a single large addition; redistricting may be required.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep kids at same school that they are familiar with. - Redistricting would be less than having two bigger elementary schools. - The less movement, the better for the children/families. - Best overall plan. Minimal changes to kids/staff/services. - Keep kids at the same school - Kindergarteners would remain in the elementary schools. - Keep siblings together longer - Less stress on teachers and families d/t rising standards - 5th grade would get to stay in elementary school. - Keep students in their neighborhood - Would not require extensive redistricting - May be the most expensive, but it keeps age-appropriate kids together - Each building has a bit more space - All K students stay in the same school as siblings. - K-5 children stay in home school for all six years - Keep current class size manageable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better for students & teachers - Parental involvement - Student development - Limited change to existing schedules - Great option for schools that are or will become overpopulated. - No need for redistricting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redistrict would be a nightmare. - Population shift down the road leading to unused space. - Cost - Disruptive to more buildings. - May have to update building codes to meet new construction. - Disruptive to students - RH has history of building for minimum, not for growth. - When will the additions stop? - Cost - Redistricting - Transportation costs - Small additions may not work long term?? - Expensive - Parents should not be forced to send their child to full-day K if they believe ½ day is appropriate. - For children in spec. ed, full day K is wonderful, especially if they have many pullout services; they can be with their peers a lot longer. - Is this a long-term solution? - Still doesn't address challenge of local (close) elementary for Riverton & new developments. - Still get long bus rides. - Expensive! - Construction distracting - Not all schools have the ability to add on. At capacity. - Unnecessary expense to expand schools that don't need the space. - I think our K-5 schools are currently at a nice size. - Not logical or economical—build where there is need - Requires longer bus rides for areas with more kids because some will have to go to less full schools - Way too expensive - Disruptive to all schools - Too expensive, only add to one or two—not all - Cost prohibitive

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<p>2. Add rooms to one or two elementary schools. (Note: more cost effective from a construction perspective; one or two schools will be significantly larger than others; redistricting will be required.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More cost effective than doing a major construction project. - Like this plan the best so far. - No moving services or kids, less disruptive. - Less money - More cost-effective than option #1 - Allows a phased approach to growth - Straightforward solution - Somewhat less expensive - Would minimize redistricting - Prevents multiple moves of grade schoolers - Less change/cost - Will keep families in the same school longer - Like keeping Ks in their own neighborhood - Don't need as much administration/facilities increase as opening a new building - Those crowded schools now have more space. - Comparatively less cost - Allows for more flexibility with instruction with additional classrooms - Would classrooms be affected by construction and where would they go? - Would families be grandfathered in? - Makes sense with growth in specific areas being larger than in others - Neighborhoods having a school is important for kids' social development & feelings of confidence and security - Add where needed (why add to all schools if only a few need space?) - Less disruptive to the district overall - Good for balance to accommodate - Seems to make the most sense; Not all schools have the real estate to build but 1 or 2 do. - Would mean redistricting some rather than all - Keeping small class size is highly desirable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redistricting - Shift in population leading to more unused space. - No more "neighborhood" schools - More money to accommodate larger school - More salaries; support staff, etc. - High population=less personal - Big school for elementary-aged students, not appropriate - Cost - Redistricting - "Just a band-aid" - Transportation and time on bus - How will this be determined? - Unbalanced schools - Lead to more redistricting down the road as population changes - Some are already too big. We need to look at ways to balance - Parents in the district should have a choice between full day and half day! K is not taxpayer-sponsored daycare. - Not in favor of redistricting. - Is this a long-term solution? - Would like to see minimum redistricting - Where does the construction money come from? - Two schools have more resources than the others. - Lose smaller home school environment at two larger schools - Longer school bus rides for some children - Separating friends and relatives - Too many kids at one school

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<p>3. Convert Vollmer to a sixth elementary school and redistrict to balance enrollment. (Note: How would current space use at Vollmer be accommodated? The annual operating costs for a sixth school will be significant; fewer sections at each grade at each school will increase annual operating costs.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheaper than building a new school or additions onto existing schools. - Established buildings with appropriate-size facilities - Geographically located close to new developments - Redistricting would involve all new entrants - Neighborhood school to serve west side - Already set up as an elementary school - Lower construction - Re-examine some of the programs offered at Vollmer and cut some that are not cost effective - Less disruptive to district - Opens a school closer to Riverton - Redistrict once and keep the K-5 together - Would balance feeders to middle schools (i.e. 3 to Burger, 3 to Roth) - Bldg. was designed as elementary school - Bldg is in ideal spot to bus kids. - Was already an elementary school so it is ready to go. - Most new houses in that area. - A new building allows a lot of growth - Better balance at Roth & Burger? - Maintain smaller home school for students in K-5 - All 6th grade building better to help transition from elementary to middle school mindset. - Might be easiest to sell to the community. "Better use of our current facilities." - People can be irrationally suspicious of new construction. - To accommodate the growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where do the other programs at Vollmer get moved to? Even Start? ESL? UPK? RHSACCP? - Too much movement and disruption to current programs. - Costly - Relocating alternative education class and district offices - Upgrades to facilities=money - The current UPK and after school needs - Support staff needed=money - Current Leary families anticipated being a Leary family. Purchased house in that area for that reason - Where will current Vollmer programs go? - Operating costs - Transportation costs - Where will Alternative High School go? - Increase in taxes - Even Start and UPK need to stay at Vollmer - Redistricting! - May need to expand Burger to accommodate third feeder school. - What would you do with current students attending Vollmer? - Significant costs in staffing - Parents should not be forced to send their child to full-day K - Where does alternative high school get housed? - Administrative costs - Redistricting is difficult and expensive and requires a public hearing. - Redistricting affects siblings (Possible separation) - Too much transition and anxiety for many children. - Segregated by age - Too expensive - What happens to current programs using that space? - Would mean redistricting-not desirable - Cost prohibitive

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<p>4. Convert Vollmer to Early Childhood Center. (Note: All Kindergarten students attend Vollmer. How would current space use at Vollmer be accommodated? The annual operation costs for this center may be significant.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leary’s experience with Good Shepherd was wonderful community builder - Opportunities for early intervention - Good experience for full- day K only - Makes sense to have pre- K and K in same location. Teachers are certified in early childhood, more flexible for staffing. - Helps transition from UPK to K (Would UPK be centralized to one location?) - Opens up 2- 3 rooms at each elementary school - Allows for full day K - Age groups all the same for development - Nice transition from UPK/Pre- K to Kindergarten - K not on bus with older students - More programs developed to support specific needs to K (e.g. pull out focus groups to improve reading) - Like the early childhood center idea - Central location in district - Would ease crowding, esp. at Leary/Fyle - Could incorporate UPK programs, too - Like it. Easy transition for that age. - Great learning and sharing with all K teachers - I think this is a great idea for the kindergarteners to have a central location. Possibility to have a huge graduating class to move up to elementary school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This school houses RHSACCP and is a good and currently affordable program. The increase in cost and would this still be available? - Too many programs disrupted. - Children do not get to become familiar with their “home” school, staff and teachers. - Too many changes for kids from half day to full day, then changing schools, too. - Another transition for children (1st grade all day huge transition as is) - Retrofitting of building, especially if all-day K - New staffing of new building - Need to connect kids to their elementary schools for smoother transition - Good for younger and older to interact - Only 1 year at the school - Making friends and then having to change schools - Long bus ride for some kids! - Too many school changes: Pre K, K and then elementary - Operating costs - Relocating UPK and other programs - Movement of ESL may cause decrease in participation - Wrap around care? - Programs at Vollmer being relocated. - Parents should have (continue) to send their child to ½ day or full day. - Do not like the centralized K idea. Want to keep youngsters kept in their neighborhood. - Would require too many adjustments and school changes for kindergarteners. - Length of time on the bus - Home school feeling - Separation of siblings - Distance parents go for conferences, pick up kids, etc. - Initial experience in school is “throw away” because things learned about the school don’t carry over to next year. - K students lose the sense of community - Where does the alternative HS go? - Money to fix kitch and update - Teachers separated from colleagues - What about families or teams? - Would K kids be grouped by home school to build relationships? - We love having K here! They have older role models, and the older kids can offer help to K. We lost our Spec. Ed classes—please don’t take K. - As 1st grade teachers, we visit K often, getting to know kids, sharing their projects, etc. They don’t feel so scared coming to 1st grade where there is so much rigor. - Isolating for K—no opportunity to interact with/learn from older peers. - More transitions & having to get to know a whole new team. - Too much busing (distance) for 5 yr olds - Busing all K not desirable

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<p>5. Change the middle school configuration to grades 5-8, add rooms at Burger, and redistrict to balance enrollment at the two middle schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5th-8th grade better mix (maybe?) than 9th-12th grade - Construction at ONE school - Minimal building/construction/remodeling of buildings necessary - How to divvy up (redistrict) five schools into two middle schools? Is there room for 3 at Roth and 2 at Burger? - Better learning opportunities for students working above grade level. - Grade 5 access to teachers with specialization in content areas - Grade 5 students to have access to middle school courses - Good for introducing development to earlier grades - Balancing aids weaker locations in the district - Help in advancing kids with higher potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5th and 8th grade together. - Redistricting would interrupt continuity in middle school buildings. - 5th grade too young to be at middle school setting—not mature enough. - Socially and developmentally inappropriate age groups (10-14 year olds) - less flexibility with certification (elementary vs. secondary) - additional exclusion from modified sports (lowers 5th/6th grade morale) - 5th graders not ready to be with 8th gr. - Redistricting - Too large of an age range on bus! - Construction? - Set stage for behavioral issues-bullying - Would the 5th graders be changing classrooms? - 5th grade maturity level is more akin to elementary schoolers than middle schoolers. - Is there really room to do that and maintain separation of grades? - Children in this age range are often not ready for a full day of school. There must be a choice for parents and the children for ½ day kindergarten. - Would rather not have my 5th graders sharing a school with 8th graders because of maturity issues. - Lots of disparity between 5th and 8th graders. - Separate peer relationships established K-4 - Length of time on bus - 5th graders are not yet middle schoolers. This would eradicate the amazing leadership opportunities 5th graders currently have at the elementary schools. - 5th grade students are not developmentally ready to be with 8th graders. - Huge difference in maturity levels - Social vs. academic development challenges - Inconvenience based on redistricting - Bus: 5th and 8th graders on same bus may cause issues. - Don't like this option because 5th graders will be with 8th graders. - Redistricting - Some concern about sending grade 5 to middle schools

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<p>6. Change the middle school configuration to 5-7, add rooms at the NGA, and convert NGA to grades 8-9.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two years to get ready for high school. - Better option than #5 - More room to expand - Staffing wise, better for Regents level 8th grade - Nice developmental breakdown for ages - Less disruption (construction) - NO redistricting - Ages would blend well - Only construction at ONE building - Lower-cost construction - Brings all students together at 8th gr. - Teachers responsibility to 5th graders - Minimal disruption to current configuration - Better option than making 5-8. - 5, 6, 7 more alike in maturity. 8, 9 more alike in maturity. - Less transition around grade 9 - Good support for 8th grade acc classes - Grade 5 students have access to more courses. - Seems most cost effective as only one building site. - More time to build relationships when all students come together - Grade 9 students would join together as one community one year earlier. - I prefer this configuration to accommodate space for all day K due to my perspective of all the kids would be on the level playing field entering 1st gr. - Currently, there are kids attending various K schools and may not be ready for 1st grade. - Give kids two grades to get used to each other - Best option: bring 6th graders back to elementary level - Feasible, warm - Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deviating from a norm of 6-8 being middle school in many districts. - 5th grade too young for a middle school setting. - 8th grade too young for high school. - Transportation – more students shuttling to high school - 5th graders should stay in elementary school - Redistricting - 5th graders still need more guidance - Construction - Too many buildings K-4, 5-7, 8-9 & HS! - 5th-7th still too much of an age gap - State testing for 5th grade—keep elementary style for this? - Space for 8th grade and 9th grade at NGA? - NGA is already inappropriate for older kids (no auditorium, small cafeteria, small gym) It's better suited as an elementary school. - NGA would need a MAJOR overhaul. - Parents who know their child is not ready for a full day must continue to have a choice between full and ½ day. - 5th grade should stay in elementary buildings. - Fifth grade students will struggle with organization that is necessary or struggle with switching classes. - The 9th grade year where the two middle schools converge is currently an ideal situation. - Busing at the end of the day 8-12 grade is not a great scenario. - See all Cons from #5, too. - Keep the NGA as is; it works too well to change - More transitions - Less concern about 5 going to middle school with 8 going to NGA

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<p>7. Add rooms at the Senior High School, return grade 9 to the SHS (9-12), and (i) convert the NGA to a sixth elementary school (compare with option three above); (ii) move Vollmer operations to the NGA and reopen Vollmer as a sixth elementary school (see 3 above), or; (iii) convert the NGA into an Early Childhood Center (see 4 above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Like moving Vollmer to NGA and opening Vollmer as an elementary. - Like 9-12 back together as “high school” - NGA-early childhood center. - More cost effective to use the buildings currently available than build new. - Eliminate need for 9th grade kids/staff to be shuttled back and forth to HS - Easier to do higher-level classes - 9th-12th typical grouping pattern - One less transition from academic building - No placing older students with older students - (ii) Already has a playground. - (ii) Vollmer is a good central location for elementary school. - 9th graders ARE high school students and need to feel a part of high school. - (ii) Vollmer is already an elementary school so not much physical change is needed. - Transportation would be much simpler: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) No 2-stops in AM & PM (2) No busing kids from NGA to SHS for classes and vice versa. - NGA too close to Winslow now. - NGA more centrally located. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No “buffer” for 9th graders to get used to high school. - Developmentally inappropriate for 9th to be consolidated with older students - Lots of redistricting - Lots of construction/mods to renovate NGA to elementary school - HS too large - Facilities not appropriate for elementary students (bathrooms) - Too close (geographically) to current underutilized elementary school - Smoother transition/sheltered for 9th graders to high school - (ii) Why change 2 schools when you can change 1? - (i) Logistics of staffing & transportation - (iii) Part of the point of K is to start the integration with older children - The SHS is already way too crowded. - Like the NGA and SHS as is - Same cons as #4 - Too much change for K students - Redistricting - (i) 2 elementary schools too close together—busing challenges - (iii) Doesn’t seem like a strong long-term solution. - 9th graders should not be exposed to HS students. - We have good results from NGA only being one grade as a transition year between high school and middle school. - (iii) Takes a youngest out of the neighborhood. Too far away. - NGA provides for integration of the two middle schools without the added pressure of the older high school students. - Parents should have the choice to send their children to either ½ day or full day. Kindergarten is not district paid daycare. - Redistricting—who would attend the elementary building at the NGA? - NGA is a great tool for our freshman. It’s unique to RH and truly helps the transition from middle to high school. - And a great place for the two different groups of 8th graders to form community - NGA is next to Winslow; redistricting doesn’t make sense for that area. Not where elementary need is. - (iii) See cons for Vollmer to early (illegible) - (ii) Are there no satellite locations available to house various groups currently at Vollmer? Must all of Vollmer move as a whole? Is renting/leasing a few smaller spaces an option? - Buying/renting Good Shepard School? - High school too big now, don’t add more!

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8. Make Burger a 5/6 th grade school and Roth a 7/8 th grade school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Age appropriate for both schools- Roth good for 7/8 with regards to Science labs and sports- Brings all the students at grade level together sooner than 9th- Allows ability to provide more accelerated enrichment options for grades- Cost effective- Interesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is the volume balanced?- Any building changes needed?- Would the 5th graders change classes?- Would be redistricting