



Community Dialogue #2

Results Report

June 1, 2015



3325 Hilliard Rome Road

Hilliard, Ohio 43026

P: 614.798.8828

f: 614.798.8839

www.dejongrichter.com

Acknowledgements & Introduction

On Monday, January 26, 2015, Community Dialogue #2 was held at the Tennessee Room of the District office at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the community dialogue conference was to obtain input and feedback regarding the options that were developed with Kingsport City Schools Department of Education using the results from Community Dialogue #1 as a guideline.

A questionnaire was distributed to obtain input from the attendees regarding various options presented. There were a total of 7 group respondents and 222 individual respondents [22 paper and 200 web]. The pages that follow outline the responses to the questionnaire as well as all applicable comments.

DeJONG-RICHTER would like to thank the Kingsport City Schools Department of Education for the opportunity work with the community in creating a Facility Master Plan that will help define the District's facility-strategy over the next several years.

Kingsport City Schools Department of Education

Dr. Lyle C Ailshie, *Superintendent*

Board of Education

Carrie Upshaw

Susan Lodal

Dr. Randall Montgomery

Todd Golden

Eric Hyché

DeJONG-RICHTER

Tracy Richter, REFP, C.E.O.

Ann Hoffsis, REFP, Director of Enrollment Projection Services

Matt Sachs, GIS Analyst

(Elementary School options) Please rate your level of support for the following Elementary School options. (Individual)

	<i>Strongly Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Do Not Support</i>	<i>Strongly Do Not Support</i>
ES Planning Area 1	66	78	26	12	25
ES Planning Area 2	55	79	36	18	15

(Elementary School options) Please rate your level of support for the following Elementary School options. (Group)

	<i>Strongly Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Do Not Support</i>	<i>Strongly Do Not Support</i>	<i>No Consensus</i>
ES Planning Area 1	4	3	0	0	0	0
ES Planning Area 2	0	4	1	0	0	1

(Middle School options) Please rate your level of support for the following Middle School options. (Individual)

	<i>Strongly Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Do Not Support</i>	<i>Strongly Do Not Support</i>
MS Option 1	46	63	20	44	31
MS Option 2	77	76	26	20	17

(Middle School options) Please rate your level of support for the following Middle School options. (Group)

	<i>Strongly Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Do Not Support</i>	<i>Strongly Do Not Support</i>	<i>No Consensus</i>
MS Option 1	2	1	0	3	1	0
MS Option 2	3	2	2	0	0	0

Please select your preference of the two (2) Middle School options (Individual).

MS Option 1	92	MS Option 2	106
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Please select your preference of the two (2) Middle School options (Group).

3	MS Option 1
4	MS Option 2
0	No Consensus

(High School options) Please rate your level of support for the following DB Excel options. (Individual)

	<i>Strongly Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Do Not Support</i>	<i>Strongly Do Not Support</i>
Addition to DBHS	65	78	27	22	15
New construction of facility on new site	42	55	36	45	28
Offering alternative hours at DBHS	30	55	34	57	33
Utilization of a current facility for program	54	83	39	17	17

(High School options) Please rate your level of support for the following DB Excel options. (Group)

	<i>Strongly Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Do Not Support</i>	<i>Strongly Do Not Support</i>	<i>No Consensus</i>
Addition to DBHS	2	3	1	1	0	0
New construction of the facility on a new site	0	4	0	1	1	1
Offering alternative hours at DBHS	0	3	0	3	1	0
Utilizing a current facility for the program	4	2	0	0	0	1

(High School options) Please rate your level of support for the following High School options. (Individual)

	<i>Strongly Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Do Not Support</i>	<i>Strongly Do Not Support</i>
HS Option 2	66	85	37	13	12
HS Option 3	53	65	34	32	22

(High School options) Please rate your level of support for the following High School options. (Group)

	<i>Strongly Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Do Not Support</i>	<i>Strongly Do Not Support</i>	<i>No Consensus</i>
HS Option 2	3	4	0	0	0	0
HS Option 3	1	4	0	0	0	1

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding the options presented. (Individual)

- A 9th grade program you lose continuity between all grades, STEM education will be the most beneficial for our children and the DB Excel program need not add to the size of the building with students whom need a specialized learning environment.
- An additional facility for ninth grade would be an ideal situation if the funds were available to accommodate this option.
- As a high school coach my students have to leave campus to participate in their practice and matches and working with the bowling center so they can get ready for their leagues makes my time crunched as it is now
- As a school employee I am outraged by the lack of a true alternative school. We understand that DB EXCEL is a good addition to our system, but something has to give with the disruptive kids in our district. They are taking over some in some instances.
- Cost consideration is critical.
- DB Excel should not be located on the DB Campus. There are students at DB Excel that have social issues and enjoy the smaller classes and less people that DB Excel offers. I feel that some type of foreign language classes should be offered at DB Excel or opportunities for those students to receive during summer school.
- Despite the percentages being mostly less than 100% capacity, I am a substitute and volunteer at the elementary school level and it is evident that our schools are too crowded. While I do realize that the teacher to student ratios are within range; seeing students that struggle with school and have no parental support at home creates a much more difficult classroom atmosphere for all involved. Our teacher to student ratios need to be reconsidered, no matter what the cost and no matter what the state says is "acceptable". As more demands are being put on our teachers, students are slipping through the cracks because of the pressure for teachers to "move along". Please make a decision that is in the best interest of our children and not one that will put more trophies in our KCS trophy cases.
- Don't know if it has been discussed but a place for the testing that is required each year would free up needed facilities for teachers that are unavailable during testing. Between writing assessments & EOCs teachers lose use of facilities like the library & writing labs for weeks at a time. Even with the laptops for students, those areas will be used as a place to sit for these tests. Before adding or expanding programs why can't we make our current problems less so?
- ES Area1- still concerned about Jackson needing to be replaced more than the other two, which (Kennedy & Roosevelt are basically already under utilized. ES Area2-Not sure the #s warrant this option. "Managed Choice" policy by the county currently alleviates some of this. Need to see what county does first. After learning what they decide to do, then we can see if their plans will have a short-term impact or a lasting impact. MS Q2- not clear on the cost differences between the 2 options as far as renovations go. Also Sevier at least has good amount of lab space already & not sure that space is being used to its full potential as it is. Definitely opposed to replacing Sevier. Q4 - it was not made clear at the meeting that Excel is actually a replacement for Cora Cox.—Comments pertaining to HS Q4 also include that alternate hours should only be part of the plan for the former Cora Cox students, not for the regular DB High School students. Also the alternate hours for the Cora Cox students should not be mandatory. The student should have choice. HS Q2- I support a 9th grade Academy, but only to the extent that it prevents us from needing two high schools in Kingsport City (which I strongly oppose). Otherwise it is better to keep the 9th grade at DB, as it is now.

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding the options presented. (Individual)

- Excel students not on campus. Do not support ninth grade campus. It removes teachers from their departments and collaborative efforts.
- I believe that the DB Excel program should model the classes offered at DB. i.e. same rigor, same content, same assessments, etc.
- I believe we should continue to do whatever is necessary to ensure that our children have the best academic opportunities possible no matter the cost.
- I do not fully understand the DB options which is why I have no opinion. The middle school options were a tough choice. I would support either one, but I choose option 2 as a preference because I would not want the current Sevier school to become an abandoned building. If I knew it would be used perhaps for some of these DB issues, then I would prefer option one since it would be easier to incorporate the science labs needed into a new building instead of retrofitting into an old one.
- I have a kid who goes to Excel and it was the worse mistake we ever made. We thought we would get away from high school drama but it exists every where. My son tells me that the teachers at DB helped him more and he could take classes in vocational. He says the teachers worry mostly about rushing kids through classes and getting them finished. No one seems to worry about helping him with what he is going to do for a job after high school. Internet classes can be good for math and science but at least let kids do regular classes like gym and vocational.
- I strongly believe that in building new complexes and additions that new technologies can be integrated into the new buildings. These new buildings will also be more energy efficient and cost effective in the long run. I have three children that will be attending all three school levels by this time. I love that KCS is implementing more science into the schools.
- I strongly disagree w/ a ninth grade academy. I don't like the way Science Hill does theirs and certainly won't support that here. We are not Johnson City. Also, in a time of economic downturns, it seems fiscally irresponsible to be preparing to spend the money outlined in the plan. I support KCS and have children in the system. However, it seems this type of money would be best spent on creating a university or college where we can actually keep students in Kingsport and by educating them at the next level. If we grow our economy, the money will be present in order to fund the construction needs of this plan. This seems like it would require a tax increase and consequently increase the burden of tax payers and industry. Lowering taxes will improve our economic situation and thus improve the economic environment needed for funding building projects.
- I think that enough has been done to the Lynn Garden Community. Now you want to close another facility. When is it going to stop? I have lived in Lynn Garden all my life. No one could have ever told me that my community would be done the way it has been done.
- I think there should be an option for an 8th & 9th grade school (new facility). This could help both the middle school and the high school population problems. Of course, this option would also need to include updates and maintenance at some of the other schools.
- If the behaviors are any worse at Kennedy in the next few years, I would not recommend combining them with anyone.
- In regards to any new construction, I do not feel that the open classroom model of architecture is effective for maximum learning, especially for those students who have difficulty with maintaining attention and ignoring distractions. I feel that the open classroom model of schools puts special education teachers and the district in a precarious situation when determining the least restrictive environment for many special education students.
- In the HS options do you mean increase capacity (room?) by taking 300 students from DB to DB Excel? How about build a Kennedy/Roosevelt and use

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding the options presented. (Individual)

one of those for DB Excel?

- in the middle school options why would you build a new Sevier school when it is very new and not build a new Robinson school?
- It is my belief that Palmer Center has been overlooked when facility improvements have been considered. The bathrooms do not meet the needs of the population that utilizes wheelchairs or need assistance from personnel for toileting. The rooms are too small for the growing population, requiring the school to go to split day sessions in order to accommodate increased numbers. The therapy area has no exit to the outside in the case of fire or intruder. Safety could be addressed more completely by securing the playground, which is adjacent to city park area.
- It seems that Option 2, adding 400 seats, would only slightly reduce the current utilization rate (from 96.8 to 92%) given the projected enrollment of 2019; however, if we add 700 seats through Option 3, the utilization rate would be 82.5% and would allow for future growth.
- Kingsport City Schools has to get a handle on spending. They are always implementing excessive initiatives that are breaking the backs of the taxpayer. One to one laptops, innovation academy, DB Excel and the list goes on. How about focusing on teaching and learning? KCS has always jumped on every initiative coming and going and we simply can't afford to continue with this rate of spending.
- Kingsport needs a second 9 through 12 high school. I want my children to attend a traditional 9 through 12 school but will not send them to a monstrosity that has such a large enrollment. I would be much more supportive of two high schools with enrollment of 1500 or less. I would pay higher taxes for this as would most people I have spoken to. The rigid thoughts of keeping DB as the only high school because of some silly achievement of having such a large school or because of sports or band is admirable but will cost the system in the end. We have plans to send our children to Sullivan County Schools next year if the decision to keep a single high school is made.
- Many colleges do not except the "Jump Start"/ "Excel" classes, and those traditional students may not have their needs meet. (high level senior level courses for students applying to out of state or private schools). Not all DB graduates attend a TN state school and I would hate for DB to lose those students. DB is still a high school, not a college. I feel that sometimes the goal for DB gets wound up into the game of getting students exempt from college classes, which may or may not be the best for our students. Many colleges within 100-200 miles from Kingsport are not excepting the Excel classes. Parents and students may not be aware of this fact.
- My greatest wish in consideration of the elementary plans and placement of any new school is the impact that closing Kennedy will have on the already suffering Lynn Garden Community.
- Ninth Grade Academies are a fad that has been tried and dismissed in other parts of the country. Please plan a facility that can be used for the long-term, no matter what trend an administration may want to pursue. Don't use the academy idea as an excuse to spend money. Plan a facility that can be used with or without an academy.
- Not a single concept utilized potentially available Sullivan County facilities.
- Reduce tuition students to make room for city residents.

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding the options presented. (Individual)

- Renovation/acquiring new space for the Palmer Center Early Intervention Program should be considered a priority. The classrooms and building are inadequate. There is insufficient space for the growing number of children in the Early intervention program. Facilities are outdated and inappropriate for small children with special needs.
- Sounds like there is a lot of plausible options being considered. I believe the current facilities should be utilized as much as possible. I also believe that some of these facilities need major repairs and this should be addressed early on and fully, no cutting corners. Sevier needs a roof and it will need more than that if the leaks are not stopped soon.
- The DB Excel concept is not proven via research. Can anyone produce names of actual schools where this instruction is occurring with "World Class" results? I have asked the questions and administrators dance around the answers. This seems like Innovation Academy all over again and I would be willing to bet the results will be similar. It seems that this is a very expensive experiment. The only pro to this proposal is that it alleviate space stress on Dobyys-Bennett. We can't deny that KCS middle and high schools need space. We must provide this space and #2 and #3 can provide for this with community involvement and research to develop strong programs. Has anyone considered studying Longview, Texas? This is another Eastman-fed and led town. What do their schools look like? What is working there? Also, who and where are the best school systems in the country? Are we doing what those systems are doing?
- The final decision must revolve around what will help the greatest number of students reach proficiency. Kingsport City Schools has a long tradition of supporting the academic pursuits of its students. However, there is also the reality that at-risk students are rarely given priority in matters where finances are involved. I whole-heartedly believe that to improve the character and quality of this community, Kingsport must put its money where it can benefit the students most at-risk to fall into the generational cycles of poverty. Again, Kingsport City Schools is staffed by caring individuals with track records that demonstrate support for all students. However, it is also a reality that the two newest of our elementary schools house students from some of the wealthiest families in Kingsport. Additionally, three of the oldest, outdated elementary schools house students from some of the most financially destitute families in Kingsport. This relationship is seen, albeit in a different context, on the middle school level. Dobyys-Bennett has a storied tradition of academic excellence. Kingsport sends graduates all across the country and the globe. However, there is still much work to be done to produce graduates that are college and career ready. DB Excel represents the best hope for at-risk youth in Kingsport City Schools history, and it needs to be funded in the same manner. As alluded to earlier, Kingsport City Schools cares about all students. The Administration and Teachers are equally passionate for every student, no matter what neighborhood or housing project they come from. It is my hope that when deciding on how to spend money on facilities, Kingsport City Schools focus on building the community by focusing on those most in need. Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts. I eagerly anticipate the result of all the hard work that has been done for the students of Kingsport.
- Utilize space where Legion Pool used to be for new building. No off site or new site locations.
- We need to plan now for the future. It will only be more expensive in the total picture if we delay.
- What would the current John Sevier be used for if a new Sevier was constructed? Another empty building? Is this a responsible option if plans are not in place for an appropriate use or is this top secret and not appropriate for public knowledge? Where would a 3rd high school be located? Colonial Heights? What does that do to the current Robinson and Sevier populations? Are we further creating haves and have not's? Inner city schools and a county school in the city? \$10 million dollars for Excel? Why? Surely it would be possible to integrate these options on the current Dobyys-Bennett

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding the options presented. (Individual)

campus at a much reduced cost? How about Highland Park? Legion Pool site? Civic Auditorium? I think this is a ridiculous use of tax dollars. How is this different from Innovation Academy? I also think the community needs evidence of overcrowding. I am all for helping the school system alleviate crowding and renovations seem necessary, but I have not seen enough evidence to support these endeavors. I hope the taxpayers can vote before Kingsport moves forward with these plans. I am sad to say I have missed the first community input meeting, but won't miss another one.

- When it comes to Science and Technology, it is easier and better to build it into the structure than to retrofit it into the structure. I like the idea of a new S&T Center.
- Why is it necessary to have the excel program off of the DB campus? I have heard the numbers ranging from \$5-\$10 million for the excel program? Why wouldn't you use the full \$40 million (surely less) to improve the current DB campus. This eliminates the challenge I have heard about vocational classes, access to sports and access to the arts. Why must this be an isolated school? I attended the middle school meeting at Eastman last night and from what I can understand the excel program sounds good on the surface but has limited benefit to students. What makes this a better option for students? Is it really worth \$5-\$10 million dollars for 300 students? It is obvious the current KCS administration and board of education are not fiscally responsible to the city and city taxpayers. I get DB, Robison and Sevier are crowded and space is needed, but do it within their current property boundaries. I hope tax payers seek to have their voices heard if the city schools tries to move forward with these plans.
- Why not look at taking over empty or low enrollment county schools? There may be renovation/maintenance costs but it would use existing buildings instead of cramming another building around DB. It's time to work with the each other and do what's best for everyone not just the city.

Demographics

Your Age

Under 18	5	40 - 49	63
18 - 29	21	50- 64	47
30 - 39	73	65+	2

Parental / Guardian / Student status (check all that apply)

Do not have children in the District	47	Parent/guardian of a 9th-12th grade student	50
Parent/guardian of a child less than 5	38	Parent/guardian of a private/parochial student	1
Parent/guardian of a kindergarten student	13	Parent/guardian of a former student or graduate of the District	25
Parent/guardian of a 1st-3rd grade student	48	Grandparent of a current student or graduate	4
Parent/guardian of a 4th-5th grade student	41	Current student	3
Parent/guardian of a 6th-8th grade student	62		

If you are an employee or retiree of the District, what is/was your position?

Teacher	 58	Not applicable	 73
Support staff	 28	Other	 11
Administration	 8		

Other:

- BOE
- Classified Employee (2)
- Custodian
- Ex-Intern
- High School Coach
- Substitute

Which school(s) / program(s) are you affiliated with?

John Adams Elementary	 23	Abraham Lincoln Elementary	 22
Cora Cox Academy	 3	Palmer Center	 16
Dobyns-Bennett High	 91	Ross N. Robinson Middle	 53
Andrew Jackson Elementary	 16	Theodore Roosevelt Elementary	 8
Thomas Jefferson Elementary	 18	John Sevier Middle	 43
Andrew Johnson Elementary	 27	George Washington Elementary	 21
John F. Kennedy Elementary	 12		