




OFFICE OF PORTFOLIO SERVICES

JOHN J. SULLIVAN
TASK ASSIGNED, CHIEF PORTFOLIO SERVICES OFFICER

DATE: April 12, 2021

TO: School Board Members

FROM: John J. Sullivan, Task Assigned
Chief Portfolio Services Officer 

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATION TO POSTPONE THE 2022/23 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS/SCHOOL USAGE DISCUSSIONS**

Each year in May, the Demographics & Enrollment Planning Department (DEP) holds a workshop to inform the School Board of any issues regarding student enrollment and the usage of school facilities. At this workshop DEP also presents a draft process for developing and vetting possible solutions/ scenarios for addressing these usage concerns and may include the opportunity for community members to submit their own proposals.

In the spring of 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic forced the postponement of this workshop and eventually the entire process, as schools struggled with a fully-virtual opening, and later a transition to low-density physically-distanced classrooms. As a result of not holding a boundary/ school usage process, there were no changes for the 2021/22 school year.

As conditions have slowly begun transitioning back to more normal operations, and COVID-19 vaccine deployment is underway, there is cause for optimism about schools reopening in the fall with all students receiving face-to-face instruction in our brick-and-mortar facilities. It may be many months, however, before we see the full impact of the pandemic on Broward County Public Schools, and it is quite possible that any resurgence of the virus may require flexibility and agility in the way facilities are occupied.

For these reasons I am recommending not to proceed with a process to reconfigure, consolidate, or reimagine our school facilities until later in the fall when we may have a clearer understanding of life after the pandemic, and thus more confidence in the solutions we bring to the Board. I am recommending that conversations about future school usage will begin in December and cover topics such as:

- The state and future trajectory of enrollment in BCPS including impacts from the continued proliferation of charter schools and expanded access to voucher programs
- An update on Districtwide facility utilization
- The costs and opportunities of under-utilized facilities

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- Options for rethinking the facilities footprint
- Opportunities for enrollment optimization and school reimagining, including alternate grade configurations

Thank you, School Board Members, for your patience, as we navigate these difficult and unprecedented circumstances, and we look forward to a comprehensive discussion on the future vision for the entire portfolio of BCPS facilities. If you have any questions about enrollment, enrollment projections, or current facility utilization, I encourage you to explore the Online Planning Tool for School Enrollment and Capacity at <https://webapp.browardschools.com/schoolenrollment/> or to contact **Jill Young, Director, Demographics & Enrollment Planning Department at (754) 321-2565.**

RWR/JJS/JY:cr

c: Cabinet
Directors of School Performance and Accountability
Principals