



GRAVES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Good afternoon,

The Graves County Local Planning Committee is currently in the process of updating our District Facility Plan. This process has been ongoing since the spring of this year. On August 13, this committee put a draft plan together that listed Lowes Elementary as a Priority 1 project and included \$10.8 million in proposed renovations to this facility. As part of the required process, this draft was shared with KDE for comments. In their comments back to the district, KDE noted that the maximum allowable need at Lowes could not exceed \$7.05 million due to an enrollment that is below 300 students. The maximum allowable need further drops to \$6.05 million for this calculation when using the current enrollment at Lowes Elementary.

The Local Planning Committee met again last night to update the draft plan based on the comments from KDE. After multiple conversations with KDE and our architects, and after considering the large amount of available capacity at our other elementary schools, I made three primary recommendations to the committee on how to address the issues in our draft plan:

1. Change the status of Lowes Elementary from a Permanent facility to a Transitional facility. If approved by the Local Planning Committee and the Board, this would mean the long-term plan for our district would be to transition away from a school facility in Lowes.
2. Change our School Organization from K-6, 7-8, 9-12 to K-5, 6-8, 9-12. This proposal would move 6th grade students to the middle school.
3. Make GCMS our lone Priority 1 project. If the above two items are implemented, there will be a need for additional classrooms to be built at GCMS.

The planning committee approved the recommendations listed above. At this point, the facility plan, including the approved recommendations, is still only a draft plan. The updated draft will be sent back to KDE for further comments. If KDE has no further comments, the draft will then be sent to our Board for consideration. Our Board has final authority on whether or not to adopt this plan. If adopted, our Board also has final authority on the timeline of implementation of the plan. The proposals listed above are massive, and they would take a considerable amount of time to implement if the Board adopts this plan.

Graves County Schools strives to make decisions that maximize our resources to better serve our students. Although these are difficult decisions, I do believe they provide the best path forward for our district as a whole.

Thank you,

Matthew Madding
Superintendent
Graves County Schools