

## **CRSD Master Capital Planning: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

The Council Rock School District administration, led by Superintendent Dr. Robert Fraser, and the district's Board of School Directors is conducting a comprehensive Master Capital Planning process. The goal is to make the best use of our school and support facilities so that our students, teachers, and staff have the resources they need for the educational programs that are the core of our mission.

Public discussions about capital planning began more than three years ago with the formation of a community committee that included 45 volunteer members. The purpose of the committee was to address challenges Council Rock was facing in terms of aging infrastructure, declining enrollment, and rising educational costs.

The committee's extensive work, over several months, led to the presentation of three recommendations from which the board took some preliminary action. These actions may be found in a [series of board motions](#) approved on November 6, 2014. The approved motions laid out a timeline that brings our district to the present.

At the CRSD Board of School Directors meeting on January 19, 2017, an ad hoc Master Capital Planning Committee was approved by the Board. The members agreed that capital planning needed to be separated from other school board business so that the entire community, administration, and school board could focus on this topic.

The initial meeting was held on February 8 at 7 p.m. The committee will meet four more times before the end of this school year (additional meetings may be added, if necessary.) All meetings will be held at The Chancellor Center (30 N. Chancellor St., Newtown) and will begin at 7 p.m. The CRSD administration and Board of School Directors is committed to conducting all meetings and discussions transparently through ongoing communications, public meetings, and regular updates to this website.

Below you will find a set of FAQs (frequently asked questions), with some answers, and additional documents. This webpage will be continually updated to address and answer questions or comments that are presented during capital planning meetings or received via email.

To submit questions, suggestions or comments via email, please use this address: [capitalplanning@crsd.org](mailto:capitalplanning@crsd.org).

To review a capital planning presentation by Dr. Fraser at the October 20, 2016 meeting of the Board of School Directors, [click here](#).

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the CRSD Board of School Directors intend to close any schools?

When the board voted to build a new Newtown Middle School and renovate Holland Middle School, the directors agreed to close Richboro Middle School in the summer of 2018. The Board has publicly discussed the *possible* closing of one or two elementary schools – Rolling Hills and Wrightstown Elementary Schools – but no decisions have been made.

2. When will the school board make a decision about possible elementary school closings?

The Board has committed to making a decision about additional school closings by the fall of 2017. The reason for this timing is that the Board has previously agreed, if an elementary school is to be closed, it should be timed to coincide with the Richboro Middle School closure. Doing so would allow for a coordinated redistricting of students across all the district's schools. Determining any school closings approximately one year in advance will allow for thorough and thoughtful transition planning. It is important to note that as the administration and school board works through this process, the timing of some decisions may change. However, the ultimate deadline of implementing the new capital plan by the start of the new school year in fall 2018, to coincide with the completion of the middle school projects, is firm.

3. How will the redistricting of students be determined?

After the number of elementary schools that will be operating in the fall of 2018 is determined, a redistricting committee will form. This committee will include representatives from all schools. This group, along with the involvement of CR administration, demographic software, and a professional demographer, will work towards the creation of a redistricting plan that will be presented to the school board in December 2017 or January 2018 for approval.

4. Will the redistricting change the feeder patterns for the two high schools?

Yes, the feeder patterns to the high schools are likely to change. That is because the current student enrollments at CRHS South and CRHS North are not balanced.

5. Under what scenario is there a need to capture 22 classrooms?

The school district only needs to capture 22 classrooms if an elementary school is closed. If an elementary school is not closed, there is no need to capture the 22 classrooms presented at the February 8, 2017 meeting.

6. I am interested in obtaining a little more context to comments about wanting to redistrict students only once instead of twice. I am familiar with the current review of the potential closing of some elementary schools, which will likely require redistricting. Without the potential closing of elementary schools, was redistricting being considered by the school board?

When we say that we will not redistrict any student twice, we are saying that as we go through this particular redistricting process no student will be redistricted more than one time. An example of how a student could have been redistricted twice is if we would redistrict for the 2017-18 school year, and then be forced to redistrict some students again for the 2018-19 school year because that is when the middle school construction projects would be finished (and Richboro Middle School will be closing). We do not want that

to happen, and so we have aligned all master capital planning activities (e.g., potential elementary school closure, closure of RMS, K-12 redistricting) to occur with the start of the 2018-19 school year.

7. Can you provide examples of when the uneven enrollment between the two high schools results in programming differences?

The conversation point is more about student opportunities than programming offered. For instance, the same programs may be offered, but because there are more students at South, the actual opportunities differ. For instance, when it comes to extracurricular activities, students at North have more access to them because there is less competition to each available slot, including leadership roles. From an academic standpoint, we offer shuttle courses when one school or both schools do not have enough enrollment to run a course on their own. The school with more number of students enrolled hosts the course, and students from the other school must travel there. Instead of these opportunities being equalized, South students are advantaged and North students are disadvantaged. These are two prominent examples of what we would be seeking to rectify by better balancing the North/South population.

8. Might Richboro Elementary School become a feeder school for CR North instead of remaining a feeder school for CR South?

Yes, it is possible, though not determined, that Richboro Elementary could become a feeder school for CR South. The reason for this change would only be to create more even enrollment between the two high schools, which may or may not be necessary depending on whether an elementary school is closed. The possibility of Richboro Elementary becoming a North-sending school was first publicly presented on December 17, 2015.

9. If Wrightstown Elementary stays open, is the plan to go back to a K-6 school or will the children still leave for 5th and 6th grades to attend Newtown Elementary?

At this time, the plan is for Wrightstown to remain a K-4 school should it remain open. The only realistic possibility of Wrightstown returning to a K-6 school is if an addition is made to the school, and that could not happen in time for the 2018-19 school year.