

Questions & Answers for Regular Board Meeting

June 21, 2023

Item V.A.1 (pages 11-32 of the digital packet): Consideration for Approval of the Architectural Selection Advisory Committee's Recommendation for Award of Architectural Services for Duranes Early Child Center to SMPC Architects

- Please provide the names of ALL APS schools that house a preschool along with the number of pre-school students & teachers each one has.
- How many pre-school students does EACH pre-school have on their waiting list? Please list EVERY pre-school, not just the ones with vacancies and list the vacancies for each, the waiting list for each, and the capacity for each as of May 2023.
- Do you know that there are only approximately 550 students under 5 living in the entire north valley of whom only about 110 are pre-schoolers? (This number comes from the 2020 census and the Albuquerque population has dropped almost 1% more from 2020-22, this number has yet to be updated for 2023)
- How many of those 110 North Valley pre-schoolers do you anticipate will be attending this early childhood center in its inaugural year, 2nd year, 3rd-5th year?
- How many pre-schoolers will be needed to have this center at 100% capacity, which I understand will be built to house 300 students so when will we arrive at 300 or 100% capacity? 300 is the enrollment cap, correct?
- How many pre-schoolers are there at APS public schools with their own pre-schools, as well as at private EC centers, religious pre-schools, home based pre-schools etc., within a 2 mile radius of Duranes?
- Please justify the need for this center that ultimately will not serve the entire north valley pre-school population of 110 students as the Early Childhood Act expects 50% of our pre-schoolers to attend pre-school outside of the public school setting.
- When and who made the decision to convert Duranes into an Early Childhood Center? Was this the Right sizing committee? Did they receive input from private EC centers, from Headstart, from religious pre-schools etc.?
- Who specifically gave the go ahead for this RFP?
- Approximately, how much will this architectural early childhood prototype design cost?
- ESSER funds will be used to pay for this design?
- Many families believe that these funds should be used to help our students recover academically from the COVID school closures and using them for this design will not help their children, will it? How will spending ESSER funds on this design help the children who are currently in our schools who may have fallen behind?
- Approximately how many square feet will this early childhood center be? And what will be the approximate construction cost?
- So will we be asking taxpayers to spend money on this project with birth rates at an unbelievably low rate and put other very important capital projects that need to be done on hold?

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- There were approximately an average of about 20,000 births in New Mexico the last several years. Of our school age population Albuquerque has about a quarter of them, correct?
- Are you thinking about our middle schools' needs right now & focusing on retaining the mid-schoolers we have & updating the infrastructure at the mid-school level that could help in retention at that level?
- There hasn't yet been a deep discussion with Early Childhood leaders across our city has there? And if not, why, and will that discussion ever take place?
- The Right Sizing Discussion Group has not had the conversation about early childhood centers and don't you think it's a bit underhanded to put this in front of us without input from the community and early childhood leaders across our district, not just from government staff?
- I understand that a few early childhood providers will be part of the early childhood center design, but have they been part of the entire conversation about public pre-schools and possibly public 3 year old programs?
- What have the taxpayers spent on Duranes the last 2 decades & if you don't have the information just list the costs for the most recent years you do have? Please list any projects, the date completed and the cost.
- Please compare the cost of leaving Duranes open as it is and the total build/demolition costs and recurring/operational cost of this EC Center. Which would better take into account the taxpayer and importantly, our children? I understand APS will receive \$10,000 per pre-school child so with 100-300 pre-schoolers that can be anywhere from \$1-3 million dollars annually, so will that be sufficient to operate the school with payroll and all the operational costs necessary?
- When will this early childhood center begin operating in the black? And will you be operating in the red when you start and how long do you anticipate to be operating in the red?
- What does right sizing our district mean to the right sizing committee?
- Does it mean right sizing our building space and our staff to our enrollment?
- If it does mean right sizing based on enrollment then do you anticipate selling any schools, leasing more schools, selling APS land, being proactive in helping with the lack of affordable housing?
- What does Santa Fe mean when it comes to right sizing our district and what are their right sizing parameters, or are there none?
- How will APS show they have rightsized if they have the same amount of square footage as they did before this right sizing process?
- Does our right sizing look like similarly sized & larger districts who are totally shutting down & selling some of their properties?

Following the June 12, 2023, Right Sizing Discussion Group, staff put together a document that answers many of these questions (which were also raised during the meeting):

- [Follow-Up Questions and Answers from Right-Sizing Discussion Group](#)
- [June 12, 2023, Right-Sizing Discussion Group Meeting \(YouTube video\)](#)

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Item V.A.2: (page 33-63 of the digital packet) Consideration for Approval of the Negotiated Changes to the Negotiated Agreement between the Albuquerque Municipal School District Number 12 and the Educational Police Officers Association

APS forgets we live in the marketplace, but we must remember we do. Is APS creating a false marketplace and the reason why we can't attract police officers? Is this the best we can do for our police officers? I believe our police officers should receive wages comparable to what APD is paying which is approximately \$70,000 a year. What can APS do to give our police officers what they deserve? I know our APS police officers and I know they will run in to save our students and not run away, that deserves respect and the reward of a higher salary!

We value our police officers and were able to give them a 12 percent salary increase (even though we were only funded for 6 percent), which brought them within 20 cents of Rio Rancho Public Schools. We also increased their longevity pay, uniform allowances, and shift differentials by 10 percent.

Answers to Questions from the June 7 Board Meeting

The data below is based on the 18-19 SY designations

- How many schools are TSI schools? 37
- CSI schools? 22
- Of the TSI schools how many are also community schools? 24
- Of the CSI schools how many are community schools? 15
- How are we ensuring these community schools are receiving the resources our students need? Resources for ALL Community Schools include:
 - Full-time Community School Coordinator to guide the strategy and develop partnerships
 - Comprehensive technical and professional development support for principal, coordinator, & staff in the implementation of strategy
 - Community School Councils who identify priorities in alignment with school's 90 Day Plan
- What are the demographics & locations of the TSI & CSI schools & what do we learn from these demographic numbers about giving required supports? In the 18-19 SY, they were all Title I schools
- How many years have the TSI & CSI schools had their designation? Since the 18-19 school year