

I attended the Reimagining SLPS Phase I meeting tonight at Carnahan. Dr. Borishade, the entire district cabinet, several interpreters, three community members, and three parents (myself, my spouse, and another parent) attended. Dr. Borishade gave the presentation Katie Sesti posted. All of this information has been presented before at previous BOE meetings. The FCAP dashboard is on the SLPS website: [School-By-School FCAP Dashboard](#)

Dr. Borishade also gave a transportation update. She stated they ran routes on Monday from 5:30a through 7p to troubleshoot and refine the routes. She recognized transportation has been less than stellar and could only say, "They get our kids to school."

Dr. Borishade explained how the next Phase II & III meetings were anticipated to run. Phase II will gather parent, teacher, and community feedback. Phase III meetings will be the opportunity to present "what they are thinking" after all of the feedback and engagement.

One community member asked if they were considering the impact closings would have on the larger community. Dr. Borishade said yes. The same community member asked what other factors beyond the data presented tonight were they considering when considering which schools to close. Dr. Borishade said they were considering everything but did not elaborate. Ideally, each building would be at 80% capacity.

My spouse asked for a further explanation on the school FCAP dashboard example (Carr Lane) listing \$62M as the replacement cost for the school. The Cordogan Clark representative said that number was arrived at what it would cost to rebuild a comparable building based on the square footage in today's dollars. One of the interpreters noted the almost \$1.8B cost to upkeep all buildings as they are now assumes the district would spend approximately \$100K/per student (at 18K students enrolled) if you looked at straight maintenance. Dr. Borishade agreed if we examined straight math, but there are other issues that arise. The chart presented considered only those costs they know are coming, not unanticipated costs, such as a playground that now needs to be repaired which was not anticipated this year.

Then I asked questions. I admitted I was a ringer of sorts because I've been following the BOE since March 2020 (and it was kind of blowing my mind to see all of these people in person after watching them for years). I started by telling her we have had a good experience with transportation despite a rocky first week.

I asked if they are considering healthy start times for '26-27 because my middle schooler is a zombie with a 7:10a start time. She said yes. She is aware there is a large group of parents who are coordinating communication with her about that. She mentioned she planned to meet with representatives from that group. She mentioned this is the kind of feedback she wants to gather in the Phase II meetings.

My next question was whether they were going to present what they are thinking at the Phase II meeting or just gather community input. I explained that I can come in and say I want healthy start times or I want the magnet program to continue, but if those things are off the table, then my feedback isn't meaningful, as opposed to presenting some idea of what's coming so that the feedback can be targeted to those proposals. Dr. Borishade said her response would be dependent

on what feedback they receive from Phase II. She anticipates those meetings will be better attended, but she strongly encouraged parents and community members to attend those meetings so the district knows what parents want.

I asked her how far in advance parents would know what was happening for '26-27 as the magnet application period is typically in October and the lottery is in November. I mentioned how at a previous meeting they presented data that about half of the students choose a magnet program and if that program is going to be dismantled or significantly changed, parents need to know, especially those that are looking at high schools. She said the last Phase III meeting will be in late October or November so parents will have time to plan.

I asked her how much flexibility there is to address serious concerns or an outpouring of community pushback on any issue after Phase III is presented. Dr. Borishade said it depended on the issue, but she would be open.

I told her that anyone watching the BOE meetings can “read the tea leaves” based on the major Prop S spending happening at certain schools that those schools will likely stay open. Dr. Borishade explained many schools needed work to be safe, such as renovated restrooms, new drinking fountains, and security door upgrades. I recognized that, but noted how some high schools and other schools are getting more significant upgrades such as athletic field work, auditorium upgrades, and the renovations at Gateway to their common spaces, which aren't safety related. She agreed they were making those upgrades also and trying to be good stewards of the taxpayer money.

That took us to 7p. Dr. Borishade had everyone go around the room to give an “optimistic closing word” about how they felt at the end. The cabinet was “curious,” “excited,” and “ready to plan.” The community members were “curious” and “interested.” The interpreter who spoke said, “worried.” My spouse said, “nervously curious.” I said, “heard.”

My key takeaways: The community has not been given specifics as to what's coming. It is uncertain whether the community will have any specifics before Phase II to give meaningful feedback but it is imperative the community shows up because there does not seem to be much runway to pivot once Phase III is revealed. *I also learned I need to ask fewer questions because I was approached by several cabinet members seeking me to join community groups and forums based on my feedback.*