

Community Meeting at Louisa Boren STEM K-8, June 1, 2017 Comments and Questions

The table below includes comments and questions collected at the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 community meeting held on June 1, 2017, as well as comment cards received at the meeting.

COMMENT OR QUESTION	ANSWER
Do you still have this building on Interim list even if there is a permanent school here?	We have a long history in using as an interim site.
When will Boren K-8 STEM be considered a permanent school – been new, been transitional. Feels that the school administration is not treating us the same when all we're asking for is a time period when we aren't in transition, or sharing space.	As part of the BEX V planning we are looking at options. This is the first community discussion to explore those options.
We were assured that this is a permanent site but why are you not looking at other schools as interim sites – just because you have used it in the past, doesn't mean you should use it as an interim site again. It's our permanent site.	We're looking at other schools as interim sites. We're assessing what we can physically do
Are you looking at other West Seattle currently occupied schools?	No, I don't believe so.
All those on your list are empty except for Boren.	Thank you for your comment
What are the other options available? What other things are you considering? We want to work with you, but we need to know what you are considering besides us.	We are looking at a variety of plans and options. This is the beginning. We hear your voice.
You have kids going to school here every day and it IS a permanent school.	Thank you for your comment
Can you just acknowledge that in 2013 the School Board voted to make this a permanent location for Boren?	Will check records.
You gave STEM a geo zone which gave students around the school guaranteed seats so how does moving the school to Schmitz Park, a different community, result in impacting the equity to this community?	If we decide to recommend a move, we would be required to do an equity study.
Data shown on amount of kids at Schmitz Park can handle is incorrect. Started at 2 classes per grade. 5-6 classes per grade. Infrastructure doesn't support a K-8. It's falling down. This geozone/neighborhood is totally different. You've let the school grow.	Thank you for your comment

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<p>STEM is working. Project based learning works. That's what's happening here. If you take our kids and put them in a smaller space, you don't have space for their learning systems. You can't pack them into a smaller space. It's not the right choice to sacrifice one community for another. We will not go to Schmitz Park quietly. We are in the south end. People can afford to live here. Let's preserve spaces for the people who are here now.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Would it be accurate to say you are going to need a transitional space for the next 20 years? I know Roxhill is excited to move. Take the Roxhill site and put the portables there and make it what you need for an interim site for 20 years. Then you aren't uprooting the families who have put in the time energy and love.</p>	<p>Yes, we will need interim space for many years. We will look at options.</p>
<p>Pathfinder parent. If you look at a map, Schmitz Park is close to Alki and Lafayette. It doesn't make sense to move the kids from south to the north and moving those from the north to the south. I've heard you are considering doing Lafayette and Alki at the same time, don't. Stagger them so they can both go to SP as interim since they are close.</p>	<p>Planning is just beginning.</p>
<p>Grandkids go here. Your slide says you put every student first/children first. How are you putting these children first by uprooting them and moving them? How are you putting individual students first? I don't see that you are.</p>	<p>We are just beginning planning. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>First, thank families for coming, including those that don't have kids, those who are coming soon, those in Delridge, and the teachers. I don't want to fight you. I think we want to be on the same page if you really are for kids being first. But I will fight you tooth and nail until you prove to me that you've looked at all the options and come up with the best option.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>

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<p>Alki parent. Only associated with STEM through great admiration. Watched them do great things and create a school that needs to stay in this building. We've already established that they aren't in an interim site. So now that we know you need interim sites, how do we do that? My kids are going to need one. How do other districts do it? How do districts that don't have empty buildings</p>	<p>Other districts build on site as they have more space. We put 500-600 student school on 2-3-4 acres for the sizes of schools we do, we don't have the space to rebuild on the site. Other school districts do construction on site and then move.</p>
<p>What about other districts more like Seattle?</p>	<p>In Boston, they do have interim locations where they place students during renovations. Same with Baltimore.</p>
<p>Are they (Boston, Baltimore) displacing permanent schools to make them interim sites?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Can I hear you say one more time that this is the permanent home of Boren K8?</p>	<p>"This is the permanent home of Boren STEM K8."</p>
<p>You said you are just starting, but you looked at our school as your first thought and thought we can disrupt these people. I'm hoping you thought it was a dumb idea but decided you wanted to get into a room of great people to tell you it's a dumb idea. It's a dumb idea. I hope you can now move forward.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Background question on land use. Old Denny site that is just grass and flat? Who owns that? It's a big empty flat grass area.</p>	<p>SPS owns. It's in the range of two acres so it's not as large as it looks. It looks large because it's open.</p>
<p>SPS probably has a lot of excess areas.</p>	<p>We have some, but many are too small to build the schools we need.</p>
<p>We want a list of all the options/vacant sites.</p>	<p>A list of all Seattle Public Schools properties can be found on the Capital Projects and Planning webpage under "District Buildings and Sites."</p>
<p>Planning BEX V. What is the district's plan for next few BEX cycles to acquire additional parcels to grow if current parcels are too small? How will you bring together, acquire, buy the additional building sites needed for the future?</p>	<p>BTA IV has \$15 million for land acquisition. That can take many different forms. There are U-shaped parcels surrounding 2-3 houses. Might buy those houses to provide more contiguous space.</p>

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<p>Not talking about 2-3 houses. What are you going to do to get more land?</p>	<p>We are trying to build to increase capacity on existing sites, go vertical. Any time land for sale, we look, but we can't be as fast as developers. We get notified when the City or other public entities are selling property.</p>
<p>So there is no plan to acquire more land?</p>	<p>Director Harris: Anyone who has looked at land values know how much \$15 million will buy us. I respectfully suggest that this is a question for mayoral candidates, especially if they continue HALA. Why doesn't SPS have a representative or 12 on that?</p>
<p>7th grader. I won't be here. How its fair that my friends in younger grades and their siblings won't get to use the equipment that I get to use every day. It seems to be unfair.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Mr. Herndon started the letter about this meeting with a reference to BEX V. Had to do my own homework on what BEX was and what it's being spent on: BEX I (\$330 million) BEX II (\$398 million), BEX III (\$490 million), BEX IV (\$694.9 million). All that adds up to \$1.92 billion dollars. When you add BTA amounts, that's another \$1.73 billion. Now we'll vote on BEX V. You've had \$3.8 billion 1995-2017, how much of that capital has been allocated to this location? (listed upgrades)—let's call that a \$1.2 million. Our school has 1% of the students. So 1% of the funding should have been allocated to this building that our children occupy.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>

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<p>I appreciate the accounting (from previous speaker) and the suggestion we should have an ongoing solution. We should also include the hardship and harm as we seek to solve the location problems. This community has had quite a bit of hardships. What communities have benefited from levies and what communities have experienced hardships – do you keep records of those? Do you keep tabs on hardships? It feels like we’ve had our hardships. We had to fight for a home. We welcomed Arbor Heights to share our school. So please keep an accounting of which communities benefit and which have hardships.</p> <p>They aren’t emotional. We’ve had actual hardships. We didn’t even have pencils day one</p>	<p>From both facilities and financial standpoint, we do a good job of tracking and identifying needs. We don’t have the \$ to do it all. By the end of BTA IV in 2022, we will have \$247 million in our backlog of maintenance and repair, down from \$500+ million since the beginning of BEX IV in 2014</p> <p>I recognize that there are also emotional hardships.</p>
<p>You put this plan on the table and you came here tonight, and it’s clear that this doesn’t make sense that for this community. Your first option is out. What is option 2?</p>	<p>Board Director Harris: Not at option 2 yet — opening discussion. Option 2 and more during BEX V planning. Hope is to have a community-wide conversation in West Seattle to not pit schools against each other. These two gentlemen (Mr. Best and Dr. Herndon) not here when others made promises that their wallets can’t keep. I appreciate that promises were made. You are not the only school community that has been shafted. I love the idea of making project 1 for BEX V an interim site. Like the idea of putting it on old Denny site. This is citywide, 53,000+ kids, with changes and challenges.</p>
<p>There are going to be two empty school in West Seattle. Why when you want to build two new schools, why don’t you consider empty schools first.</p>	<p>Director Harris: They (Capital Projects) have not made those decisions. They don’t make the decisions. The board makes the decisions. We are looking for a space for 1,200 folks at Asa Mercer. I don’t disagree with your suggestion that Alki and Lafayette, etc., can go to Schmitz Park.</p>
<p>I would like you to no longer write and say that this is an interim site. Say it is the permanent site for Boren.</p>	<p>I don’t put the tag interim or permanent in front of Boren K-8 any more than I call it permanent Genesee Hill. (Dr. Herndon)</p>

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<p>Re: challenges—treat them as variables, not challenges. These are good things -- change is good. A couple of nights ago had a project-based learning demonstration. Crowd in the science rooms. Part of that was seeing a student do their experiment in a \$20,000 wind tunnel. I want you to see how the robot team went to nationals. I don't see how you can you consider taking this shining example, that is doing what Boeing and Microsoft need, and move them to a small space crowded with portables that doesn't have the room for the program.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>High Point. Very diverse. Public housing range of incomes and ethnicities. Really benefit from having an option here. I heard you say you'd do an equity evaluation – I'd like to know what that involves, and what we can do to help provide what you need and influence equity.</p>	<p>Equity toolkit. We would be using it as we have at other schools. It doesn't give us an answer, but it makes sure we think of how decisions have impacts.</p>
<p>If part of the issue is capacity, why do we have 185 kids on a wait list? If we have more space, why can't we expand? We have room and you need more classrooms.</p>	<p>Currently dealing with wait list issue across the city. When taking someone is moved from wait list it means coming from another school, and that means that school might lose a teacher. We are working to balance decisions.</p>
<p>Is STEM K-8 building being considered for BEX V funding?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>What are the plans for the Roxhill site?</p>	<p>We are considering options.</p>
<p>What is the capacity of Schmitz park without portables?</p>	<p>250</p>
<p>It makes no sense to have LBSK8 move north – current location's middle school can serve both North and South WS students.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>How can a <u>permanent</u> facility be relocated in favor of a temporary adjustment? How will you explain to diverse students and families that Alki and Admiral students are more important?</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>Why is it considered acceptable to move our school community in favor of other schools? Especially when SPS does not have a suitable facility for us?</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.</p>

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Why were we told Boren was permanent but now it's not? We have lost trust in SPS (What little was left)	Decisions were made in the past that may not be possible to maintain in the future.
At what point do we get to be considered a school of value? Why is STEM not given the same respect as other public schools?	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
Why is it a good idea to move a new/growing/community choice to a new location? Especially when our school needs stability and continuity.	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
Why do we have the cap(s) on grade band #s? If Boren building can hold up to 750, couldn't we have many more classes per grade?	Louisa Boren K-8 is an Option School and Option Schools have capped enrollments based on the number of classrooms they have per grade.
How do other districts without interim sites manage remodel/renovation?	Many have large sites where they can build on site and then move to the new building.
How can Schmitz Park, at 35K ft ² have a capacity of 600, when Roxhill and Sanislo are <u>both</u> 40K ft ² + and both have a capacity of 600? Why do portables count toward <u>meeting</u> capacity rather than exceeding it? STEM K8 is <u>increasing</u> in size, and is already over capacity for Schmitz Park without portables.	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
The Schmitz Park facility is inadequate for this school. Why not use that facility as a <u>sequential</u> interim site for Lafayette and Alki? If this (Boren) is not the permanent site for the school, what location is?	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
You talk in generalities. How does "Students First" help STEM K-8 students in particular? How does moving these students benefit them individually?	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
This STEM school provides a unique opportunity for a community that is (illegible) diverse and facing socio-economic challenges. This community needs <u>this</u> school in this neighborhood. To move would be highly disruptive.	Thank you for your comment

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Please explain/answer to equitable access to STEM option school in Delridge area. Moving to Schmitz Park goes against basic principles of the district to address equity and access to services to the students in greatest need.	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
It was suggested in the capacity task force meeting to move administration to Schmitz Park and turn the Stanford Center into interim site/school. Is this a viable option?	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
Please explain why you continue to come back to us at STEM K8 to be displaced while other schools get brand new buildings?	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
We are the Louisa Boren STEM K8 <u>SCHOOL!</u> For once and for all we are <u>NOT</u> a program. We are a real school with a permanent location at Boren!	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
STEM K8 has already been through this process before. Nov 2013 the school board voted and approved our <u>permanent</u> site <u>and</u> make us K-8. They saw value in keeping us in Delridge and so should you.	Decisions were made in the past that may not be possible to maintain in the future.
Given the district's commitment to equity, how will you plan to provide an option for the diverse High Point and Delridge areas?	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
If the Schmitz Park building was too out-of-date and too small for Schmitz Park Elementary (now Genesee Hill), how on earth do you think it works for LBSK8?!? You have an obligation to <u>our kids</u> too!	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
What other schools are being considered for displacement or co-location besides STEM?	We haven't yet identified another school that has the capacity to serve as an interim location for a middle school.
If you say you are in the process of reviewing potential options for interim sites, how do you come to us and say you already know the Boren location is on the list but can provide no other option you have on the table – especially for West Seattle?	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made. There are not many facilities that are empty and none of the others are large enough for a middle school.
Is it possible to renovate Lafayette and Alki at separate times and use Schmitz park as interim?	This will be considered.

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<p>Why is the Boren building any less of a permanent location than Genesee Hill, Pathfinder or Arbor Heights? Maybe move one of them.</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>I live in the neighborhood. I'm very concerned about SPS moving forward with capacity needs without taking into account having <u>equity</u> for this Delridge neighborhood. This school needs to stay put, and SPS needs to look at other option instead of disrupting STEM K-8.</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>Most districts don't have the luxury of interim buildings. Why not do a renovation with temporary buildings on site instead of displacing entire school. I am a parent at Pathfinder K8. I live in Puget Ridge but consider STEM part of my larger neighborhood., N. Delridge. It is important that STEM stay put in Boren. It makes no sense to displace an established school for an inferior site (Schmitz) when Schmitz could be used as an interim site for Alki and then for Lafayette, sequentially. Schmitz is actually close to Alki and Lafayette. STEM is centrally located. Perfect for an option school. Also, equity for STEM is better where it is.</p>	<p>Other districts build on site as they have more space. We don't have the space to rebuild on site for most schools. Other school districts do construction on site and then move.</p>
<p>What other SPS schools are being considered for displacement other than STEM?</p>	<p>We are just starting the process.</p>
<p>How can you consider moving our school with >600 students, students to Schmitz Park that has a capacity of 600? We will not fit so how can this possibly make sense? STEM serves a very diverse community centered in Delridge. STEM is an important resource for our community – one that cannot be easily replaced if STEM is moved. This is an equity issue. How does SPS plan to address this possible inequity? Parents, teachers and students have poured their energy, money, and time into STEM to build it from the ground up. We were promised a <u>permanent</u> spot here at Louisa Boren. Moving is just plain wrong!</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made. If planning began, we would be using Seattle Public Schools Equity Toolkit as we have at other schools. It doesn't give us an answer, but it makes sure we think of how decisions have impacts.</p>
<p>My 13 yr. old @STEM has Asperger's. The special needs access program & PBL has been VITAL to our family.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

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A smaller location would be detrimental to our community & our family.	Thank you for your comment.
How can you justify displacing a school (Louise Boren) to a facility that is too small to temporarily locate a school while their facility is being re-built? It seems the re-built school should be temporarily located in the too small facility.	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.
What are the capital projects identified for Louisa Boren?	We are just beginning the planning for BEX V.
What capital projects for antiquated technology are identified?	Each capital levy includes a technology component to upgrade and improve technology throughout the district. Under BEX IV, we have added wireless/Wi-Fi networks in all buildings and integrated the district-wide networks.
Why is the district not utilizing Portable classrooms instead of permanent buildings? (For interim sites.)	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made. We do not currently have space to add enough portable classrooms to house a middle school.
Would moving STEM K-8 to Schmitz Park harm the school's diversity and equity by moving the GeoArea from Delridge to a more affluent neighborhood?	This will be looked at part of the considerations if a decision is made to more closely examine the move.
Does WA State still do matching funds for Capital Projects for school construction?	Yes, the State of Washington has a state construction assistance program that provides some funding for the construction or renovation of schools.
Are you going to dissolve the STEM K-8 school?	That is not our intention.
Is Boren still considered an "Interim" site?	It is currently the home of Boren STEM K-8. It had been used as an interim site for many years before that decision was made to keep the STEM program in the building and grow it to a K-8.
How can STEM grow to its full capacity without a permanent building?	We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.

COMMENT OR QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Instead of upending a permanent school, you could use Schmitz Park and Roxhill as interim by splitting a high school or middle school between the 2 sites. Or build interim site on old Denny Middle School site or other location.</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>You said last time that we could stay at Boren. Now you change your speech back to using “interim” WE BELONG HERE! AT BOREN.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>I think you said earlier that buying land is too expensive. Why not <u>ask</u> families to raise money?</p>	<p>Thank you for the suggestion.</p>
<p>Moving STEM to Schmitz Park is deeply negligent – your estimate of 600 includes more portables than classrooms. Capacity is needed in North West Seattle and STEM moving up there would be a huge blow equality and diversity. You should be ashamed of yourselves – truly. Figure out a way to support thriving communities and not disrupt student and families lives. The capacity of Boren is <u>our enrollment + our waitlist</u>. Roxhill is the only answer for interim. Find a way to make it work.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>How can you justify the inequity of moving the only option school in the Denny Service area to the affluent North with the HCC track & the other option school?</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>Our site is over 20 acres – if you want this building for interim, you can build us a new building right here! Problem solved.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p>
<p>Comment: I am a North Delridge citizen and implore the district to please keep the stem at the Boren site permanently. We love having a permanent and vibrant school in our neighborhood. Also, question: There is a middle school capacity crunch coming. Why not let west Seattle’s two very popular K8s to grow to help alleviate that crunch?</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>Is the District looking to other school districts for models on how to do construction without interim sites? Portland, OR and Austin TX both have projects going on right now.</p>	<p>Capital staff communicates regularly with other districts, and we will continue to do so.</p>

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<p>With other large school districts not making use of interim schools when renovating or constructing new buildings, why can we not follow that model if the district has no available interim locations?</p>	<p>Many school districts can build without moving to an interim location because they have more space. This allows building without removing the existing building or adding enough portables to the site to accommodate students.</p>
<p>Does SPS have any vacant properties or properties they are leasing out to other agencies or businesses?</p>	<p>We have been working to return control of buildings needed for capacity. We cancelled leases at E.C. Hughes, Magnolia and Cedar Park, and the Nordic Heritage Museum is moving out of Webster soon. Some of the other sites are not large enough to accommodate a school.</p>
<p>Have portables been considered for swing space at other schools being renovated?</p>	<p>We are just beginning the process. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>Is it possible to keep the Lafayette & Alki students in their current schools and just create new buildings for them to move into?</p>	<p>There is not room on either site to do construction without removing the existing buildings, which requires an interim location for students.</p>
<p>You do not need to use the city’s racial equity toolkit to see that moving this school out of this geozone will disproportionately affect students of color and low-income students which are the majority of neighborhood. <u>Especially</u> if you move us to a white affluent Alki/Admiral. How can you justify a move like this knowing the racial and socio-economic impact will have on current students? PLEASE ANSWER THIS.</p>	<p>We would be using Seattle Public Schools Equity Toolkit as we have at other schools. It doesn’t give us an answer, but it makes sure we think of how decisions have equity impacts. No decisions have been made.</p>
<p>SPS needs to build an interim location. Have you explored a public-private partnership to fund it? (Ex Gates, Ballmer, and Allen etc.)</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p>