

SFSD Facilities Task Force

Planning for the Future

April 8, 2026

Mission: “to educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world”





Welcome

Nan Kelly ~ School Board President



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Introductions of Chairs and Task Force Members



Jerry Gallagher - Donovan Group



Introductions

- The Donovan Group ~ Jerry Gallagher
- SFSD Facilities Task Force Chairs
 - ▶ Natalie Eisenberg - Navy
 - ▶ Tony Erickson - Royal
 - ▶ Micki Lundin - Gold
- SFSD Facilities Task Force Members



Introductions



Jerry Gallagher *Partner*

Jerry serves as a Donovan Group partner, overseeing the firm's national strategy to support public schools and their communication needs.

Before joining the Donovan Group in 2018, Jerry spent 18 years as a broadcast journalist. He earned a Midwest Regional EMMY in 2015 for a story about his father's trip on an Honor Flight. He also received several other EMMY nominations over the years for his reporting on topics like public education.

Outside of work, Jerry enjoys spending time with his family and friends.



Housekeeping Items



Jerry Gallagher - Donovan Group

Expectations of Audience Members

Thank you for joining us today!

What is the role of an observer?

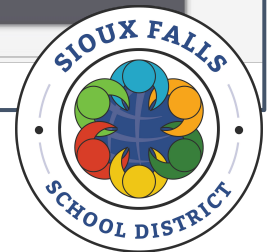
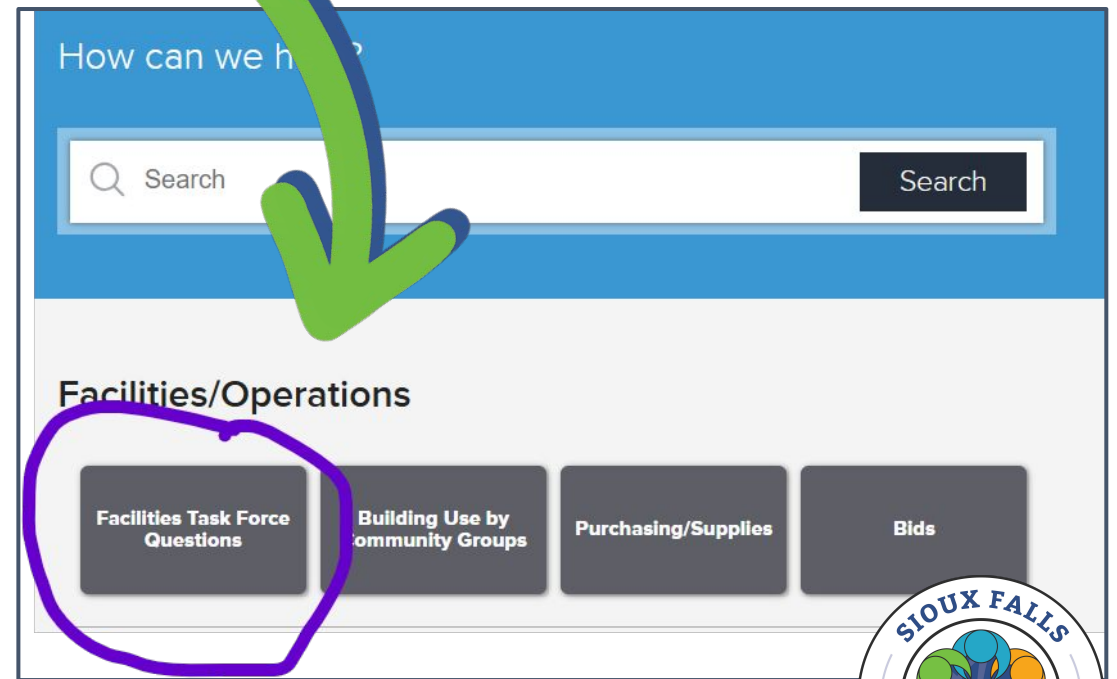
What does an engaged audience member look like?

How can questions be submitted?

- QR code through Let's Talk
- Scroll down on the website and select the "Facilities Task Force Questions" button



QR Code to Submit Questions



Expectations of Task Force Members

- Interaction norms
- Asking questions
- How questions will be addressed
- What an engaged task force member looks like



Review of Agenda



Jerry Gallagher - Donovan Group

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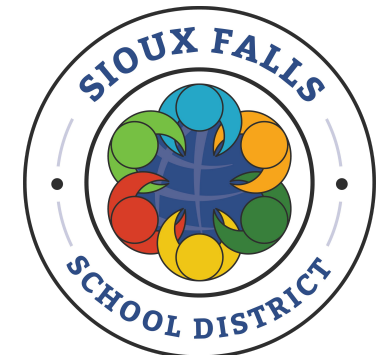
Agenda

- IV. Overview of CIP Process
- V. Your Role as a Task Force Member & “Charge” from Board to Task Force

BREAK

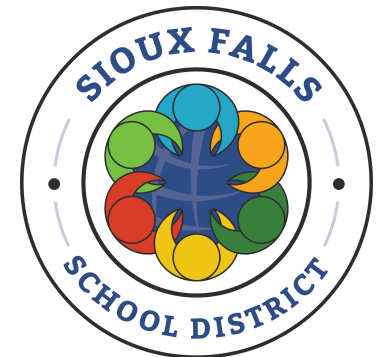
- VI. Recap of First Facilities Task Force
- VII. Growth of Sioux Falls that Impacts SFSD
- VIII. Group Engagement Activity
- IX. Enrollment/Capacity

BREAK



Agenda

- X. Preview of Agenda Items for Meeting #2
- XI. Introducing the Prioritization Rubric
- XII. Questions & Answers/Task Force Discussion
- XIII. Closing



Overview of CIP Process

Dr. Jamie Nold - Superintendent

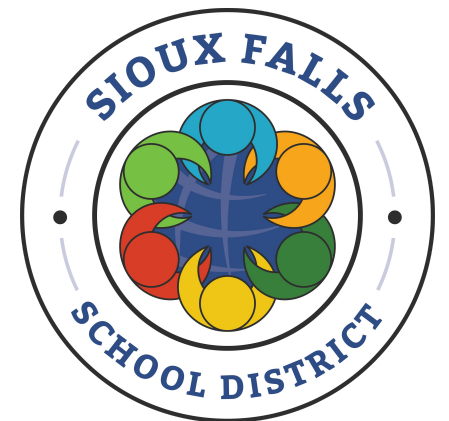


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Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Process

When developing the 2027 CIP, the following items were taken into consideration:

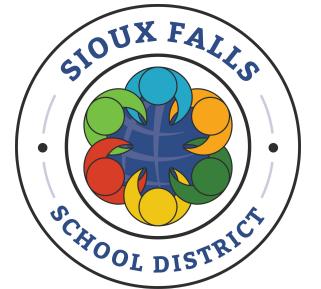
- The potential growth needs for the District over the next 10 years
- Facility projects that would need additional funding to achieve
- Equal educational access for all students



Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Process

The CIP process consisted of the following:

- District Leadership worked with building administration to evaluate current facility standards and identify needs.
- A review occurred of all non-funded projects identified during the 2018 Facilities Task Force process.
- A comprehensive project list was created based on evaluations of each building.



Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Process

District Leadership has done the following:

- Involved building level leadership
- Reviewed all District and building project listings
- Developed a comprehensive CIP 2027 project list
- Developed preliminary plans and cost estimates
- Presented the CIP 2027 project list to the Facilities Task Force for review and prioritization



2026 SFSD Facilities Task Force

Make Up of Task Force:

1. Three community members will be identified as co-chairs.
2. There will be a 30-member group with the following:
 - a. Diversity of experience
 - b. Diversity of location within the SFSD boundaries
 - c. Diversity of careers
 - d. A cross-section of SFSD community members



2026 SFSD Facilities Task Force

Purpose

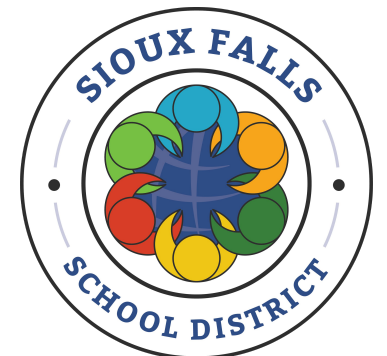
1. Review SFSD and City of Sioux Falls growth projections
2. Review and prioritize current facility needs
3. Review and prioritize future facility needs
4. Prioritize projects that could be supported by a future bond
5. Provide information to the School Board for consideration



Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Process

So what will you really do?

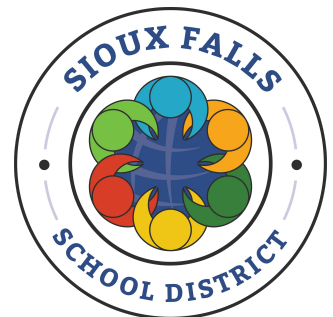
- Gain insight and background knowledge of the CIP process
- Review the comprehensive CIP project list
- Prioritize CIP projects to be supported by a future bond
- Make a recommendation to the School Board



2026 SFSD Facilities Task Force

Timeline Overview ~

1. **August 2026** ~ Task Force Initial Findings Presented to the School Board
2. **September 2026** ~ Community Survey
3. **September - November 2026** ~ Listening Sessions
4. **December 2026** ~ Task Force May Reconvene to Review community feedback and make final recommendations
5. **Jan/Feb 2027** ~ Present Findings to School Board
6. **April 2027** ~ Bond Election



“Charge” from the School Board



Jerry Gallagher - Donovan Group

Charge to the 2026 Task Force

Prioritize CIP Facility Projects that are -

- Aligned to the District's mission, vision, and priorities
- Aligned to the District's facilities standards
- Designed to allow the District to expand or contract with enrollment shifts
- Developed to ensure fair and uniform access for students across every building





~BREAK~
(5 Minutes)

2018 Facilities Task Force Recap



Doug Morrison - SFSD

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Phases of the Process



**August
2017**

**Sept-Dec
2017**

**Jan-Mar
2018**

**April-May
2018**

**June-July
2018**

**September 18,
2018**

Kick Off

1. Learn

**2. Gather
Feedback**

**3. Develop
Options**

**4. Board
Decision**

5. Action

Board
discusses/
approves
process

Enrollment
and Facilities
Info

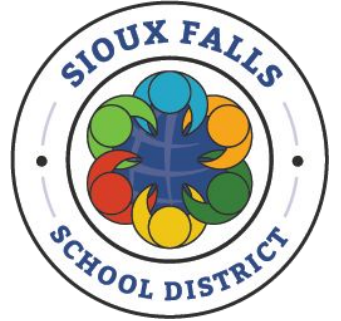
Community
Engagement

Task Force

Survey &
Scope of
Project

Vote

2018 Task Force Overview



- A community-led 30-member task force convened by the Sioux Falls School Board in spring 2018; co-chaired by Vernon Brown and Nan Kelly
- Met four times (April-May 2018) at the SFSD Instructional Planning Center
- Preceded by three community engagement sessions and staff focus groups held in March 2018

2018 Task Force Overview

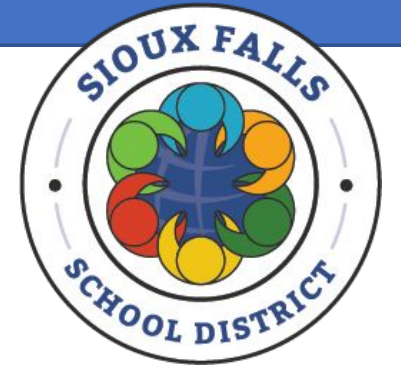


- Facilitated by Joe Donovan of Donovan Group, a school communications and engagement firm
- Final report presented to the School Board on June 8, 2018
- Bond vote September 18, 2018



Key Themes

- **District enrollment** had grown 20% over the prior decade (from ~19,000 to ~24,000 students). (Roosevelt HS and Memorial MS were identified as already over-capacity.)
- **Equity:** A student's home address should not determine educational opportunities available.
- **Capacity:** Maximum enrollments set at 1,800 (HS), 1,000 (MS), and 600 (Elementary)
- **Whittier Middle School:** built in 1922; estimated 10 years of useful life remaining; plan for replacement



Key Themes

- **Boundaries:** Redrawing boundaries post-referendum should use a transparent, community-led process
- **Financial Responsibility:** Solutions must minimize tax burden, especially for seniors and fixed-income residents.
- **Long-Term Planning:** Recommended forming similar task forces at regular intervals to stay ahead of growth



2018 Task Force Recommendations:

- A new middle school should be constructed on the school district's southeast side. It should be built as soon as possible and opened in 2021 or 2022.
- The School Board should use a robust and transparent engagement effort (similar to the one the task force used) to establish new school boundaries within the district.



2018 Task Force Recommendations:

- A new high school should be constructed on the school district's northwest side. The school should be built as soon as possible, and opened in 2021 or 2022. However, the school should maintain the district's north-to-south boundaries to provide balanced student populations.
- The School Board should consider the land gift made by Sanford Health to determine whether the location is appropriate for a new high school.



2018 Task Force Recommendations:

- Financial Recommendation:
 - a. Total Investment of \$190 million.
 - b. The resulting bond levy should be partially offset with a reduction in the current capital outlay fund levy.
 - c. The combined bond and capital outlay levy should not exceed \$3.
 - d. That will represent a net increase of \$.13 per \$1,000 of taxable value.
 - e. The approximate annual tax increase on the average home in Sioux Falls (\$185,000 taxable valuation) would be \$24 per year or \$2 per month.



2018 Task Force Recommendations:

- In addition to constructing the new schools, the School Board should address necessary facility needs based on the list that was prioritized.
- A new elementary school should be built and opened by 2024, with a location to be determined by population growth.
- The School Board should begin to prepare for the eventual replacement of Whittier Middle School through land acquisition at the existing location.

Recommended Projects:



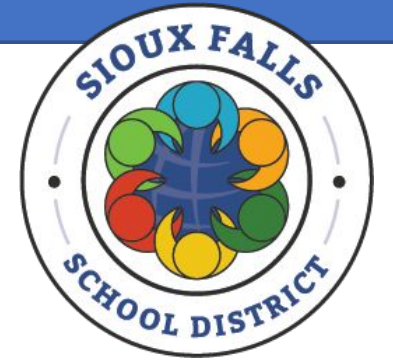
Each item received a weighted ranking according to the priority assigned to it. The following is a prioritized list of the projects with their weighted scores.

- Purchase land for future Whittier Middle School replacement (estimated cost: \$4.7 million): rank of 1; weighted score of 262
- Security/ADA projects – entrance redesign, exterior restrooms at high schools, stairs/elevator (estimated cost: \$4.8 million): rank of 2; weighted score of 249
- Add six classrooms to Horace Mann Behavior Site (estimated cost: \$2.6 million): rank of 3; weighted score of 202
- Rebuild Cleveland Elementary School gym to meet standards (estimated cost: \$5.7 million): rank of 4; weighted score of 192
- Expansion of Memorial Middle School music area (estimated cost: \$1.2 million): rank of 5; weighted score of 176
- Gym expansion at John F. Kennedy Elementary School, converts current to multipurpose, and MP to music (estimated cost: \$3.9 million): rank of 6; weighted score of 155
- Head Start screening, garage/storage expansion at Central Services (estimated cost: \$2.2 million): rank of 7; weighted score of 149

Recommended Projects:



- Purchase land for future Lowell Elementary School replacement (estimated cost: \$3 million): rank of 8; weighted score of 142
- Band/music addition at Jane Addams Elementary School (estimated cost: \$660,000): rank of 9; weighted score of 136
- Multipurpose room/gym improvements at Hayward Elementary School (estimated cost: \$570,000): rank of 10; weighted score of 135
- Gym expansion at Robert Frost Elementary School (estimated cost: \$785,000): rank of 11; weighted score of 127
- Physical education/coaches area, training rooms, storage at Roosevelt High School & Washington High School (estimated cost: \$3.4 million): rank of 12; weighted score of 120
- Purchase land for playground/parking at Jane Addams Elementary School (estimated cost: \$1.4 million): rank of 13; weighted score of 115
- Purchase land for additional parking at Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School (estimated cost: \$750,000): rank of 14; weighted score of 45



Task Force Key Dialogue Item:

Whittier Middle School: Task force members returned over the course of time to their concern about Whittier. Members agreed a school in the Whittier area is vital. Concern about the school's age was expressed, and it was asked whether the school currently meets the needs of students and the district's equity standards.

Members were told that while the school is old, it has been updated and meets the district's equity standard. Moreover, district staff shared their opinion that the school has an approximate useful lifespan of a decade, after which time, the school should be replaced. Members discussed the need to begin the process of replacing Whittier on or very near its current site.



Final Results

- Sioux Falls voters overwhelmingly approved a bond that will fund construction of three new schools. The \$190 million bond will also fund security and other improvements on the district's other campuses (14).
- The Sioux Falls School District needed at least 60% affirmative votes to pass the bond. In the end, nearly 85% of voters support funding the construction of new facilities.

City of Sioux Falls Growth & the SFSD



Jason Bieber

Senior Planner
Planning and Development Services



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Group Engagement Activity



Jerry Gallagher - Donovan Group

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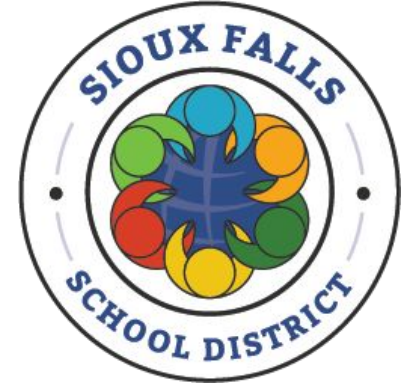


Enrollment & Building Capacity

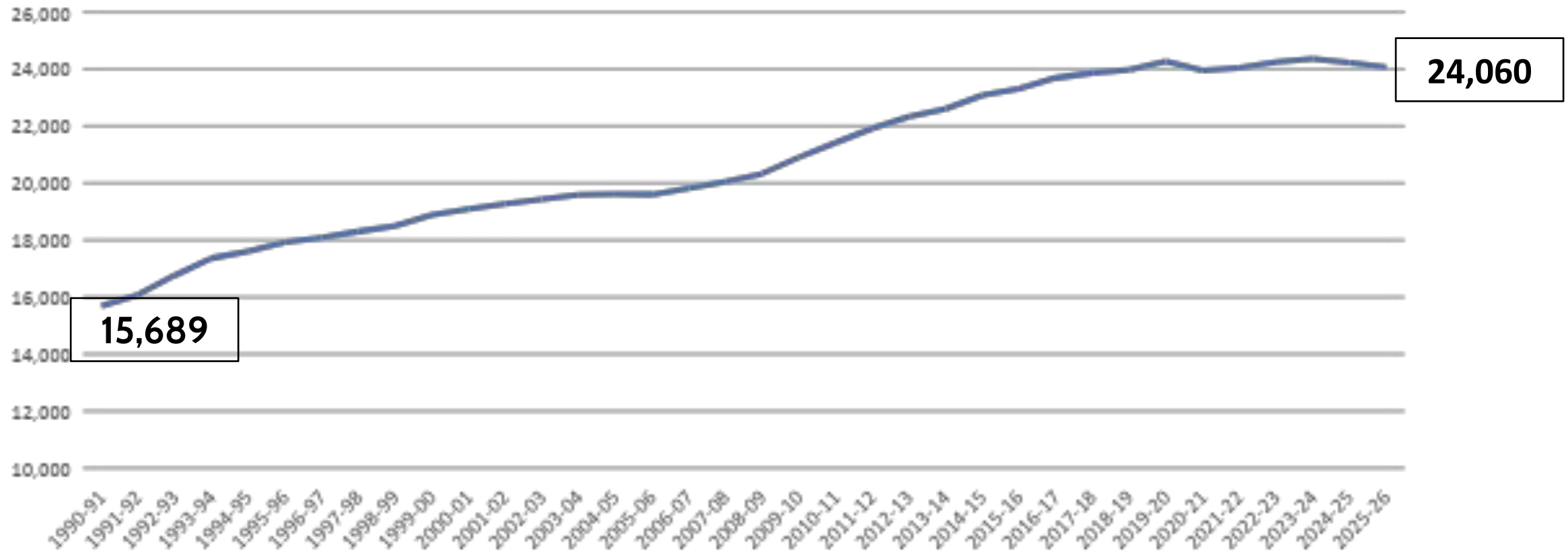
Doug Morrison - SFSD



Enrollment-Historical



K-12 Enrollment



Enrollment-Future



- Expecting Continued Flat Enrollment
- Remaining Growth Areas Offset by:
 - Declining birth rates
 - Increasing home school enrollments
 - Suburbanization
 - Higher growth:
 - Brandon, Harrisburg, Tea

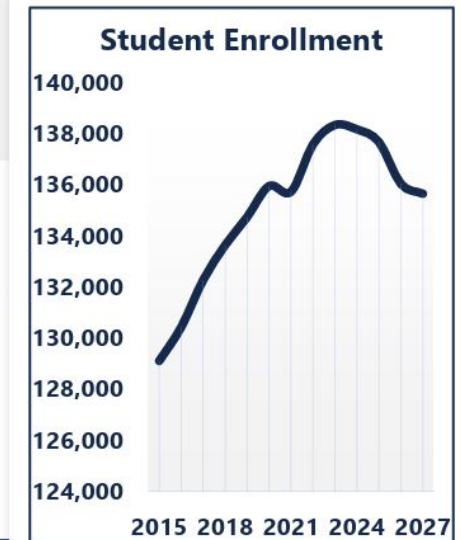
From Governor's December 2025 Budget Address

Key Drivers Impacting Education Funding

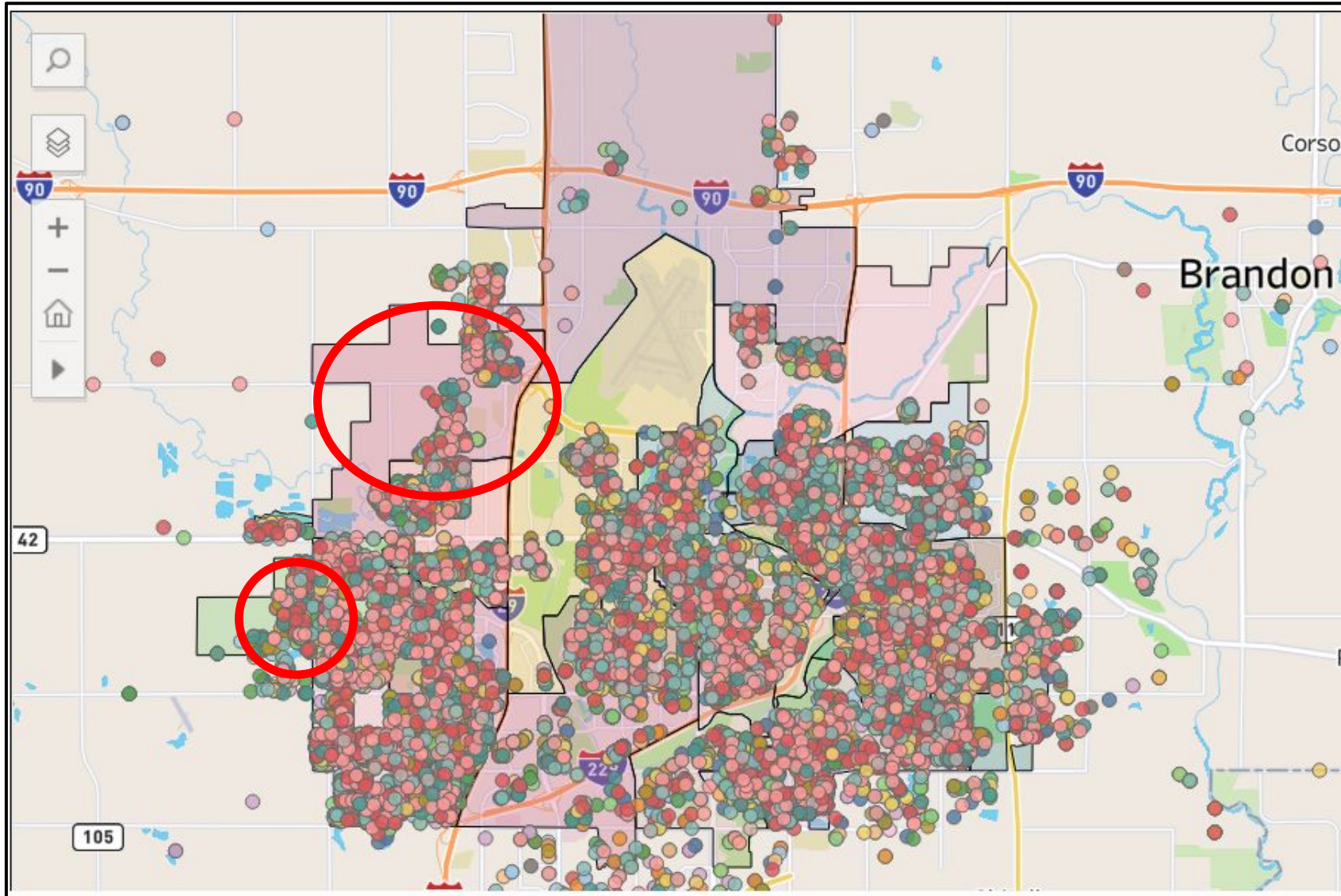
- Enrollment declining since 2023
- 9% decrease in the number of births since 2015
- 216% growth in alternative instruction since 2015

Special Education
Increase of \$2.9 million to align with two-year rebase

General Education
Decrease of \$15.7 million to align with student enrollments



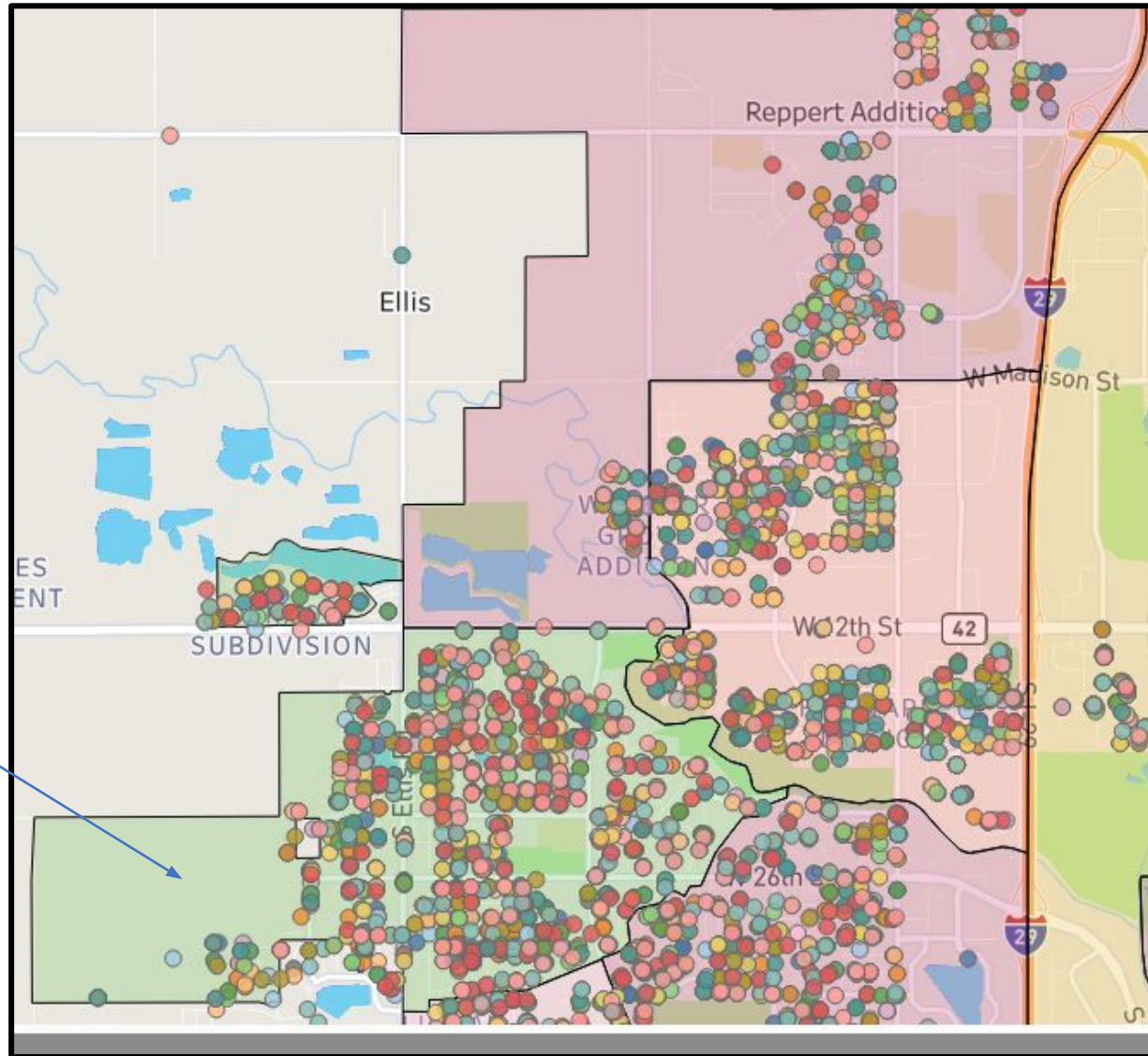
Enrollment-Remaining Growth Areas



Future Growth Areas:

- NW area
- Land annexed from Lennox School District

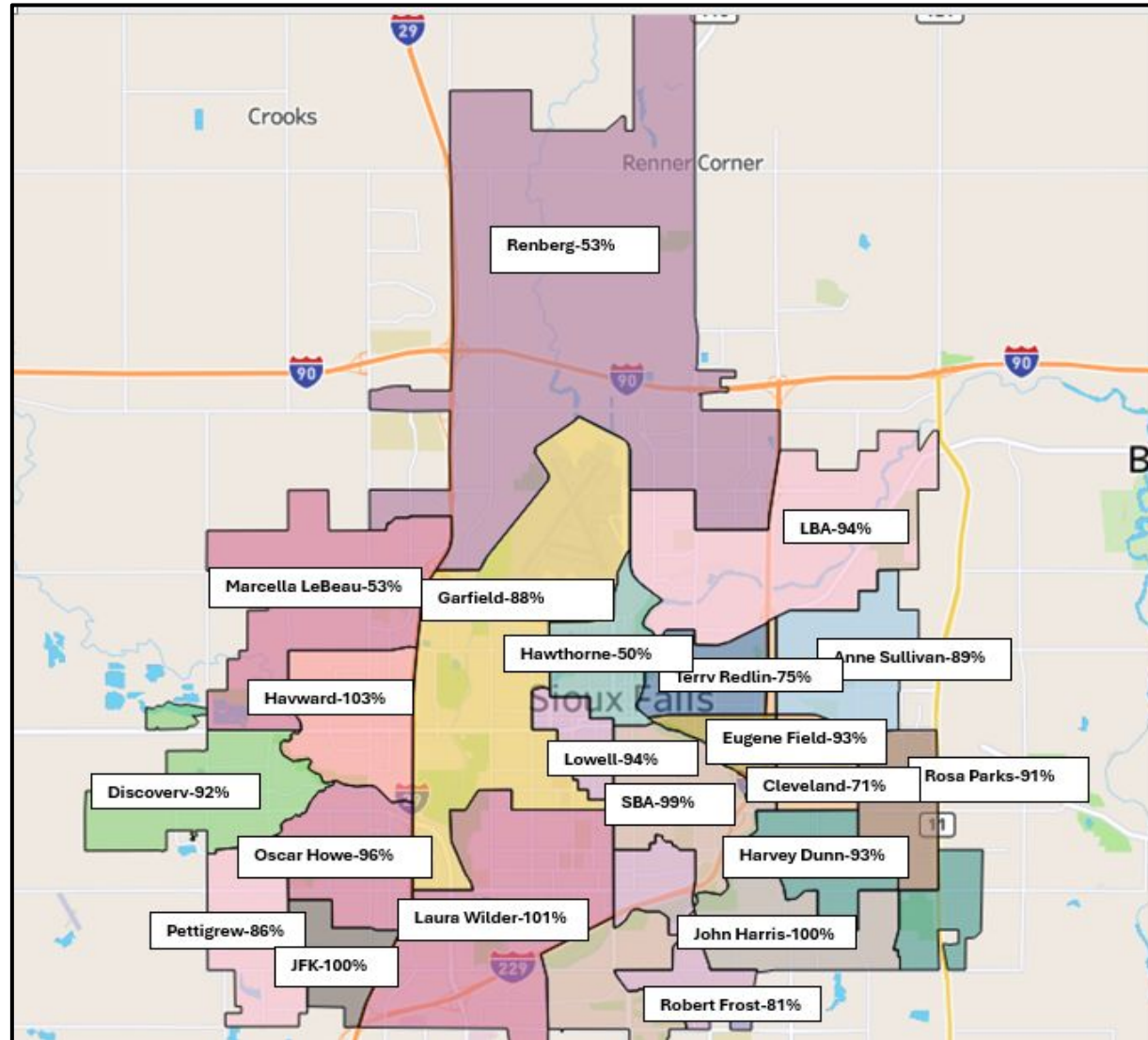
Enrollment-Land Annexed From Lennox



- Land annexed from Lennox could grow to additional 300-400 students as the area develops
- Southwest elementary schools already running at/near capacity
- Eventual possible need for another elementary school

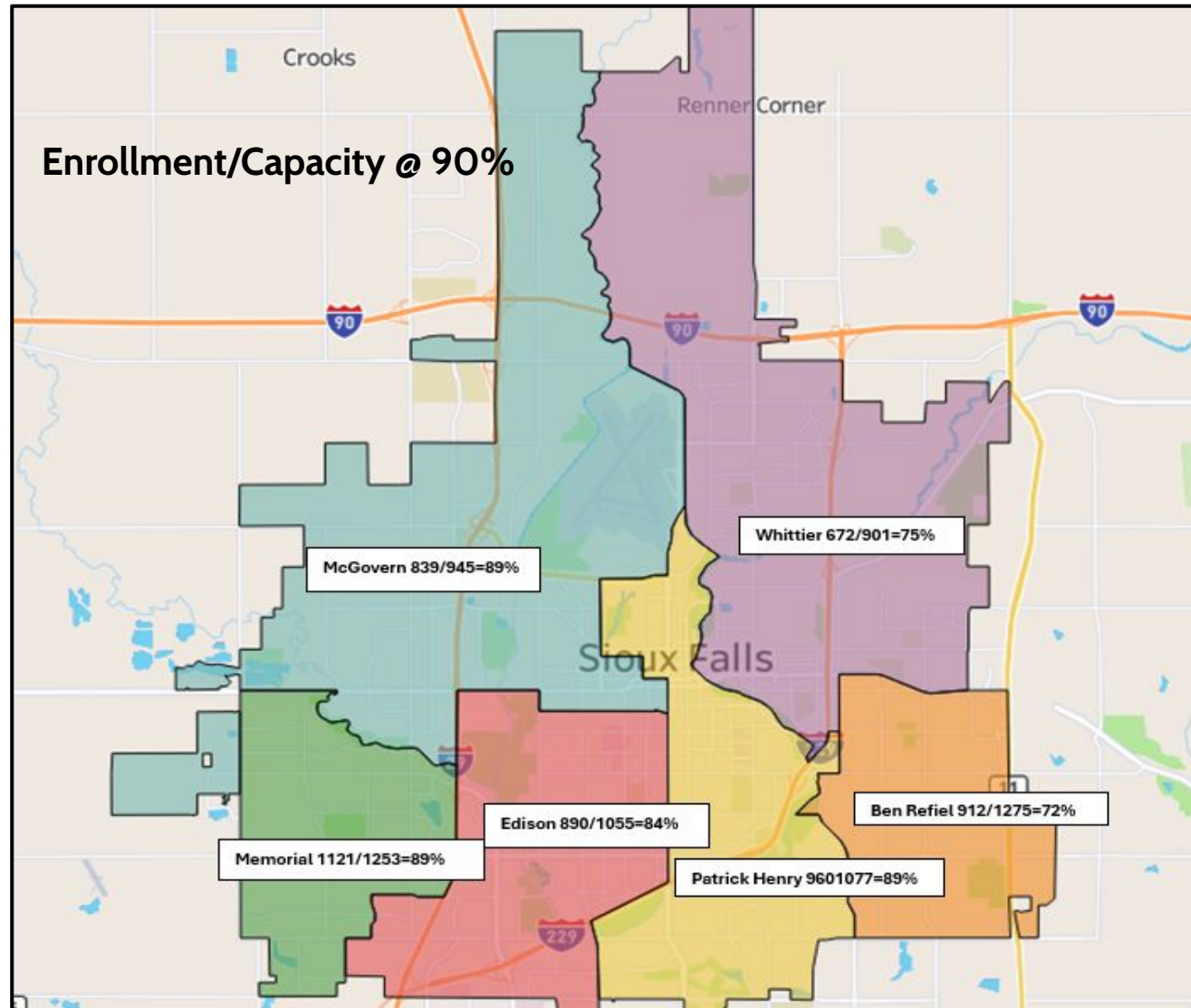
300-400
Students

School Capacity-Elementary Schools



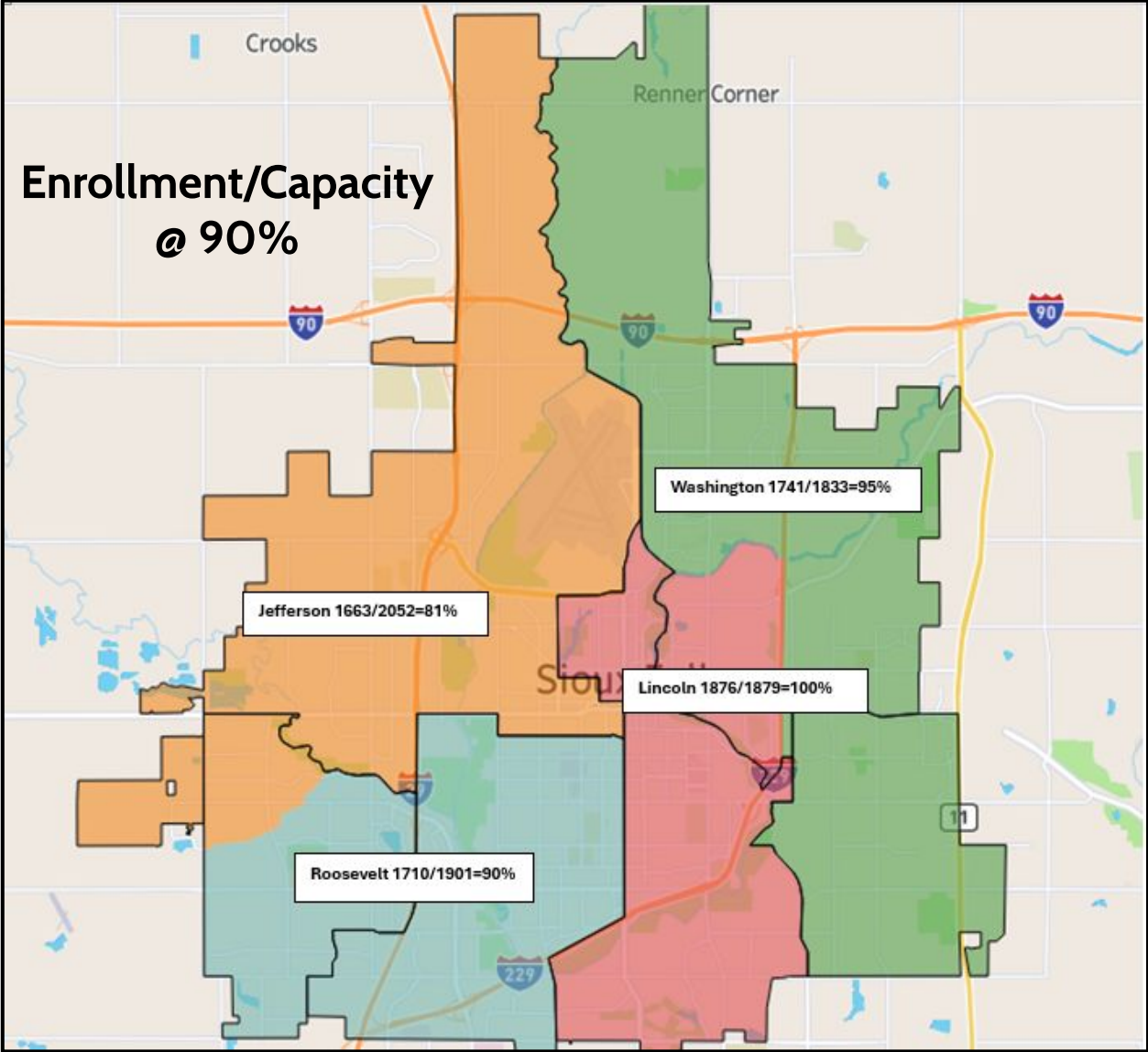
- Majority of schools running at/near capacity
- Renberg closing in fall of 2028
- Marcella LeBeau positioned for growth in the NW and closure of Renberg
- Some capacity in the core

School Capacity-Middle Schools



- MS capacity positioned well for any remaining growth

School Capacity-High Schools



- JHS positioned for growth in NW area



~BREAK~
(5 Minutes)

Preview of Task Force Agenda #2



Jerry Gallagher - Donovan Group

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Preview of Task Force Agenda #2

- I. Welcome & Review of Agenda
- II. Follow-ups from Task Force Meeting #1
- III. School Funding Overview
- IV. Review of High School Projects
- V. Review of Middle School Projects
- VI. Review of Elementary School Projects
- VII. Review of Other District Projects
- VIII. Task Force Discussion - Q & A



Introduction of Prioritization Rubric



Jerry Gallagher - Donovan Group

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CIP Evaluation Categories — Definitions & Scoring Guide

01 Educational Program Impact

The degree to which the project directly supports or enhances the delivery of instruction, student learning outcomes, or critical educational programs. Considers whether the project enables new programming, addresses a program deficiency, or improves classroom/learning environments.

“Does this project make teaching and learning better?”

02 Building / Infrastructure Condition

An assessment of the current physical state of the building system or infrastructure component targeted by the project. Considers remaining useful life, frequency of failures, safety implications of deferred maintenance, and cost escalation risk if not addressed.

“How urgent is the physical need — and what happens if we wait?”

03 Strategic Plan Alignment

The extent to which the project advances goals, priorities, or initiatives identified in the district's adopted Strategic Plan. Higher scores reflect direct connections to board-approved objectives; lower scores reflect projects that are operational but not explicitly tied to strategic direction.

“Does this project move us toward our stated district goals?”

04 Student Enrollment / Utilization

Considers the number of students served by the facility and the building's utilization rate relative to its capacity. Projects at high-enrollment or over-capacity schools score higher; projects at declining-enrollment or underutilized facilities score lower, reflecting stewardship of district resources.

“How many students benefit, and is the facility being fully used?”

05 Student & Community Equity

The degree to which the project addresses disparities in facility quality, accessibility, or program access across the district — particularly for underserved student populations. Considers ADA compliance, geographic equity across attendance zones, and impact on special populations.

“Does this project help level the playing field for all students?”

06 Evaluator's Overall Rating

A holistic rating based on the evaluator's professional judgment, lived experience, and knowledge of factors not fully captured in categories 1–5. May include community context, political considerations, timing, staff or parent sentiment, knowledge of building history, or other intangibles the evaluator believes are relevant to prioritization.

“Beyond the criteria above — what does your experience and judgment tell you about this project?”

SCORING SCALE

5

Critical / High Impact

Imminent need or transformational benefit for students

4

Significant

Strong, clear impact on students, safety, or operations

3

Moderate

Meaningful benefit but not immediately urgent

2

Minor

Limited scope or only indirect benefit to students

1

Low / Not Applicable

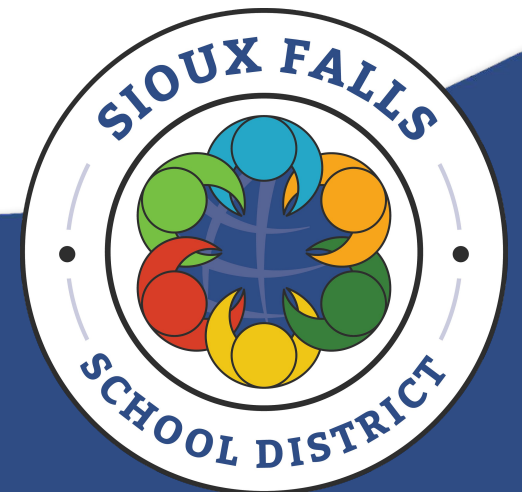
Minimal relevance to this category for this project

Task Force Discussion Questions & Answers

Jerry Gallagher - Donovan Group



Summary



2026 SFSD Facilities Task Force

Meeting Dates ~ 5:30pm - 8:00pm

1. **Wednesday, April 8, 2026** First Meeting
2. **Wednesday, April 22, 2026** Second Meeting
3. **Wednesday, May 6, 2026** Third Meeting
4. **Wednesday, May 20, 2026** Fourth Meeting

