

# JOINT ASSEMBLY/JSD FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 26, 2023 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Conference Room 224/Zoom Webinar

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Zoom Link: <https://juneau.zoom.us/j/81449931245> or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 814 4993 1245

**A. CALL TO ORDER – 12:00 p.m.**

**B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Ms. Woll**

**C. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Chair Hale; Ms. Woll; Ms. Sorensen; Mr. Holst; Ms. Gladyszewski; Mr. Muldoon (present via zoom); Mayor Weldon (joined at 12:02p.m.)

**City & Borough of Juneau Staff Members Present:** Katie Koester, EPW Director; Denise Koch, EPW Deputy Director; Beth McEwen, City Clerk;

**School District Staff Present:** Frank Hauser, Superintendent; Cassie Olin, Administrative Services Director;

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – No Changes.**

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approved (*minor typos shared with the secretary for correction*)**

1. August 03, 2023 - Regular Meeting

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

2. Summary of August 3, 2023, meeting and 2023 committee work

- a. Year in Review: 2023 Goals & Committee Work for Joint Assembly/School Facilities Committee

Ms. Koester directed members to page 5 of the packet and explained that the memo summarized the committee's work over the past year, reflecting on the goals set at the beginning of the year. This serves as a starting point for the 2024 committee.

3. Presentation by JYW/ Ericson & Associates on proposed updates to 2017 Draft JSD Facilities Master Plan

Mr. Wall from Jensen Yorba Wall (JYW) provided a high-level overview of the 2017 Draft JSD Facilities Master Plan, which had been previously provided by JYW. They explained that in September 2023, they were tasked with evaluating how this plan could be updated and developed into an adoptable Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan. JYW reviewed the 2017 document, identified still-valid data, and highlighted key points. They updated some information in a revised Executive Summary, which was included in the packet and serves as a roadmap for the rest of the document.

In 2017, school enrollment was projected to decline, and facilities were under capacity. However, following the pandemic, enrollments decreased more than anticipated, leaving schools at even lower capacity than initially projected. Mr. Wall notes that enrollment data was largely derived from Erickson & Associates. Mr. Wall explained that JYW compared the initial projections to actual outcomes and observed a continued decline in enrollment.

Mr. Wall explained that they were asked whether there were any anticipated variables not previously considered, such as the arrival of the icebreaker, that could impact future enrollment. They shared that, at present, there are no obvious factors likely to reverse the enrollment decline in the near future.

Mr. Erickson of Erickson & Associates explained that they have provided short-term enrollment forecasts for the JSD over the past 10 years. These forecasts primarily help estimate foundation program revenues for the district, which are dependent on the following year's enrollment. He noted that their

forecasting accuracy has improved over time, emphasizing that short-term forecasts are generally more reliable than long-term ones.

Mr. Erickson shared that in 2016, when the 2017 forecast was made, they projected a decline of approximately 83 students by 2022. However, the actual decline from 2016 to 2022 was 491 students. The actual 2022 enrollment was 4,204 students. Looking ahead to the next 7 years, they project a further decline to 3,767 students, a loss of over 400 students. Mr. Erickson highlighted broader demographic trends contributing to this decline, including a decreasing working-age population and lower fertility rates, trends that are affecting many communities across Alaska and the United States.

Mr. Wall moved on to the next section of the report, 'Project Funding vs. Operational Expenditures.' Mr. Wall explained that it was discovered that operating expenditures were already exceeding above the revenues from the State, which seems consistent with what we are seeing now. He explained that it had been identified that we had already exceeded the size of facilities for the students based on operational costs.

Mr. Holst and Mr. Muldoon discussed fund balances, budget/staff cuts, and possible implied savings.

Chair Hale clarified for the group that Section 4, Projected Funding vs. Operational Expenditures, does not refer to the JSD fund balance or implied savings. She shared that one takeaway was that the State has been underfunding education for a very long time.

Discussion occurred on the 2017 Facility Educational Assessment Summary (Section 5).

Chair Hale shared her desire to populate the Joint Assembly JSD Facilities matrix with the data from the 2017 report so that it could be handed off to the next committee members.

Ms. Gladziszewski recommended the group pass along the Joint Assembly JSD Facilities matrix and the 2017 report to the next committee.

Mr. Wall highlighted that in Section 8, 'Design Capacity,' no analysis was done for admin, which appears to have been missed.

Mr. Wall directed members to the Conclusion section in the JYW Updated Executive Overview and expanded on the bulleted possible future steps (page 13 of the packet).

Group discussion occurred on how to move forward with the report.

Ms. Gladziszewski shared support for the inclusion of childcare in future discussions.

Chair Hale recommended that they hire an independent contractor to support the committee and staff in moving forward.

Chair Hale clarified that the School Board, not the Assembly, makes the decision to close a school.

## **G. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

### **4. Next steps towards completion and adoption of Facility Master Plan**

Ms. Gladziszewski recommended to the group that they forward the memo from the 9/26/2023 with the Joint JSDFC evaluation matrix in addition to page 55 of the 2017 Draft JSD Facilities Master Plan (page 55) with the goal of combining them.

Chair Hale requested that the Joint Assembly JSDFC forward the whole report rather than just the matrix from the 2017 report.

Ms. Hale asked if there was value in populating the matrix rather than handing over the two separate documents.

Ms. Koester explained that one option would involve merging both matrices with new categories based on the documents, likely with assistance from JYW. This approach would result in a longer memo. The second option would involve populating some of the matrix, which would require additional consultant support and assistance from the JSD. In both cases, the goal would be to generate one succinct document.

Ms. Koester asked the committee whether it would be valuable to populate the matrix at this stage, or if the conversation is still theoretical, focusing on defining the categories and key considerations. She noted that if the committee is still in the process of determining the categories and what should be considered, it would involve a larger workload, and the committee may not want to task staff with that at this time.

Ms. Gladyszewski moved to forward the memo from the 9/26/2023 meeting, along with the Joint JSDFC evaluation matrix, and asked the next committee to consider both the memo and the matrix, beginning on page 55 of the 2017 Draft JSD Facilities Master Plan. She suggested that they move forward with merging the two documents.

Ms. Hale objected.

A vote was called. Ms. Gladyszewski voted yes, Ms. Woll voted yes, Mr. Holst voted yes, Ms. Sorensen voted no, Mayor Weldon voted yes, and Chair Hale voted no. The motion passed.

Ms. Woll moved to forward to the next committee the recommendation that when the Assembly discusses the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Legislative Priorities, and Debt Capacity, the Joint Assembly JSDFC should help inform the Assembly. There were no objections. The motion passed.

Mayor Weldon moved that the next committee look into childcare spaces in the schools. There were no objections. The motion passed.

5. Draft Matrix Key (V9.26.2023)

## **H. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

### **I. ADJOURNMENT – 1:28PM**

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: [city.clerk@juneau.org](mailto:city.clerk@juneau.org).