



# Vision 20/20

## 12/9/08 Committee Meeting Notes

The Vision 20/20 volunteer facilities committee met for the fifth time on Dec. 9, 2008, to continue the process of developing a 25-year master facilities plan for the Westlake City School District.

**Reflections from the Dec. 2 meeting:** The committee analyzed options to 1A and 3, reviewed additional data and talked specifics about how the two plans would impact a variety of areas. Both plans promote the grade level concept represented by five buildings that are grade configured.

**Staff Reaction to Plans:** The staff was presented both plans and saw great potential for both. They want to be part of the process. They understand grade level configurations would be a culture change, but that it's a forward-thinking plan for the future. Staff would like to survey similarly sized neighboring school districts that use grade level configurations to determine the best fit for Westlake.

**Additional Research:** A telephone survey of about 400 Westlake residents will be conducted before the holidays to gauge community awareness of the facilities situation and support for moving forward with a master facilities plan.

### Discussions on Option 1A

- *Strengths & Opportunities:* The committee named a variety of positives for this option, including synergy of instruction, economies with 5 buildings rather than 7, cost savings on construction, operational efficiencies, resultant vacant properties generating potential income, new buildings would attract young families and business to the area, best value, reduces duplication by investing more in grade-level buildings.
- *Weaknesses & Threats:* These are things we need to acknowledge that will either be real OR perceived. Some possible weaknesses listed included increased transportation costs, traffic congestion, the cost of the plan, interruption of activities during construction, loss of the smaller building environment, nostalgia for older buildings.

### Discussions on Option 3

- *Strengths & Opportunities:* Many cited a design for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, smaller learning communities, flexibility, being a partner in the community, reducing administrative costs, ability to multipurpose athletic facilities, familiar concept/proven success, more efficient, rental/income opportunities, leadership opportunities remain for primary students operational savings, green building opportunities.
- *Weaknesses & Threats:* Increased transportation costs, personnel shifting, redistricting, cost, history with other properties, lack of maintenance plan in past, nostalgia for old buildings, more expensive option, misunderstandings of the magnitude of the facilities problem.