

**School Growth
Committee of
Gallatin Gateway
School**

2007-2008

The School Growth Committee of Gallatin Gateway School was originally created to determine how best to accommodate anticipated increasing enrollment. The group met eight times. During the first meeting, Kim DeBruycker, the Gallatin Gateway Administrator, gave an in-depth tour of the building so the committee members could understand how each space is used. The committee also met with various individuals to better understand the issues affecting our school. John Dunlap, a local developer, gave information on his experiences with growth in Gallatin County. Mary Ellen Fitzgerald, the county superintendent, explained growth issues affecting rural schools and how other area schools have dealt with growth. Terry Sukat, an architect with JBA in Billings, provided design guidelines for school expansion and explained how other schools have designed their buildings to accommodate their needs. Gary Griffith, the building chief for Bozeman Public School gave access to Bozeman School Plans and suggested building guidelines.

After gathering information, the committee looked closely at the space the school currently uses for about 160 students and realized how efficiently our school is used to maximize the educational experience for the students. The committee also realized how maxed out the school is and how difficult it is to operate a quality educational program under such stringent space restrictions. As a result, the committee took a proactive approach in planning for our school's growth. The group determined that to begin a process of understanding on how to best accommodate increasing enrollment, we needed to understand the needs of the school for varying enrollment increases. The *Needs Assessment* documents the existing spaces the school currently works within as well our anticipated needs as we grow.

The *Needs Assessment* is broken into five major columns: 1) the existing square footage, the 2) the anticipated square footage needed for an enrollment of 161-185 students, 3) the anticipated square footage needed for an enrollment of 186-225 students, 4) the anticipated square footage needed for an enrollment of 226-450 students and 5) the anticipated square footage needed for an enrollment of 451-675 students. The group determined that the school could continue to operate under the current square footage up through an enrollment of 185 students with many band-aiding efforts to the building. At 186 students, the school will need larger spaces for the performing and fine arts, academic support areas (media center and computer lab), P.E. and athletic areas, lunch room/multipurpose space and food service areas.

Using the guideline of 25 students per class, the group determined that the existing nine classrooms will accommodate students up to 225 students. At 226 students the district will need to build an additional set of classrooms along with foreign language classroom, science classroom and a lobby for the middle school. Also, increased storage space for many of the support areas (music, art and P.E.) will be needed, as well as additional computer lab space, classroom storage and bathrooms. The administrative areas and building service areas will also need to be increased.

The last column, 451-675 students, includes an additional set of classrooms, increased performing and fine art space, storage space for classrooms and support areas. It also includes additional media and computer lab space, increased P.E. storage and office areas, increased building services and some additions to the administrative space.

The playground, parking lot and bus storage areas will need to be increased at each of the three increments. The total acreage at each increment was figured based on guidelines used by Bozeman Public Schools.

Although these projections are estimates based on the information we gathered, understanding the physical needs of our building and land needs are the first steps in this process for planning for growth. The financial needs, however, are yet an even largest obstacle to overcome in planning for a school with increasing enrollment that will continue providing quality educational opportunities for all its students.

Committee Members:




Kim DeBruycker, Gallatin Gateway School Administrator



Don Hargrove, Community member



Sandra Hart, Community member

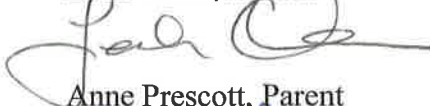


Doug Marshall, Parent

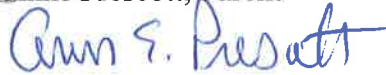


Celia O'Connor, Gallatin Gateway School Trustee

Leah Olson, Parent



Anne Prescott, Parent



George Rabel, Parent



Nikki Robbins, Gallatin Gateway School Trustee



Terry Threlkeld, Community member



John Vincent, Community member

