

Capital Plan Memo 6



May 22, 2018

To: Burlington School District Community
From: Superintendent Obeng
Subject: An Update on the District's Capital Plan

Hello BSD Community,

Over the past few weeks, our director of property services and others at BSD have combined to participate in **15 community presentations in 18 days**. Thank you to all of our community members who have attended these presentations, listened, asked questions, and offered suggestions. In addition, we are thankful for and excited about the increasing number of supportive emails and comments coming through our online feedback portal, as well as those showing up on social media and Front Porch Forum.

Last week we continued this work engaging the community, presenting to combined PTOs, staff, and Burlington's Development Review Board, answering questions, scheduling more presentations for June, and updating our Frequently Asked Questions document ([available here](#)).

One of the questions we have heard quite often recently regards the use of swing space for our kids during larger projects. Specifically: ***Why is Ira Allen a better swing space to educate kids in than portable classrooms?*** Ira Allen was originally designed as an education space and is currently used as an educational center for our pre-k programs. With portables, we begin to run into legal issues and space constraints (we would need waivers to use them for more than 180 days and not every school has the space to fit a portable on-site), as well as the considerable cost of moving and fitting up the portables with electric, water and heating and cooling systems at each location. In addition, portable classrooms are notorious for being poor and unhealthy learning spaces, often made from cheap and sometimes toxic materials. These might not be big issues for one or two short-term projects but are major considerations for a 10-year plan. While it is true the space at Ira is currently outdated, doing minor renovations to this space to accommodate older children is a far more sustainable, cheaper, and healthier alternative for our children over the course of this multi-year campaign.

As we move forward with the Capital Plan projects, we ask that the community remain engaged. Keep asking questions and offering suggestions. We're doing our best to respond at community events and through our continually updated Frequently Asked Questions document and these weekly memos. Please visit <http://www.bsdt.org/district/budget/capital-planning/> to find the most up-to-date information regarding the Capital Plan, including presentations, slideshows, our FAQ document, and an online question/feedback form.

Thank you,

Superintendent Obeng

YAW OBENG - SUPERINTENDENT