

Fernway School Options: David Glasner, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction

- Mr. Glasner explained that the District's options for Fernway this year included external space, modular units or a shared space arrangement.
- In considering external spaces, the District considered proximity to Fernway, building availability, building condition, size of classroom space. The priority was finding a space meeting the conditions that would enable the same educational experience Fernway students and their families were accustomed to. Cost was a factor, but not the most important factor. Goal through all of this was to have a decision by Aug. 1.
- Mr. Glasner shared a map of all 25-plus sites the District considered. The leading issue among most sites was that the condition of the space was good, but the size wasn't large enough. He noted that Ludlow School has often been suggested as a possible location, but confirmed that the space is leased for the next few years. The District also looked at Our Lady of Peace but ran into a number of concerns, including size and repair and renovations necessary. Plymouth Church and Suburban Temple both reached out to us, but there wasn't sufficient space for our students overall.
- Mr. Glasner presented a Temporary School Decision Matrix that demonstrated how the District evaluated other buildings and commercial spaces. District staff initially thought finding an existing space would be easy, though as time went on, it was clear this wouldn't be the case because buildings often had issues that prevented us from moving into them. Proximity was a concern, commercial spaces weren't suited for learning and others were in a condition that wouldn't enable them to be ready by August 22, the first day of school. The District wanted to ensure that students would have the same quality education and experience, which included considerations of technology, art, music and physical education, before and after care and the ability to be a part of our community.
- Modularity is a viable option, but not in the short term because they wouldn't be available by August 22. District staff knew they needed to move ahead with another option to start the school year on time.
- The shared-space option checked off most of the District's criteria. The spaces within the District would be available in time, the conditions met District standards and District staff knew that in our buildings, students would receive the same Shaker experience. Shared space is also a cost-conscious plan.
- This decision was made with collaboration of District staff, Mr. Hayward, Fernway faculty and Fernway community members. Mr. Hayward reported that this focus group visited Our Lady of Peace School and discussed all the options. In trying to find a location that would meet student needs, Mr. Hayward and the focus group felt that using shared space was our best option.
- With these considerations, the recommendation was to house Fernway Kindergarten at Onaway, Grade 1 at Boulevard and Grades 2-4 at Woodbury. This also ensured that students would be within close proximity to each other.
- Mr. Glasner noted that Shaker Schools administrators and teachers went above and beyond as they worked to accommodate students within our buildings. He added that sharing our buildings presents the District and families with unique opportunities to build community in new ways.

- Mr. Glasner noted that space was created by relocating host school teachers and classrooms. The District has relocated Intervention Specialists when possible, support services, and single-subject teachers to make space. The District is also working to replace computer labs with mobile Chromebook computer cards and continues to be flexible in determining where instruction will take place.
- Mr. Hayward reported that he is confident that Fernway will be ready to start school on August 22.