

Good evening ORS Families,

One year ago, we hosted a joint working session with our Board of Education and the City Council to have a proactive conversation about the enrollment growth in Oak Ridge Schools and ways to support that growth while maintaining the level of excellence that has become the standard in Oak Ridge Schools. In the year since that meeting, the former city manager retired, and the council underwent a nearly-five-month process of hiring a replacement. While that transition limited the decisions that could be made by the city, our enrollment committee and internal team members have continued the important and dedicated work of studying our enrollment and capacity needs, and formulating a detailed recommendation for what we believe is best for Oak Ridge students, staff and the greater community.

Tonight, we reconvened with the city council, city manager and mayor of Oak Ridge to present our recommendation. I cannot say enough about the amount of research, thought and detailed consideration that went into formulating this recommendation, and I am proud to stand before the council and advocate for our staff and students. I am including [a link to the presentation that we delivered tonight](#), so you are informed not only about what we're recommending, but also the many considerations that went into formulating the recommendation. Our immediate ask of the City of Oak Ridge is to acquire land on the west side of the city and budget approximately \$2.2 million dollars to create the architectural design of a new school.

As the funding body for the school district, the city will ultimately decide if or how our recommendation will move forward. We will continue to advocate for what we believe is best for our students and staff, but understand this process will take the support of cooperation of our entire community. Tonight's presentation is the first step in this process, and we are committed to navigating the many steps ahead with transparency and compassion. We believe that schools are the heartbeat of a community and do not take lightly the impact changes to buildings may have on neighborhoods. Significant change does not happen in a vacuum, but together we believe we can reach even greater heights as a school district.

We have built a webpage that we will continue to update as we move forward in this process. To learn more, visit orcn.edu/growth.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bruce Borchers