



## MEETING RECORD

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**PROJECT:** Archuleta School District – Facilities Master Plan

**PROJECT NO:** 2024-043.00

**DATE:** January 27, 2025

**ATTENDANCE:** See Attached

**SUBJECT:** MPAC Meeting #1

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### Master Plan Advisory Committee – Meeting #1

The Master Planning Advisory Committee, comprising community members and school representatives, discussed a four-month process to improve Pagosa Springs schools' facilities. RTA Architects presented \$88 million in urgent repairs, with \$36 million of deficiencies with immediate need. Demographic data showed a decline in birth rates and an increase in senior residents. New housing projects are projected to stabilize enrollment at about 1,470 students. The committee emphasized community engagement, transparency, and the need for competitive educational offerings to retain students. The meeting discussed the rationale behind using five-year projections for educational data, citing federal administration cycles, educational trends, and strategic planning. The committee debated the importance of transparency, effective communication, and the impact of misinformation on public perception. They also discussed the need for new schools to retain high-quality teachers and support academic goals. The next steps include gathering data on potential land sites and program models, with a recommendation expected by May for the school board.

### Summary:

- 1) Introduction and Purpose of the Meeting: Rick Holt set the stage for the Master Planning Advisory Committee's 4-month process
  - a) Focus is on community engagement, advocacy, and challenging the committee to learn and make recommendations
- 2) Participant Introductions
  - a) Various community members introduce themselves and their long-term involvement with the schools
  - b) Participants express passion for education and the importance of schools in the community
- 3) Overview of the Master Planning Process
  - a) Rick introduces RTA Architects and the importance of transparency and community engagement
  - b) RTA Architects present their experience and the data-driven process
  - c) Data Collection and Initial Findings were presented and are included on the web site that the MPAC will have access to.
  - d) RTA presents data on physical deficiencies and educational adequacy of school buildings
  - e) Average age of schools is 64 years, with 75% over 50 years old
  - f) \$88 million in corrections needed, with \$36 million being most urgent
- 4) Community Engagement and Survey Results
  - a) 6 community meetings held, with 200 unique survey responses
  - b) Survey results indicate buildings are affecting educational outcomes, urgent action needed
- 5) Demographic and Enrollment Projections
  - a) Demographer presents data on declining birth rates and aging population
  - b) New housing developments projected to add 200 students
- 6) Challenges and Opportunities
- 7) Next Steps and Meeting Norms
  - a) 4 meetings scheduled over the next 4 months
  - b) Emphasis on transparency, community engagement, and data-driven decision-making

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- c) Five-Year Projections and Confidence in Forecasting
- d) Explanation of why 5-year projections provide high confidence
- 8) School Capacity and Future Needs
- 9) Discussion on building similar-sized or larger schools
- 10) Prediction of declining birth rates but stable enrollment due to affordable housing
  - a) Affordable Housing and Community Competition
  - b) Clarification on targeting lower-income families for affordable housing
- 11) Comments and questions from the MPAC Group:
  - a) Community Concerns and Transparency
  - b) Discussions on combating misinformation and communicating facility needs
  - c) Educational Advocacy and Facility Needs
  - d) Requests for visuals and successful school reimagining examples
  - e) Potential Land Sites and Community Engagement
  - f) Discussions on potential land sites and the importance of storytelling
  - g) Academic Vision and Teacher Retention
  - h) Alignment of academic goals with facility improvements
  - i) Unique cultural aspects of the community
  - j) Community Involvement and PR Strategy
  - k) Importance of community involvement and better PR to communicate facility needs
- 12) Next Steps and Committee Responsibilities
- 13) Outline of the next 4 months' work, including discussions on funding, performance, and program models
- 14) Emphasis on gathering data and making informed recommendations to the school board

Action Items:

- 1) Provide information on the enrollment and capacity of the Pagosa Open Charter School. (Assignee: Brian/Shannon)
- 2) Confirm the charter enrollment caps and absorption rates for the Pagosa Open Charter School. (Assignee: Brian/Shannon)
- 3) Follow up on the enrollment data for the Seeds of Learning preschool program. (Assignee: Jolene)
- 4) Compile a reading list on the trends and rationale behind the growth of private and charter schools in the area. (Assignee: Shannon)

Attachments:

CC: Attendees

REPORTED BY:

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Signature

Brian Calhoun, AIA

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Printed Name

	A	B	C	D	E
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