

Bourbon County Schools

Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/15/2026 | **Time:** Scheduled 5:30PM / Started 6:34 PM | **Chair:** Justin Roe

1. Call to Order & Draft Facility Plan (DFP) Overview

The committee met to review the draft facility plan. **Randy** and **Emily** from **Ross Tarrant Architects (RTA)** presented the updated assessments and Kentucky Facilities Inventory and Classification System (KFCIS) items, compiled into the mandatory state format.

Key Presentation Points:

- **Facility Status:** All schools are currently listed in the draft plan. No status changes have been made to any facility at this point; all facilities are currently listed as "permanent" (indicating long-term operation).
- **Capacity Tracking:** RTA is actively working with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to rectify and align updated building capacity numbers.
- **Public Participation:** Randy expressed appreciation for the high level of community engagement at the public forum, noting that this level of participation is exceptionally rare and highly positive.
- **Review Window:** Committee members were reminded that if any priority changes or feedback are to be incorporated, now is the time to propose them.

2. Facility Priorities Summary

Priority 1 items represent capital priorities that must be scheduled within the current KDE budget cycle. Under School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) guidelines, **Priority 1 projects must be completed before funding can be allocated to lower-priority items.**

Priority I: Facility Projects

Facility / Area	Proposed Priority I Projects	KDE Estimated Value / Notes
Bourbon County High School (BCHS)	Repair front "porch" columnsAdd secure vestibuleElevator upgrades/replacementsGymnasium air conditioningElectrical system upgrades	\$18.6 Million

Bourbon County Middle School (BCMS)	Boiler room upgrade (Urgent)Elevators replacementHVAC roof replacementBleacher replacementFlooring upgrades	—
Bourbon County Elementary School (BCES)	New roof	—
Cane Ridge Elementary School (CRES)	Gym renovation / potential expansionNew roofLife-safety upgrades (elevators/lifts, emergency lights)	—
North Middletown Elementary (NMES)	"The Big Three": Roof, HVAC, Plumbing/Boiler room	—
BCHS Agricultural Building	HVAC installationAddress water drainage issues (redirect water from bus garage parking lot)	—
Bourbon County Preschool (BCPS)	<i>No Priority I items listed</i>	—

Supporting & Discretionary Priorities

- **Priority III (Support Areas):**
 - **Central Office:** \$1.2 million in estimated needs.
 - **Bus Garage:** \$1.3 million in estimated needs.
 - **Warehouse:** \$653,000 in estimated needs.
- **Priority V (Discretionary):**
 - Athletic Training Center, Concessions, and Softball facilities.

3. Committee Discussion & Facility Feedback

Financial & District-Wide Overview

Dr. Begley noted that the district must free up **\$800,000 to \$1,000,000** in operational capital to successfully bond **\$14 million** of debt service.

- **District-Wide Elevators:** Elevators across all campus buildings are reaching end-of-life and must be addressed systemically.

Individual School Feedback

- **BCHS: Mr. Roe** emphasized the immediate structural and safety need to repair the front porch columns.
- **BCMS:**
 - **Mr. Hodge** requested that electrical upgrades (breakers, boxes, and lighting), elevator modernization, and exterior doors be closely reviewed.
 - **Mr. Roe** noted that the middle school boiler room has highly congested, legacy soldering points and requires urgent, immediate replacement.
- **CRES:** The committee discussed potentially expanding the gymnasium footprint rather than performing a standard renovation. If funding is available, expanding the gym is preferred, which may mean pausing immediate plans for cosmetic bleacher and floor replacements to redirect budget.
- **NMES Operational Assessment & Transition Discussion:**
 - **RTA** indicated that they need a definitive decision on NMES's status (Permanent vs. Transitional) to structure the rest of the district plan.
 - **Transitional Designation:** Listing a school as "transitional" means restricted funds cannot be spent on it. While it does not set a hard timeline for closure, it indicates a formal intent to transition away from the building as an active learning center.
 - **Financial Viability:** NMES is below the financial threshold needed to bond the substantial amount required for its critical repairs. Dr. Begley reported that NMES pulls a minimum of **\$900,000 annually** from the general fund to operate. With a break-even target of 300 students, NMES's current enrollment of **115 students** is operationally unsustainable.
 - **Cost History Query:** In response to an NMES representative asking why these high costs are only now surfacing, Dr. Begley explained that historical coding and accounting practices in the district did not track expenses at an individual building level.
 - **Statewide Alignment:** Mr. Roe consulted with Mr. Gilbert at the KDE, who confirmed that many school districts across the state are currently having these identical, difficult operational conversations regarding small, under-enrolled community facilities.

4. Official Actions & Timeline

Straw Poll: NMES Facility Status

A straw poll was conducted to gauge the committee's position on updating North Middletown Elementary School's (NMES) status to "Transitional" in the upcoming Draft Facility Plan.

- **Result: 10 Yea votes** were recorded to list NMES as **Transitional**.

Draft Facility Plan (DFP) Timeline

- **Review Requirement:** The DFP must be thoroughly reviewed by both the LPC and the KDE before an official vote can occur.
- **Target Vote:** A highly aggressive timeline would see the LPC taking an official vote in **September** to forward the completed plan to the Board of Education.

5. Next Steps

- **Next Meeting Date:** July 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM.
- **Special Agenda Item:** This meeting will feature a **90-minute public community forum** to gather feedback on the transitional draft designations and proposed Priority I items.