NSPRA Gold Medallion Award Entry

NSPRA 2017 Gold Medallion Award Entry
Organization: Colorado Springs School District 11
Name: Devra Ashby, APR
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Category: Special Communication Project/Campaigns
Title: The Uniting of Two History-Rich Schools

Synopsis:
Colorado Springs School District 11 (D11) is home to approximately 28,000 students in 55 schools. Enrollment has slowly been declining over the past decade, and because of this, D11 has restructured, repurposed, and closed several schools. The north and east areas of our school district are experiencing the most growth, with newer housing and newer schools, while the southern portions of our region continue to age. The southern portions of the District also have higher poverty rates.

In 2009, D11 closed nine schools as part of an efficiency restructuring initiative. Three of the schools on the potential list of closures were John Adams, Helen Hunt, and Ivywild Elementary Schools. Helen Hunt Elementary was located between John Adams and Ivywild Elementary schools, so, due to the proximity of the schools, the Board of Education decided the best option for the students from both schools was have them attend Helen Hunt. Ivywild and John Adams were closed. Shortly after Adams closed, a charter school moved into the property and occupied the building until May 2015. The charter school dissolved, and the Adams building sat vacant for a year while conversations were held about its future.

Since the 2009 closures, board membership turned over and a new superintendent was hired, leading to new ideas on how to use the Adams building. Meanwhile, discussions about the Hunt facility were happening, with the discussions centering on concerns regarding split campus safety and aging buildings and infrastructure. The original Hunt Elementary School building was built in 1902, with several additions being made over the years. Another building was erected in 1962, and as the student population grew, both buildings were used to capacity.

With city growth primarily to the north, newer schools were built in north and east sections of the District. The current board did not feel it was right for more impoverished areas of town to have only older buildings and technology. They also were aware of the safety risks to the children attending Hunt due to code compliance issues and a split campus.
**Issue:** Helen Hunt Elementary School is a split campus, with the original building erected in 1902 and a second building built in 1962. To bring the building up to safety and code compliance standards, it would cost District 11 approximately $14 million. The school, although old and housing aging infrastructure and systems, is a community fixture, and closing it caused concerns in the low-income neighborhood of blight, decreased property values, and limited childcare resources. Meanwhile, John Adams Elementary School, constructed in 1963, is sitting vacant and neighbors of this school have similar concerns.

**Problem Statement:** All children deserve equity and the best, safest facilities possible in which to learn. Balancing what is right for our students with being a good neighbor, and doing all of this with conservative budget, District 11 is tasked with making the best decision for children, for the community, and for future generations.

Both the Hunt and Adams neighborhoods are rooted in history, with loyal citizens who care deeply about their communities, of which many were born and raised. Because of the history of the past board deciding to close Adams and leave Hunt as the designated school for that neighborhood, the challenge for the current board and administration was to acknowledge that Adams could be a viable option to remodel and, therefore, possibly close Hunt. It would take $14 million dollars just to bring Hunt Elementary School up to safety and compliance codes. It would cost an estimated $7 million to reopen John Adams as a newly renovated school, complete with modernized floor plans, technology, furnishings, energy saving enhancements, and landscaping.

School District 11 has a successful history of repurposing and integrating schools and buildings back into the community with a thriving culture. Ivywild Elementary School, which was closed in the 2009 efficiency restructuring, is now a thriving brewery, eatery, and community resource with meeting space, local artwork, and gardens (http://ivywillschool.com/#menu-item-104). Wasson High School was D11’s second oldest high school. Due to declining enrollment, Wasson was closed as a traditional high school and repurposed as a campus with a collegiate feel, offering a menu of schools, programs, and opportunities to meet the needs of every student (http://rjwac.d11.org/Pages/default.aspx). These are only a couple nationally-recognized examples of the District’s repurposing efforts.

Regardless of our successful repurposing efforts, it is never easy to close a neighborhood school, even with a promise to provide students, and possibly the community, with a better offering.

**Situation Analysis**

- Colorado Springs School District 11 is the largest school district in the Pikes Peak region, serving approximately 28,000 students in 55 schools.
- The average age of D11’s schools and buildings is 50 years old.
- D11 serves a diverse student population. More than 30 percent of students are Hispanic and over seven percent are black. Sixty percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- Much of the growth of Colorado Springs is to the north and east, with newer schools accommodating this growth.
• Because of the demographics and growth in Colorado Springs, older school buildings are typically serving higher poverty student populations, while the newer schools are serving more affluent student populations.

• In 2009, the D11 Board of Education and superintendent at the time voted to close nine schools. The three schools on the southern border of the District were all considered for closure, but, due to the proximity of Helen Hunt (between John Adams and Ivywild), the Board decided the best thing to do, at the time, was to close John Adams and Ivywild Elementary Schools and leave Hunt open.

• Since 2009, many have discussed the decision by the previous board and superintendent, due to the age of Hunt’s buildings and facilities, it’s failing infrastructure, and how to best serve the 400 students now attending the school.

• John Adams was closed as a D11 elementary school in 2009, but a charter occupied the school until May 2015, when the charter dissolved. The building sat vacant for one year.

• People in both the Hunt and Adams neighborhoods are rooted in history as having strong ties to their neighborhood schools. Many residents attended their neighborhood school and sent generations of their families through the two schools.

• D11 has had a successful history of repurposing schools, reintroducing them back into the community as a productive, functioning contributor of the community.

• Funds from the sale of another District 11 property, along with general fund reserves, could be enough to retrofit the Adams building into a “new” school, but would fall short of bringing the Hunt building up to ADA and legal compliance by about $7 million.

• Honoring both neighborhoods’ history, being a good neighbor, and doing what is right for students are the major points to be considered.

Research
Goal 1: Provide a state-of-the-art school for students in the southeast portion of District 11.

Objective 1: By August 2016, open a school that has been remodeled and refurbished to provide students in the southeast portion of D11 with a “near new” state-of-the-art facility.

Objective 2: By August 2016, close the school that will no longer house students, communicating to families the plans for the new school year and retain enrollment at 100 percent of current numbers.

Goal 2: Regain the trust of both the Hunt and Adams neighborhood communities.

Objective 1: By December 2016, receive a majority of positive feedback from citizens in both neighborhoods, as measured through phone calls, emails, social media comments, and visits to the new school.

Objective 2: By December 2016, determine the wishes of the community for the school that ultimately closes and work to fulfill those desires so the community continues to thrive.

Informal Primary Research: Colorado Springs School District 11 closed nine schools in 2009, and closed two elementary schools and repurposed a traditional high school to a nontraditional campus in 2013 (http://gazette.com/d-11-board-votes-to-close-wasson-two-elementary-schools/article/150720). Looking back on the process of closing/repurposing these schools, researching archive information, and documenting staff and board experiences with these processes gave good insight on the things that went right, what to avoid, and what to consider as the District and board moved forward toward a final decision. Because of this research, it was determined that public forums were necessary to gather input from both communities.
Four public input meetings were scheduled. Two meetings were held at Hunt and two at Adams (http://gazette.com/community-split-over-proposed-move-of-colorado-springs-elementary-school/article/1561139). D11 communications staff determined an agenda for the meetings to present background information as to what led to the need for the public input. Included in the presentation were the current issues facing both Hunt and Adams.

At each meeting, attendees were asked to fill out comment cards with their thoughts, questions, concerns, and ideas. A total of 80 comment cards were collected. There were a couple of main themes that the neighbors of Hunt relayed through their comments. The first was that they didn’t want the school to close and become blight on their community; therefore negatively impacting their property values and crime rates in the community. The second concern was that they wanted to be sure an affordable preschool option was available to them, since Hunt housed Head Start and District 11 preschools. They proposed that if Hunt closed, the building be repurposed to be a community asset, with possible health, educational, and community resources to support the neighborhood.

At the Adams public input meetings, community members were very excited about the possibility of the school reopening in their neighborhood. While the comments received were positive overall, there were some lingering trust issues the residents had with District 11. Some longtime residents were concerned that the District wouldn’t carry through on providing a state-of-the-art school, given the history of the closing of the school in 2009, then the closing of the charter school that occupied the building for five years.

After all community input meetings were held, district administrative staff met to hold a Trego Ed Decision Analysis to determine recommendations to bring forward to the Board of Education. (http://tregoed.org/strategies/description-of-strategies.html). This process helps evaluate and identify considerations that most or all stakeholders would support, and helps makes difficult decision-making clearer. At the community input meetings and other district meetings, a total of nine possible considerations were presented in the decision analysis for the repurposing of Hunt:

• A community center,
• A preschool/kindergarten school campus with potential after school program;
• A lab school with higher education support;
• Relocate district security and volunteer and student services offices to Hunt;
• Relocate district SPED and Educational Data and Student Support Services offices to Hunt;
• Relocate district records department, with proposed community center;
• Move science kits from district warehouse to Hunt;
• Allow a charter school access to the property;
• Provide a day care facility.

The decision analysis provided district administrative staff the direction necessary to recommend to the Board of Education that Hunt be repurposed as a community center.

The District would actively engage with local foundations to pull together a group of sustainable 501c3 non-profit organizations that collectively would reside at the current Hunt site and provide community services to the neighborhood. At the time, there were no guarantees which non-profits would be included. The District could ask for specific themes of services or specify entities to be considered. The District considered such non-profits as: the YMCA, Peak
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Vista Health, a tutoring non-profit, and non-profits that have a focus on arts, perhaps even a community garden. Most likely any foundation would entertain some sort of cost-of-operation type fee to cover operating expenses, but not a high rent fee, in order to attract and sustain non-profits.

This option resulted in a real estate transaction whereby the District conveyed the property for $1 with the intent it be turned into a community center with sustainable non-profits. Selling it for $1 would allow for other funding to be put into the site for renovations to occur.

On February 4, 2016, the District 11 Board of Education voted to close Hunt, convey it to a local non-profit foundation to repurpose and reopen as a community center, and repurpose Adams to be a state-of-the-art, remodeled school for students in the southeast portion of the District. (http://gazette.com/colorado-springs-d-11-board-unanimously-votes-to-close-helen-hunt-elementary/article/1569326)

Planning
On February 5, 2016, an executive steering team was assigned to ensure all aspects of the move from Hunt to Adams would run smoothly. Departments represented on the steering committee included: Superintendent, Communications, Procurement, Facilities and Planning, IT, Human Resources, School Administrators (principal and executive director for the school), and Business Services (financial and budgetary planning). The target audiences were identified as:

- Hunt Students
- Hunt Families
- Hunt Staff
- Hunt neighbors
- Adams neighbors
- Prospective students and families
- Voters throughout School District 11
- Families and students living in the former Ivywild boundaries

Planning dashboards were developed for each of the departments involved in the steering committee. Communications planning included letters and notifications for current Hunt families (including those living in the Adams neighborhood), letters to families living in the Ivywild neighborhood to notify them of busing/school choice options, planning the closing/honoring of Hunt and ribbon cutting at Adams celebrations, organizing and facilitating a re-naming committee to possibly re-name the Adams facility (http://www.krdo.com/news/local-news/d-11-looks-to-rename-john-adams-elementary-after-renovations/-35530378), and how to market and brand the new school. There were additional planning elements for internal staff to determine the logistics of the move from Hunt to Adams, including how school staff was to ensure their property would get to the intended location.

Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Printing letters, flyers, brochures, invitations</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adams Ribbon and Farewell Celebrations</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailings</td>
<td>$94.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation Services</td>
<td>$125.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Staff Time (engagement, videos, meetings, presentations, media, articles, website design, etc.)</td>
<td>Salary of communications staff—internal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letters to the Hunt families were drafted and sent to all enrolled families, available in both English and Spanish. The Hunt administrative staff and front office staff fielded questions about the renovations to Adams, busing logistics for students, and any other questions or concerns families had. The Board ultimately decided not to change the name of the school, after hearing from several community members who urged the Board to keep the name John Adams. Follow-up communication with families throughout the rest of the school year and in the summer of 2016 continued through email, automated phone calls, letters, and website updates.

A joint press release between District 11 and the local non-profit foundation, that now owned the Hunt building, was released to local media. The press release generated several news pieces on what the building’s future would entail. http://gazette.com/shuttered-helen-hunt-elementary-will-be-transformed-into-campus-for-hillside-non-profits/article/1591746

**Key Messages**

- All students deserve a high quality learning environment, regardless of where they live
- D11 is a good neighbor and cares about our communities
- D11 is fiscally responsible and looks for operational efficiencies to save taxpayer dollars
- D11 will provide excellent, distinctive educational experiences to equip all students for success today and in the future

**Tactics**

- Email notifications to impacted families and staff
- Administrative staff meetings/steering committee meetings
- Printed/mailed invitations
- Printed/translated/mailed letters to impacted families
- Automated phone calls to impacted families
- Media articles (also see links above)
- Videos
- Website Upcoming Events (District Homepage and Adams Homepage)
- Board of Education Meetings
- Community Forums
- Social media posts (District Facebook and Twitter) (Adams Facebook and Twitter)

**Evaluation**

Helen Hunt Elementary School officially closed the doors to over 100 years of public school memories on May 23, 2016. John Adams Elementary re-opened on August 15, 2016, and the project was completed on time and within budget. Enrollment data shows Adams opened the doors to 45 more students in August 2016 than what Hunt showed in May 2016. Enrollment has continued to grow at Adams from 432 in September 2016 to 460 in December 2016. Verbal positive feedback about the school has been given to the Superintendent, the school staff, and the Board of Education. To address the community forum attendees’ concerns about before- and after-school care, Adams has a Beyond the School Bell Program, as well as transportation to a nearby community center. After-school activities are also offered.

The Hunt building is anticipated to open between August and October 2017. So far, half the building is filled with non-profit organizations. The new owners have raised more than $2 million for construction efforts, which are slated to begin April 1, 2017. The new owners anticipate a day care/preschool option being offered to accommodate the need.
Research Documentation:

Public Forum Comment Card Examples

COMMENT CARD

NAME: Sandy Albertson
ADDRESS:
PHONE: 501-222-3333
E-MAIL: sandiego@albertson.com
COMMENTS:
I wish to be contacted with an answer.
I do not wish to be contacted with an answer.

COMMENT CARD

NAME: Mike + Del Hilfman
ADDRESS: 123 Main St
PHONE: 501-456-7890
E-MAIL: delhilfman@johnsmith.com
COMMENTS:
Answers to questions will be posted on the District 11 web-site.
I wish to be contacted with an answer.
I do not wish to be contacted with an answer.

COMMENT CARD

NAME: Albert Nelson
ADDRESS:
PHONE: 501-456-7890
E-MAIL: albertn@nelson.com
COMMENTS:
I wish to be contacted with an answer.
I do not wish to be contacted with an answer.

COMMENT CARD

NAME: Di Graski
ADDRESS:
PHONE: 501-456-7890
E-MAIL: digraski@graski.com
COMMENTS:
I wish to be contacted with an answer.
I do not wish to be contacted with an answer.
Decision Analysis

Attachment One
Optimization of Utilization Plan for Hunt Elementary
Decision Analysis (What course of action do I take?)

Type of Situation ➔ Decisions

Typical Pitfall ➔ Jumping to considerations

Process ➔ Decision Analysis

Steps ➔
1. State the decision
2. Establish and classify the objectives
3. List considerations
4. Evaluate considerations
5. Consider the risks
6. Trust your work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Questions that guide the process</th>
<th>Questions the client should ask</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision Analysis</td>
<td>To make a decision or recommendation</td>
<td>- What are we trying to decide?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What is important to consider in selecting a consideration?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Are some objectives more important than others?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- What choices or considerations do we have?</td>
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<td>- Does this consideration meet the more important objectives?</td>
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<td>- How well does this consideration meet each of the other objectives?</td>
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<td>- What are the risks with each consideration?</td>
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<td>- Which consideration should we choose?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- What is the compelling need this decision or recommendation is addressing?</td>
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<td>- Who was involved in making this decision or recommendation?</td>
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<td>- What criteria were used to make this decision or recommendation?</td>
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<td>- Which criteria were judged as more important than others?</td>
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<td>- What other options were considered?</td>
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<td>- What are the risks associated with implementing the recommended option?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- What are the risks with implementing the other options?</td>
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</table>

Decision Statement: Which considerations or other ideas presented by the working committee and school community groups best respond to the effective and efficient use of the Hunt Facility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Establish and Classify Objectives</th>
<th>Considerations: What Choices are available?</th>
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<tr>
<td>- What results do we want or need?</td>
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<td>- What is important to consider in choosing a consideration?</td>
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<td>Which objectives are mandatory?</td>
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<td>Which wants are most important—give it a ten (10)?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Against the Musts – Does this consideration meet this MUST? Yes or NO</td>
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<td>#3 Lab School with Higher Education Support</td>
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1. Level of feasibility to implement (cost) | Mandatory (dollars available to perform required action) | LOW | HIGH | HIGH | HIGH |
2. Stakeholder acceptance | Want 7 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
3. Level of operational feasibility | Want 5 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
4. Wise business decision (economy of scale) | Want 9 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 4 |
5. Value to K-12 Education, community and students (instructional economy of scale) | Want 10 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 4 |
## Attachment One
Optimization of Utilization Plan for Hunt Elementary
Decision Analysis (What course of action do I take?)

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| 6. Improves utilization of impacted school facility | Want 8 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 7. Adds to the District Portfolio of Innovation | Want 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 2 |
| 8. Level of Student Safety | Want 10 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| 9. Level of staff safety | Want 10 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 10. Site location to proposed function | Want 8 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| **TOTAL** | **622** | **621** | **538** | **337** |

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<td>#5 Relocate SPED and EDSS Services</td>
<td>#6 Relocate Records with Proposed Community Center</td>
<td>#7 Move Science Kit from Warehouse</td>
<td>#8 Charter Access</td>
</tr>
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| 7. Adds to the District Portfolio of Innovation | Want 7 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 8. Level of Student Safety | Want 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| 9. Level of staff safety | Want 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| 10. Site location to proposed function | Want 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| **TOTAL** | **388** | **505** | **344** | **486** | **378** |
Superintendent Internal Communication to the Board

From: <GJED@COEDSCHOOL.COM> <nicholas.gledich@cps11.org>
Date: Friday, October 30, 2015 at 2:11 PM
To: SCHOOL@BOARD@CPS111.Org
Cc: "YANKER, NATE" <NATHAN.YANKER@cps11.org>, Dana Ashley -ODHA&JASBY@CPS11.org; Colorado Springs School District -nicholas.gledich@cps11.org, "GUSTAFSON, GLENN F." <GLENN.GUSTAFSON@cps11.org>, "THURMAN, MARY E." <MARY.THURMAN@cps11.org>, JASON TERRORC <JASON.TERRORC@cps11.org>, ROBERT CURRAN <ROBERT.CURRAN@cps11.org>, Brier Hodges <BRIER.HODGES@cps11.org>, "YNGSTROM, DAVID I." <DAVID.YNGSTROM@cps11.org>, "KAUBACH, SHERRY LYNNE" <SHERRY.KAUBACH@cps11.org>, KEANE, JOHN M. <JOHN.KEANE@cps11.org>
Subject: Update: Hunt/Adams Facility

Board Members:

Exploring ideas with appropriate stakeholders is important. It supports recommendations made in the future and allows for sound decisions to be made. The use of the Adams Elementary School facility is one such example. We held the first exploratory meeting with the Hunt community on Monday, October 12, 2015. Approximately 80 individuals attended. Those present included students, parents/guardians of Hunt Elementary School children, District 11 employees including Hunt Elementary staff and community members. Approximately 64% in attendance were parents/guardians. The meeting lasted for about an hour and several of our staff stayed behind to answer or address individual questions/concerns. I was very pleased with the attendance and the input collected. Those participating did have an opportunity to write individual comments and request additional contact. We are responding to those requests at this time. Attached is a compilation of comments collected at the Hunt meeting. I held the first meeting at Hunt Elementary because the Hunt Elementary students and parents/guardians are the most impacted with the “exploratory idea” of moving the Hunt Elementary School students to the Adams Elementary facility.

Scott Lewis, Executive Director – Facilities, and I shared the concept of preparing the Adams Elementary School site for operation as an elementary school complete with a new face-FPL, interior, new furniture and equipment. The shared intended goal was to make the Adams Elementary School site ready for school beginning in August of 2016. I answered many questions including questions regarding transportation, school start times and instruction. Comments made were mixed—some accepting the idea and many concerns about the use of the Hunt Elementary facility were shared. The overwhelming concern was what would happen to the Hunt Elementary School site and their community.

Prior to making a recommendation to the Board of Education, several additional exploratory and planning meetings need to take place. This is not a decision that can be made quickly or without the appropriate due diligence. It is also very obvious that the decision on the use of the Adams Elementary School site in conjunction with the Hunt Elementary School students cannot be made in isolation of a recommendation for the Hunt Elementary School site. With that known, I wanted to make the Board of Education aware of the following next steps to be taken over the next several months:

1. Conduct a meeting with Adams Elementary School community on the use of the Adams Elementary School site. The meeting is set for November 15th at 5:30 p.m. at the Adams site.
2. Communicate to the Hunt Elementary School community the plan for next steps on the discussion regarding the use of the Adams Elementary School site.
3. Establish an internal committee to explore solutions for the Adams and Hunt Elementary School sites.
4. Establish an external committee to evaluate and add to the internal committee’s solutions.
5. Set aside funds (reserves) in the mid-year budget to support potential opportunities.
6. Present solutions with external committee ratings to the Board of Education.

The work to accomplish the outcome will begin immediately.

Nicholas Gledich
Superintendent, Colorado Springs School District 11
Public Meeting Communication

Hunt and District 11
Need Your Input!
Come and talk with us about the future possibilities for Hunt Elementary School.

Monday, October 12, 2015
2:45 p.m.
Hunt Elementary School's Gym
All of the Hunt community and families are invited to attend.

We hope to see you there!
## Planning Documentation

### Communications Steering Committee Dashboard

#### Hunt to Adams Site Action Plan

**Action Plan Goal:** School: To effectively and efficiently open the Adams site addressing all school needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone Task Major Task to be Accomplished</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Owner Accountable Person For Action Item</th>
<th>Update Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Naming School Process</td>
<td>2-4-16</td>
<td>5-30-16</td>
<td>Devra Ashby</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Naming committee to convene Feb. 25 for a decision analysis; solicited the Hunt and Adams community for name suggestions; 17 names have been suggested so far, however some do not fit the criteria of the Board naming policy. The top three name suggestions will go before the Board in April—first as a non-action item, then action.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Naming committee met Feb. 25, conducted a DA to review 25 name submissions. The committee determined top three to be, 1. Prospect Elementary, 2. Journey Elementary, 3. Jesse Owens Elementary. The Board will discuss the process and all names at the March 11 retainer.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 3/14/16: A public forum on the naming committee’s recommendations has been scheduled for April 7, 6-7 p.m. in the Hunt Gym. The Board policy states a forum may be used to gain additional public feedback for the Board’s consideration.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 4/4/16: Documents for the non action item for the Board meeting on 4/13/16 have been posted to Board Docs. A statement of the naming committee’s process is currently being developed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 4/3/16: The re-naming of Adams was on the regular board agenda as a non action item. After board discussion, it was decided the item will be held as a non action item until the Board discusses the policy in their 4/19/16 retreat and possibly the 4/20/16 work session.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 4/27/16: The Board moved the item to action for 5/11/16.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 5/11/16: The Board approved to keep the name John Adams Elementary.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Hunt to Adams Site Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone Task Major Task to be Accomplished</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Owner Accountable Person For Action Item</th>
<th>Update Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. Open House—CANCELLED</td>
<td>8-1-16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Devra Ashby</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 8/17, 6-7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleared and scheduled on the Superintendent’s calendar.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agenda needs to be set and agreed upon—in the process of drafting the agenda.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine invite list (In the process of drafting the initial list) to include the Board of Education, Superintendent, members of the Hunt Adams communities, students and families, elected officials, principal, executive director, honorary members, etc.—No invites have been sent/nothing publicized other than to staff and BOE.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus drivers scheduled to attend and be available for questions on new routes—Scott Lewis made aware that transportation staff needs to be available 4-5:30 for school back to school event.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Nutrition Services notified of the event and working with Communications on the refreshments—Cancelled with FNS</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Hunt to Adams Site Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone Task Major Task to be Accomplished</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Owner Accountable Person For Action Item</th>
<th>Update Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. Ribbon Cutting</td>
<td>2-4-16</td>
<td>8-15-16</td>
<td>Devra Ashby</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 8/15 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleared and scheduled on the Superintendent’s calendar.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agenda set and agreed upon.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invite list finalized and invites sent week of 7/18/16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Date cards handed out at the Hunt Farewell Celebration.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Nutrition Services notified of the event and working with Communications on the refreshments.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with media production services for still and broadcast images.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Parents/Guardians:

Last night the Board of Education unanimously approved the relocation of Hunt Elementary to the current John Adams Elementary at 2101 Manitoba Drive. The approval means that renovations of the Adams site can begin immediately and be finished in time for the 2016-2017 school year. Although we are excited to provide our children with a state of the art school we know that change can also bring challenges and we are here to support you in any way that we can. Not all of the details are available yet, but as plans roll out, we will inform you.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for all you do and your ongoing support!

Respectfully,

Nate Hansen, Principal
Hunt Elementary
### Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Connect to the Vision of the School</th>
<th>Namesake for Generations to Come</th>
<th>Be unique in the Region</th>
<th>Honor both the Hunt and Adams communities</th>
<th>Instill pride in students/staff moving from Hunt to the Adams Campus</th>
<th>Must be submitted by 3 p.m., Feb. 29, 2016</th>
<th>Must not be another D11 school with the same name</th>
<th>If a person, be deceased for 5+ years when name becomes official (when board votes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M/W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total: 141 People**

### Naming Committee Meeting Decision Analysis Notes

**Top 3 Names:** Prospect-355/ Journey 253/ Jesse Owens 244
March 9, 2016

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you that on Wednesday February 10th, 2016, the Colorado Springs School District 11 (CSSD11) Board of Education approved the relocation of Hunt Elementary School. The new location will be at 2101 Manitou Drive Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80910 (formerly Adams Elementary). The process for renovation and renaming has already begun.

Because your current address is within a specified boundary, your student(s) have the option to continue to attend their current school, Midland International Elementary or the new school (formerly Hunt Elementary). CSSD11 is committed to providing your students the very best education, and is able to offer transportation to students who attend the new school (formerly Hunt Elementary) and to Midland International Elementary School.

If you would like your students to continue to attend their current school you do not need to do anything. If you would like your students to attend the new school (formerly Hunt Elementary) or Midland International Elementary School, you need to complete the attached Choice Enrollment Form and return it to Hunt or Midland on or before April 15, 2016.

If you are unsure of your decision and would like further information, please join us Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 at Hunt Elementary School at 6 p.m. for an informational meeting. The principals from Hunt and Midland as well as representatives from CSSD11, will be there to answer your questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt Elementary at the Adams Campus</th>
<th>Midland International Baccalaureate Elementary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Newly renovated building</td>
<td>• Authorized International Baccalaureate school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Technology focus: Interactive</td>
<td>• Highly qualified teaching staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promethean Board in Every</td>
<td>• Small class sizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom, 1:1 Chromebooks in</td>
<td>• Wide range of After School Activity choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd – 5th Grade, Class sets of 6</td>
<td>• Activity bus 4 days a week so all kids can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>classes in K-2</td>
<td>participate in activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Next Gen learning spaces</td>
<td>• Spanish language classes K-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• New Playground System</td>
<td>• Art every week for all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• After School Program</td>
<td>• 11 Minutes, 3.7 miles away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Additional After School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities: Tutoring,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Club, Battle Of The</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books, chess club, sports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>challenge, Dance Connection, Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club, Coed Basketball Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Highly qualified teaching staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 12 minutes, 3.5 miles away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSPRA Gold Medallion Award Entry

Communications/Implementation

Hunt Farewell Flyer Program

The staff and students of Hunt Elementary School would like to thank all of our generous sponsors.

John Poma II, Store Manager
Sandy Dolan, Personnel Office
Walmart #1200
3201 East Platte Avenue
Marie Woodworth, UPC Department
Walmart Super Center
707 South 6th Street
Samantha, Community Liaison
Walmart Super Center #3582
Space Center Drive
Desiree, HR Personnel Manager
Walmart Neighborhood Market
Union Blvd.
Brady’s Rental Company, Owner Operator
3807 Palmer Park Blvd.
Dr. Nicolas Pruett
Broadmoor Dental
Akayla Gutteridge, Marketing Director
Chick-fil-A, The Citadel

A special thank you to the following people for their help in preparation of this event.

District 11 Catering Department
Lisa Martinez, Administrative Assistant
Wasson Academic Campus
Dr. Brian Hodges, Executive Director
Deena Askby, Public Information Officer
Donna Hines, Communications Specialist

CELEBRATING 114 YEARS OF EDUCATING CHILDREN AT HUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

Friday, May 13, 2016
4:30-7 p.m.

Program

Platform Guests: Dr. Brian Hodges, Executive Director
Dr. Mary Shauman, Deputy Superintendent/Personnel Support Services
Deena Askby, Public Information Officer

Honored Guests: Board Members
Mayor John Sathers and Janet Sathers

Welcome: Nate Hansen, Principal
Christina Butcher, Assistant Principal

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by the Helen Hunt Choir

America: Sung by the Helen Hunt Choir

Message from the Superintendent: Dr. Nicholas Gledich

Musical Presentation: Helen Hunt Choir
Mary-Ellen Zimmerman, Director
Victoria Darwoson, Director

Reflection of Helen Hunt Elementary School

Musical Presentation: Stratton Elementary Deaf Choir
Sue Ann Garwell, Director

Toast: Nate Hansen, Christina Butcher, and Elvira Lillard

Light Refreshments will served following the program, with music provided by Thomas Dawson from the Commodores.

Hunt students will be giving tours of the West building.
Press Release for Hunt Building Transaction

May 6, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Devra Ashby, 520-2286
Kris Odom, 520-2462
Zachary McComsey, zmccomsey@lanefoundation.org, The John E. and Margaret L. Lane Foundation

Helen Hunt Elementary School Building’s Future will be Discussed at May 11 Board of Education Meeting

The Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education is excited to discuss and possibly approve a real estate contract to convey the Helen Hunt Elementary School building at 917 E. Moreno Ave. to the John E. and Margaret L. Lane Foundation. The D11 Board of Education voted in January to close the Helen Hunt Elementary School and move the students to the current Adams Elementary site, which was vacant at the time. The Hunt Elementary building will continue to serve as a D11 school until the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Considering the community input about the future of the Hunt building, the D11 School Board and the Lane Foundation feel it is important to repurpose the building to be a community resource. The Lane Foundation is committed to spending a minimum of $2 million to renovate the Hunt property and anticipates selecting non-profit organizations and programs to be housed in the buildings. The desire from both parties is that the Hunt Elementary property will be a community resource that will compliment such services provided by the Hillside Community Center, and will be a sustainable community asset. Zachary McComsey, Executive Director of the Lane Foundation says, “The Lane Foundation considers it a privilege to partner with D-11 and local nonprofit organizations to ensure the Helen Hunt School and Campus remains a vital and protected community asset for a long time to come.” District 11 Board of Education President, LuAnn Long, believes this potential property transaction will give the Helen Hunt community peace of mind and says, “the community’s desire will be fulfilled with this action to keep the property as something that offers help to those who live in the area.”

This real estate contract will go before the D11 Board of Education as an action item on the May 11, 2016 regular meeting agenda. If approved, the projected closing date will be August 24, 2016. To view the board agenda, please visit http://www.boarddocs.com/co/d11/Board.nsf/Public and click on meetings.
Ribbon cutting Save the Date, Invite to the Ribbon Cutting, John Adams Elementary Logo Prototypes

SAVE THE DATE!
The John Adams Elementary School Ribbon Cutting and Grand Re-Opening Ceremony will be held on Monday, August 15, 2-3:30 p.m.

The John Adams Elementary School Public Open House will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 6-7:30 p.m.

The School District 11 Board of Education and Administration formally invite you to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Adams Elementary School 2101 Manitoba Dr. on Monday, August 15, 2 p.m.

We hope you can join us for the celebration as we open this newly remodeled school in the southeast portion of School District 11. Refreshments will be served, and tours of the building will be given.

Please call 719-380-2162 by August 5 to RSVP for this event.
NSPRA 2017 Gold Medallion Award Entry

Social Media
Superintendent’s Adams Ribbon Cutting Talking Points

John Adams Elementary Ribbon Cutting
Dr. Gledich Talking Points
August 15, 2016 2-3pm

• Thank you! This truly is a wonderful day! It is wonderful to have you all here to celebrate; it is wonderful to be able to open a state of the art school on the southeast portion of District 11; and it will be wonderful to see the expressions of the students who will walk through these doors on Thursday and experience a school they most likely have never been able to experience before.

• When the District 11 Board of Education faced the decision last school year to close Hunt and relocate the students to Adams Elementary, they did not take it lightly. It was a difficult decision, but one that afforded us the opportunity to give students a beautifully remodeled school with brand new technology and furnishings. When students are comfortable in their learning environment, they become better learners and that is why we do what we do!

• One of the founding fathers of our great country once said, “Let us tenderly and kindly cherish, therefore, the means of knowledge. Let us dare to read, think, speak and write.” That man was John Adams, the second President of the United States for who this school is named, and that quote speaks to how School District 11 teachers and staff provide the means for our students to read, think, speak and write.

• Through the actions of the Board of Education, the work of our construction and architect partners, and dedication of our staff, the educators at Adams now have the best facility and tools with which to provide these means.

• As you step foot in this school today, know that so many people have worked—and continue to work—to create a magnificent place for children to learn. You may see people who are still working in the school today to prepare for our students.

• We are honored that you came here to celebrate this remarkable project and we hope you continue to partner with School District 11 so we may prepare every student for a world yet to be imagined!
NSPRA 2017 Gold Medallion Award Entry

Evaluation Documentation

Monthly Enrollment Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</th>
<th>May 2016</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

News Coverage:


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maG7MbJDscU


http://www.koaa.com/story/32045305/d11-studies-ballot-ideas-for-school-improvements

Email Feedback:

Dear [Name],

Thank you for your email.

From: [Name] (Jim) Mason
To: [Name] (Debra) Kravitz

Subject: Thank you

Date: Mon, 21 Aug 2017 21:23:30 -0600

Thank you for your message.

You know what to do. Please let me know if you need more. You must make learning exciting and challenging for the Students. Challenge them, they have more than you can imagine. We must tap into their Interest zones. you will know it when you do... then watch them soar! We must unleash the potential they do not know they possess, and the potential, which is unimaginable to most.

Someone did it for you and me. Let's pay it forward.

Best regards,
Jim Mason

E. James (Jim) Mason
Vice President
Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education
1100 E. Platte Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
(719) 382-0469
Jim.Mason@COE.org
www.D11.org

On behalf of all of John Adams Elementary I would like to thank you for all you’ve done to make the renovation of John Adams and move from (X) to Adams happen. This first week of school was a major success as kids [redacted] the new 8th grade. We would also like to thank District 11 Board of Education for their support of a bond and still very votes. This bond passed will dramatically (redacted) and make the Adams site as well as improve other D11 buildings, multiple systems and recreation areas. Therefore ensuring how we can all move to the forefront for our students.

Thank you for all you do!

[Name]

[Name]
Principal John Adams Elementary
3201 Moline Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(719) 531-5400

Home of the WOLFPACK!
NSPRA 2017 Gold Medallion Award Entry

Ribbon Cutting and School Tour Pictures