

At our last Board meeting, I announced that starting tonight, the second Board meeting of each month will feature updates and insights from our committee chairs on the progress within their respective committees. I am excited to launch this new format tonight, as it provides an opportunity for us to hear updates from one another and share additional information and engagement opportunities with students, families, staff, and the broader community.

Before we hear from each committee chair, I want to outline a few additional initiatives that each committee will be supporting. Beyond the original work plans that we have collectively developed, each committee will also play a role in the next steps of the school realignment process.

The Community Facilities Task Force has recommended, among other actions, the closure of the administrative building at 270 E State Street. I have asked the Equitable & Transparent Resource Management Committee to research potential options for this site.

Another recommendation involves Grade Band Standardization. I have requested that the Academic & Facility Alignment Committee assess the relevance, effectiveness, and equity of this recommendation. This assessment will also include an evaluation of our district's school lottery program, special education program, gifted and talented program, athletics, and transportation.

The Policy and Governance Committee will be focusing on evaluating Board Policy 7105, recognizing that our approach to school realignment requires genuine engagement and collaboration.

The Community Engagement and Advocacy Committee will contribute to the next steps for engaging with students, families, and the community regarding the final recommendations. Starting from late September to early October, Board members will tour the nine school buildings recommended for closure, schedules permitting. Please note, these visits are purely for research purposes at this stage.

In addition to the work of our Board committees and district support, we are also consulting with both national and local experts on rightsizing and equity. This next step will require a multifaceted approach, one that the Columbus Board of Education is committed to, but it will take time. We are dedicated to an authentic process and creating a viable strategy that includes not just experts and Board members, but also our students, families, staff, and the entire Columbus community.

I will provide further updates on the realignment process at the Board meeting on October 15th.