

INTRODUCTION

On 21 August, 2012, El Associates, a respected architectural firm specializing in the design of public school projects in Pennsylvania, completed a detailed district-wide feasibility study for the Boyertown Area School District. The study was completed in strict compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines. As intended, the study is serving as a tool in evaluating the Boyertown Area School District's current and future needs and expenditures.

The School District is in the process of implementing Option #5 of the study which requires a grade realignment with the senior high school grades shifting from 10-12 to 9-12; the two current junior high schools (Grades 7-9) converting to a middle school grade structure of 6-8; and the seven existing elementary schools' grade structure being converted from Grades K-6 to K-5.

The high school project necessary to enable this grade realignment is currently under construction with a projected completion date of August 2017. In anticipation of the renovation project for Junior High West proposed in Option #5 of the study, the Boyertown Area School District commissioned an updated demographics study to accurately assess projected enrollments. The study was prepared by the Pennsylvania Economy League and completed on 19 February 2015. The results of this study are discussed in Part II. The District now intends to begin considering a project at Junior High West.

While most aspects of the El Associates study remain current and relevant, this update of the study is being prepared because the Pennsylvania Department of Education requires that, "The District-Wide Facility Study must have been completed within the preceding two years of the department's receipt of the Part A submittal for this project building."

PART I – DISTRICT OVERVIEW

While the majority of the materials presented in the District Overview Section of the original study remain unchanged and require no update, some revisions should be noted:

1. All demographic information referenced in this section has been updated by PEL in an analysis dated 19 February 2015.
2. The actual enrollment in each individual elementary school varies slightly from the numbers recorded in the table on Page I-2.
3. The “Construction/Renovation Dates and Recent PlanCon Bid Date” column of the table on Page I-2 should be updated to note that bids for a PlanCon project at the Boyertown Area Senior High School were opened in November 2014.

PART II – DEMOGRAPHICS

General Summary

All assumptions relative to projected student enrollment data have been replaced with data from an updated analysis prepared on 19 February 2015 by:

Pennsylvania Economy League, Central PA Division
88 North Franklin Street, Suite 200
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1393

The update information is titled: "An Updated Analysis of Demographics and Housing and Related Activity and Projections of Public School Enrollments in the Boyertown Area School District 2014-15." It is available in its entirety on the Boyertown Area School District website.

Generally this data suggests that student enrollment in the Boyertown Area School District will decline over the next 10 years. The student population will continue to be imbalanced, with more students in the Montgomery County portion of the District and fewer in the Berks County portion.

The latest PDE projected enrollment data available – 20 July 2012 (2011 revised enrollments) – also shows a decline from the projections available at the time of the PDE original study.

Existing Building Capacity

In general, the building capacities remain unchanged from the capacities noted in the original study on Page II -15. The Senior High School is currently undergoing a PlanCon project which will result in a capacity of 2383.

Projected Student Enrollment

In general, future student enrollment projections have declined since the original study prepared by EI Associates. Some examples include:

1. Page II-16 Method #1, PDE Projections - The latest projected PDE enrollment data available, 07/20/12 (2011 Enrollments), shows a decline from the PDE Projections published at the time of the original study.
2. Page II-17 Method #2, PEL Projected Student Enrollment (Preferred) – The revised PEL Preferred data predicts a greater decline in enrollment than the PEL Preferred data referenced at the time of the original study.
3. Page II-18 Method #3, PEL Projected Student Enrollment (Alternate B) – The revised PEL Alternate B data predicts a greater decline in enrollment than the PEL Alternate B data referenced at the time of the original study.

Student Enrollment/Capacity Evaluation

The following adjustments apply to pages II-20 and II-21:

1. Moving 6th Grade from the elementary schools, when the Option #5 grade configuration is implemented in August 2017, will increase the capacity of each elementary school.
2. Overall projected student enrollment will be slightly lower than identified in the original study.

Educational Program Requirements

The educational program requirements identified in the 21 August 2012 Study remain generally unchanged. As a result of the study, the District has resolved to implement the grade configuration of Option #5 as follows:

1. Elementary School: Grades K-5
2. Middle School: Grades 6-8
3. High School: Grades 9-12

PART III – FACILITIES

In general, the information presented in the facilities analysis portion of the original study prepared by EI Associates is applicable for future planning needs. The following changes are worthy of note:

1. A major PlanCon project is currently under construction at the Senior High School. This project is intended to address the issues identified in the original study.
2. A program has been initiated to provide secure entry access to all schools. Most are currently complete.
 - Pine Forge Elementary School, New Hanover Elementary School, and Washington Elementary School are being completed this summer.
 - It is the intention to address Boyertown West School entry security issues as part of the next Option #5 facilities project.
3. The District is continuing a roof replacement and maintenance program.

PART IV - CONSTRUCTION OPTIONS

The same five options proposed in the original EI Associates study remain unchanged. The District remains committed to implementing Option #5, which proposed realigning the grade structure for all schools in the District:

1. The seven existing elementary schools would have grades realigned from the current K-6 to K-5.
2. The two existing junior high schools housing Grades 7-9 would convert to a middle school grade structure of 6-8.
3. Ninth Grade would be moved into the high school which would be renovated to house Grades 9-12.

In order to accomplish this grade realignment, several construction projects were proposed:

1. Boyertown Area Senior High School would receive alterations and additions. This PlanCon project is currently under construction following opening bids in November 2014. Construction is scheduled for completion in August of 2017.
2. Boyertown West would receive alterations in order to accommodate 6th Grade. It has not received major work in nearly 20 years, and as noted in the EI study, significant upgrades are necessary to achieve parity with Boyertown East, the other school slated to receive the balance of the 6th Grade students. In accordance with the District's original timeline, this is scheduled to be the next major district construction project.
3. As a future project, alterations and additions would occur at Colebrookdale Elementary School, located in Berks County, which has not received work in many years.
4. Finally, should demographics change significantly in the district, a new elementary school would be constructed in the Montgomery County portion of the school district which has the most projected future housing starts.



Boyertown Area School District
Update to District-Wide Feasibility Study
May 26, 2015

PART V – CREDENTIALS

This district-wide facilities study update was a collaborative effort between the administration and faculty of Boyertown Area School District and an architectural team led by KCBA Architects.

Boyertown Area School District Board

Stephen Elsier - President
Jill Dennin - Vice President
Robert Caso
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Christine Neiman
Barbara Hartford
John Landino
Paul Stengle
Donna Usavage

Boyertown Area School District Administration

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Robert Scoboria, Assistant Superintendent
Melissa Woodard, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Greg Miller, Ed.D., Chief Student Achievement Officer
Stephen Katch, Chief Human Resource Officer
David Szablowski, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Grenewald, Facility Engineer

Architectural Team

James Clough, AIA - Principal-in-Charge
Jamie Ober, RA, LEED AP - Project Architect

On the following pages we provide resumes of the leaders of our architectural team.



Firm Principal

41 years with KCBA; 4 with other firms

University of Michigan - Bachelor of Architecture, 1970

Registered Architect

KCBA Architects

James Clough, AIA - Principal-in-Charge

Every project at KCBA is assigned a single point person who acts as the central hub of the project team. Jay has many years of experience of successful team management for educational facility initiatives and filled this role on this study update. He provided a single point of contact to Boyertown Area School District from the project outset through completion and was responsible to ensure the end result met the district's needs.

Jay has acted as Principal-In-Charge for the majority of KCBA's district-wide studies and public school construction projects over the last 40 years. Most recently, he acted as the Principal-In-Charge for district-wide studies for the Wyoming Area and Northwestern Lehigh School Districts. Beyond his project experience, Jay has acted in a number of professional capacities related to educational facility construction including as a sustainable design panelist and design competition judge.



1 year with KCBA; 12 with other firms

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University - Bachelor of Architecture, 2002

Registered Architect; LEED Accredited Professional

Jamie Ober, RA, LEED AP - Project Architect

Jamie is a staff architect with extensive experience in the analysis and design of new and renovated school projects. She worked closely with Mike Kelly in the development of potential concept solutions for school renovations, new construction, school consolidation, and grade realignment scenarios.

Jamie's educational resume is extensive. Recent projects on her resume include the currently under construction major renovation/expansion of Boyertown Area Senior High School and the currently in design renovation/expansion of a public charter school in Philadelphia. Beyond her project experience, Jamie is involved with a number of professional and community organizations such as the Ace Mentor Program, Philanoma Summer Camp, and DVCBC Education Committee. Also an expert with BIM software, she acted as the office-wide BIM leader with her former firm.