

City of Orlando Analysis and Comments/Recommendations OCPS Tentative District Educational Facilities Plan (2006-2010)

Text of September 2, 2005 e-mail from Paul Lewis (Senior Planner – City of Orlando Economic Development Department, City Planning Division) to Dennis Foltz (Senior Director, Planning and Governmental Relations, OCPS)

Dennis,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft OCPS five-year list of new, comprehensive renovation/replacement and swing school projects (Fiscal Year 2006 through 2010).

While the list was very informative, staff did have some difficulty in analyzing the information due to the lack of a map exhibit. It would be helpful to us and to the other local governments if a map would be included in the future, showing the existing and proposed school sites.

In reviewing the list and its impact on the City of Orlando, it is noted that the NorthLake Park ES Relief school located in Vista Lakes is scheduled to open in 2006. This should help with the substantial residential growth occurring in the Vista East area (the area north of the Beachline/Beeline Expressway, between Narcoossee Road and the Central Florida Greenway). It appears that this site will provide relief to the area south of the Beachline/Beeline Expressway for only a limited period of time due to the continued growth of the Vista East area.

It is also noted that the Audubon Park ES Relief school located in Baldwin Park is scheduled to open in 2007. It appears that the completion of this school will be well timed with the nearing completion of the Baldwin Park development. Please note that this school is required to undergo Specific Parcel Master Plan review consistent with the Baldwin Park PD. OCPS is encouraged to coordinate with the City Planning Division on these master planning issues as soon as possible.

Our largest concern in reviewing the five-year OCPS capital programs list was the shortage of programmed facilities in the area south of the Beachline/BeeLine Expressway and east of the Orlando International Airport. It appears that there are two new schools on the list that may directly serve this area, the NorthLake Park ES Relief II site (scheduled for completion in 2009), and the Odyssey MS Relief site (scheduled for completion in 2010). However, because the sites for these schools have not yet been determined, it cannot be unequivocally stated that these sites will be located in this area. Unfortunately, even when these sites come on line within the next five years, it appears that there will be a significant shortage in school capacity in this area of south Orange County (based on existing and projected residential growth).

Attached please find an Excel spreadsheet that summarizes the anticipated residential growth for the area south of the BeachLine/BeeLine Expressway and east of the Orlando International Airport. This spreadsheet includes both City of Orlando and unincorporated

Orange County projects. Please refer to this spreadsheet for the remainder of this analysis.

This data indicates that by 2010, there will be approximately 16,473 residential units built in this area (not including Isle of Pines, Live Oak Estates and the Lake Whipporwill Rural Settlement in unincorporated Orange County). Using OCPS Pupil Assignment multipliers, and adding in the existing student counts from the Isle of Pines, Live Oak Estates and Lake Whipporwill Rural Settlement areas (as provided by OCPS staff), this area is projected to have 4,978 elementary school students, 2,299 middle school students, and 2,765 high school students (a total of 10,042 students) by 2010.

Using the OCPS design program capacity of 830 students for an elementary school, the 2010 need for this area is projected to be 6 elementary schools. At present, there is only one elementary school in the area – NorthLake Park. The draft OCPS CIP shows only one new elementary school to be built by 2010. It appears that 4 additional elementary schools will be needed in this area by 2010.

Using the OCPS design program capacity of 1,215 students for a middle school, the 2010 need for this area is projected to be 189% of a new middle school. So, assuming the Odyssey MS Relief site is located in this area, that school will be 89% over capacity upon completion in 2010. It appears that one additional middle school will be needed in this area by 2010 or very soon thereafter.

Using the OCPS design program capacity of 2,776 students for a high school, the 2010 need for this area is projected to be 99.6% of a new high school. If you add in the current and projected 2010 development in the Vista East area directly north of the Beachline Expressway (an additional +/-800 high school kids), this part of south Orange County will have a total of 3,565 high school kids (128% of a new high school).

Because of the lead time inherent in the development a new high school, this may represent the most significant projected deficiency in the area.

It should be noted that a high school for this area was included (and sold to the public) in the approved sales tax referendum list of additional schools (for 2010). Clearly, the need for a new high school in this area was apparent to OCPS staff in 2002. In fact, the 70-acre site for the high school was acquired by OCPS in 2004. Frankly, it is unclear why a new high school has not been included in the draft five-year plan to serve this area.

Based on the projected growth in this area of south Orange County, the City of Orlando recommends that a high school project be added to the proposed OCPS five-year list of new, comprehensive renovation/replacement and swing school projects (Fiscal Year 2006 through 2010), with an opening date of no later than 2010.

While the projected 2010 numbers are impressive (and daunting), the City also believes that OCPS staff should carefully consider and plan for the ultimate projected buildout of this area of south Orange County. It is projected that this area at buildout will have

approximately 27,951 residential units. Using OCPS Pupil Assignment multipliers, this translates into 8,245 elementary school students, 3,789 middle school students, and 4,599 high school students (a total of 16,633 students). Again using OCPS design program capacity for each school type, it appears that this area will ultimately need a total of 10 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 2 high schools.

I am hopeful that OCPS will utilize the information that has been presented. Please let me know if you have any questions. The City is more than willing to present this information to OCPS staff and/or the School Board if desirable. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on your five-year CIP.

Paul Lewis