

**Meridian CUSD #223**  
**Long Range Planning and Facility Committee**  
**Decision Criteria**  
**(in priority order)**

1. **Effect on Educational Opportunities:** There should be a positive perceived effect or a neutral perceived effect, but certainly no negative perceived effects on the current educational opportunities for students.  
Indicators:
  - Facilities should have at least an equal amount and variety of facilities as existing district buildings
  - Recommended grounds surrounding recommended facilities shall be at least as large and varied as existing sites.
  
2. **Cost:** The initial cost and annual maintenance cost should be comparable to that of existing facilities.  
Indicators:
  - Construction materials and type should be comparable in terms of quality, quantity, and variety as existing buildings.
  - Energy management and maintenance estimates should be comparable to existing buildings.
  - Square footage per student should be consistent with existing buildings.
  
3. **Equity for all district students:** All students of the district should have equal access to any facility improvement recommendations.  
Indicators:
  - The recommendation should be consistent with the concept that all district students should have access to comparable facilities.
  - No recommendation should be made that will give any specific district access to facilities not available to all students.
  
4. **Long Term Solution: (10 years):** The recommendation should take into account the best information available in terms of growth potential for the next 10 years.  
Indicators:
  - The recommendation should take into account the best estimates of student educational programming/needs for at least 10 years.
  - The recommendation should take into account the communities needs in terms of school and community facility needs for at least 10 years.

5. **Impact on Community:** The community should view the recommendations as having a positive impact on the district and students.  
Indicators:
  - The recommendation should take into account the diverse views, opinions, and ideas of the various segments of the district.
  - The recommendation should be consistent with current Board decisions about facilities.
  
6. **Attendance Center Based:** The recommendations should be based as much as possible on the current organizational structure, with the possibility of having early grades taught in different buildings.  
Indicators:
  - Minimize travel time for extended day kindergarten students by trying to maintain kindergarten classrooms to students' homes.
  - As much as possible, organize schools by grade levels to maximize utilization of teacher expertise, support services, supplemental materials, facilities and class size.
  
7. **Transportation:** Distance, time on busses, and cost per mile or per transported student should not be negatively impacted.  
Indicators:
  - Recommendation must take into account facility location in relationship to the entire 135 mile district.
  - Bus travel time, proximity to main roads/highways, facility traffic entrance/exit safety, and minimizing the number of students transported needs to be part of the recommendation process.

Note: The Meridian School Board reviewed the Decision Criteria at a special board meeting on November 4, 2006. The Decision Criteria remained the same from the previous committee with the exception of allowing the possibility of a recommendation that would allow early grades to be assigned to different buildings.