

**Facilitators:** David VanderYacht, Superintendent and Ashley McClaran, OAC Services

**Attendance:** 20 attendees present

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Review the Bond Planning Task Force Charter.
- Understand the state of our schools through data analysis.
- Financial overview and high-level understanding of the current state of tax rates for our community.

**1. Outcomes of previous meetings**

- Reviewed timeline and meeting agendas as a refresher for those who were not in the first meeting.
- Reviewed the group demographic exercise from the previous meeting to show that our group make-up is well-rounded by looking at the length of time all have lived in the district, familiarity with facilities, and general understanding of capital projects.
- Reviewed Group Norms that indicated the highest desires were around doing what's best for kids, being respectful of others' opinions, and being open to ideas.

**2. Charter**

- Based on the results of the group exercise from Meeting #1, all agreed on the following Charter:  
*This Task Force has the power to evaluate facility and cost data through active engagement in order to provide informed recommendations for action to the Lynden School Board that create a foundation which supports students, teachers, staff, and the Lynden community now and into the future.*

**3. Guiding Principles**

- Based on the results of the dot voting exercise from Meeting #1, the first assessment of the guiding principles for the group resulted in the following:
  1. Improve safety and security.
  2. Address permanent capacity concerns in the district.
  3. Create spaces for specialized programs such as CTE, Performing Arts.
  4. Improve access to technology – as it is needed to support education.
  5. Add spaces that serve student health and wellness and improve facilities for Athletics and Outdoor Learning.
  6. Improve accessibility.
  7. Followed by concerns for energy efficiency, additional learning programs
- The group will continue to check in on guiding principles as data and information is uncovered as the meeting agendas unfold.

**4. Facility Evaluation Process**

- Three categories are reviewed to assess the success of our buildings in delivering a quality education as defined by the district. These data points overlap to tell the story of the facilities with the highest needs and where the next round of funding should be directed.

**5. Design Capacity**

- Design Capacity is defined by the number of students determined to be an ideal occupancy for the instructional programs within each facility at the time it was built. Although portables are an adequate temporary solution to enrollment excess, continued addition of portable classrooms to a school site places added strain on neighborhoods, limits the ability of our teachers, operations, and administrative teams to serve students, adds constraints to program support such as gym classes and lunch service, and amplifies wear and tear of our facilities. As a result LSD does not include portable classrooms in its calculations for design capacity.

- The group reviewed numbers based on the number of students per instructional space currently and projected into the 2030-31 school year. Current indications show Lynden HS at 118% occupied and Vossbeck ES at 111% occupied.
- If projections continue as expected, during the 2030-31 school year indications show Isom ES at 122% with Vossbeck ES growing to 117% and Lynden HS at 162% occupied. In all instances these numbers suggest the need to replace facilities, add classrooms, and expand facilities for program support such as circulation, gymnasiums, and commons.
- As another reference point, the group reviewed comparisons of LSD schools against the State and National average for square footage calculations per student. LSD is roughly at the State Average for average square foot per student.

## **6. Facility Condition**

- Facility Condition assessment scores are based on a weighted average number given to each facility by evaluating each building system required to optimize the function of the facility. Higher weighting is given to scores that when failing could impede access to learning. Some of the systems reviewed are:
  - Walls, roofs, windows, and flooring
  - Electrical
  - Security
  - Major plumbing components
  - Life safety
  - Fields and courts
  - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) mechanical systems
- The lowest scoring/highest need facilities in need of major systems replacement in LSD are those found on the Lynden HS campus.
- Additionally, Vossbeck ES, and Isom ES are also showing signs of aging systems through their assessment scores.
- The group reviewed a chart that showed the typical expected life of facilities with ongoing repair schedules which showed that LSD facilities are well maintained but are simply starting to reach their expected useful life with systems in need of major modernization or full replacement.
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## **7. Flexibility of Learning Spaces**

- Flexibility of Learning Spaces refers to the need for facilities to be flexible and agile to provide learning spaces that are varied and in support of the type of collaborative learning styles that prepare LSD students for their future careers.
- This topic will be more fully discussed in Meeting #3.

## **8. Bond Issue Planning – Tax Rates**

- Trevor Carlson, the district representative for Piper|Sandler presented a series of slides detailing possible election dates, trends in election results, and responses to certain types of messages.
- In addition, he also covered the history of bond and levy elections in LSD, comparable tax rates with the surrounding areas, LSD credit analysis, and trends in assessed values for the community.
- Finally he presented the impact of 3 bond planning scenarios:
  - \$80 Million bond authorization = \$1.05 estimated tax increase / \$1,000 assessed value
  - \$120 Million bond authorization = \$1.48 estimated tax increase / \$1,000 assessed value
  - \$150 Million bond authorization = \$1.83 estimated tax increase / \$1,000 assessed value

## **9. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 5:30-7:30PM**