

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

**Attendance:** 20 attendees present

**Guest Speakers:** Julie van Wijk, Officer Tanner Holland, Trevor Galligan, Kent Victor with CTE Educators, Mike McKee, and LHS Student.

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Gain a better understanding of student priorities in their learning environments.
- Gain a better understanding of Districtwide program needs at all grade levels.

**1. Exit Poll Outcomes**

- What do you think is the most important thing for the community to understand about a future Bond?
  - Timing and sense of urgency for the passing of this bond.
  - The value that passing this bond will add to our community.
  - Impact on property taxes.
  - The long-range plan and how the bond fits into it.
- After today do you think you could explain this information to others?
  - Yes
- What are some key aspects that would be helpful to share with our community?
  - Cost versus value.
  - Comparisons to neighboring districts
  - Tax impacts in simple numbers.
  - Long term ramifications for the community.
  - Growth of the district over the next 8 years.
  - That we are still early in the process. There is no design and no commitment.
  - This benefits everyone.

**2. Student Voice**

- A LHS student joined to share his thoughts on the facilities he has experienced during his time at LSD both in-district and in neighboring districts.
  - **Safety:** Students who feel safe have better academic achievement, are more comfortable in social situations and have more confidence. Do the different learning environments you've experienced make you feel safe? What are some examples?
    - As students you're more aware of the need for a safe campus because of everything we see in the news.
    - The campus is open and there are many ways to get into the building. There are also places to hide.
    - Portables do not feel safe because we know they aren't protected or built well. "Anything could come through the walls."
    - A building that fosters community creates safety and even suicide prevention. People see each other and feel seen. Students feel connected through space. We can say that we want to implement certain activities to help students feel like they belong, but we don't have the spaces to do it.
  - **Inspiring Spaces/Pride in Your School:** You mentioned the importance of having a sense of pride in your school. Does LHS feel like an inspiring space that you can take pride in?
    - The teachers and the people are amazing and inspiring.
    - It would be nice to feel like our community wants to invest in us.
    - Feeling like you belong is important and a welcoming school where students can meet in the space feels good. Like in the MS where you walk in at the same place and everyone says "hello" and you can see everyone.

- The difference is really noticeable when you go to other schools. We don't really want to host conferences and events that have schools outside of our district.
- **Learning Environments:** What types of learning environments do you think are most successful in the ones you've experienced at LSD? Give examples of good and where improvement is necessary.
  - We have a good course selection, but the spaces need to be better. Performing arts doesn't have modern technology and lighting.
  - Shared learning spaces and collaborative spaces are needed. This lets students step out of the classroom if they need more focus, but they're still near their class. We like the spaces at the middle school.
  - Natural lighting is important. LHS feels dark and closed off. Other schools we've been to have floor to ceiling windows, and it feels amazing.
- **Question from the group:** What are we missing?
  - Space! We need more spaces and spaces that are meant for how we learn. We are doing more project-based learning than students have done in the past. We should think about the future.
- **Other areas:** Speaking specifically about LHS, what are some improvements that are needed in the other areas of the building:
  - Gym – The bleachers are scary and not accessible. We have to decide if my grandmother can come to graduation because she's not completely mobile.
  - Cafeteria – It's not big enough for all of the students. Students eat in the hallways on the floors and even in the bathrooms by the art classes.
  - Auditorium – It's not on campus. It's also hard to access because the ramps to restroom facilities are in a separate space.
  - Hallways – The hallways are crowded especially because of the exterior doors that open and close when people come in. There's no student work displayed. Unless you're in athletics you don't really see what students are doing.
  - Library – It feels like there's enough space, but there's no light.

### **3. Flexible and Adaptive Learning - MTSS**

- LSD provides a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) at every LSD facility to support differentiated learning for every student in the district.
- All students get an equal opportunity to succeed.
- This model of learning requires flexible and collaborative learning spaces to enhance students' opportunities to engage in critical job skills such as effective communication, collaboration, and problem solving, while providing staff to implement best practices in teaching.

### **4. Safety and Security**

- Standards for safety and security prioritized by local law enforcement at school facilities.
  - Hardware and locks
  - Access controls
  - Cameras
  - Alert Alarms
  - Overall configuration – “closed campus” is preferred with fewer entrances that are easily monitored.
  - Site access considerations - allowances for law enforcement access and protocols that help secure a site quickly.
- Using standards above as a guide, provide details on the assessment you and others performed at each school and the findings that came from that assessment.

- Isom ES - no concern
- Vossbeck ES – no concern
- Fisher ES - minimal concern that is currently being addressed through access controls.
- Lynden MS – no concern
- Lynden HS - urgent need here that is difficult to address because of the overall building configuration.
- **Conclusion:** Your students are safe, but it's because we know the building well and have created specific operations to address any need. The building just makes keeping students and teachers safe more difficult. If the Lynden community prioritizes the safety of its youth, the recommendation is to completely replace Lynden High School with new safety and security standards as part of that design.

#### 5. Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- 74% of our students are enrolled in at least 1 CTE course. 43% are enrolled in at least 2 CTE courses. CTE is part of the core curriculum.
- Many CTE classes are taught in portables with temperatures as low as 40-degrees in the winter.
- All CTE spaces need to be brought up to current standards for ADA accessibility.
- CTE is key to preparing kids for future careers and life skills.
- This could bring the building industry to Lynden.
- Below are some of the needs outlined by the staff expert in each field of study:
  - **Culinary arts:** We currently have residential kitchens because when the school was designed it was meant to teach students how to cook at home. We are trying to prepare students for culinary careers so we need commercial kitchens. More space, better ventilation, and a wider range of view are needed so that we can properly monitor all activities.
  - **Health Sciences:** The goal is to grow the program beyond just sports medicine and the facilities are preventing programs from developing to meet current needs.
  - **Wood and Metal Shop:** Facilities are needed that keep kids pushing toward achievement with inspirational and modern equipment. The community is looking for future employees with the right skills and with our current set up we are not meeting that need. We need spaces to work together that are configured in a way that allows proper monitoring and ventilation.

#### 5. Performing Arts

- Performing Arts classes are not meant to create future performers alone. These classes are really meant to benefit students in their interactions and interpersonal skills for whatever profession they choose.
- Student achievement is directly affected by participation in the performing arts. There is a direct correlation between band and AP class attendance.
- Facility deficiencies:
  - Size:
    - Stage is too small and too few seats in the auditorium.
    - Not enough space to house the entire program of Music and Theatre so we fight for scheduling. (cancelled performances or performances in sub-standard spaces like the gym or cafeteria)
    - School assemblies happen in the cafeteria which is too small and difficult to operate.
  - Technology
    - Acoustics are not adequate.
    - Sounds proofing is not in place (practice rooms near the library mean that on testing days we have to “practice more quietly” ...)
  - Location Off Site:
    - Logistics limit the possibilities and even make students miss their other classes on performance days.

- No opportunity for passive learning – talented students don't have exposure to a huge part of our curriculum.
- Facility needs:
  - Correctly sized spaces (700 seats, stage large enough for the entire program...)
  - Appropriate number of spaces (staff offices, practices spaces, storage...)
  - Appropriate configurations of space (staff spaces need to be adjacent to learning spaces)
  - Appropriate acoustics and sound proofing and audio/visual and sound booth capabilities for theatre
  - This will be the center of the LSD arts programs. ES and MS will use this space, too. This can also be a community amenity.

## **6. Athletics and Outdoor Programs**

- Athletics support student achievement in LSD. Athletes are the only students who have daily attendance checks (you cannot practice if you're not at school all day) and grade checks (you can't play if your GPA doesn't meet standards).
- Athletics promotes physical activity, builds confidence, and improves memory, imagination, creativity and mental health.
- The facilities meet legal standards, but not current standards of play. They are difficult to maintain and, in some instances, cannot be maintained, causing our students to look elsewhere for facilities.
- Athletics Facility Needs at LHS:
  - Grass fields need to be replaced with turf for soccer, football, fast-pitch, and baseball fields because they cannot be maintained through the rainy season.
  - A full track replacement is needed to prevent the stopping of all competition.
  - The stadium and all supporting facilities are not compliant with current ADA codes.
  - Lights are on wooden poles that are bent with extremely high operating costs due to outdated fixtures and technology.
  - Bleachers in the gym are not ADA accessible and present an ongoing maintenance cost.
  - Entry, concessions, and locker rooms for the gym no longer meet the needs of the district.
  - Team rooms do not support current programs.
  - The wrestling room is too small to support the program.

## **7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 5:30-7:30PM**