



Facilities Planning Task Force

Meeting Summary

Sept. 23, 2021, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Via zoom

Co-Chairs: Bob Kuehl, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Jeff Tetrick, Department of Teaching and Learning, Career and Technical Education Director

Welcome: Bob welcomed everyone to the 2021-Facilities Planning Task Force. He highlighted the work of the previous task force and examples of results of the work. Examples included Alderwood and Parkview elementary schools, which opened in fall 2021. Bob thanked Capital Projects Director, Curtis Lawyer for his work completing these, and other Bellingham Public Schools projects and then introduced Steve Murakami and Ashley McClaran from OAC who will help facilitate the task force process.

Zoom Etiquette: Steve discussed zoom etiquette and provided tips for ways the task force can be successful communicating through zoom and he introduced the new platform of Miro.

Introduction of agenda and Superintendent Dr. Baker – Bob outlined the agenda for the afternoon and introduced Dr. Baker.

Charge. Dr. Baker thanked the task force members for serving and set the stage for the upcoming meetings. He described the process of making large decisions about facility planning as bringing together people with different experiences and professions. Dr. Baker asked the group to introduce themselves and describe their connection to the district and then described this group's work and how it is directly tied to The Bellingham Promise. As an example, in a building that is 50 years old it's harder to deliver on both skilled users of technology and healthy individuals. Dr. Baker reviewed Bellingham Public Schools bond project history and showed the five goals for the draft 2022 bond overview, including planning for three new elementary schools, a new 15th elementary school and a new space for Community Transitions (CT) among other various needs.

Miro. Ashley with OAC demonstrated the Miro board and how it will allow the team to collaborate virtually. The task force members were then encouraged to practice and get to know how the Miro board works.

Schedule – Jeff described the meeting plan over the next five meetings (every two weeks) and the goal of bringing a recommendation to Dr. Baker by Nov. 24, 2021. Lezlie Fox will be sending out all the zoom links for future meetings. There are two possible timelines; the one that includes a Feb. election is preferred and the other utilizes the April election.

History. Curtis described the history of Bellingham Public Schools facility projects from the 1900's to the present time.

Steve let the team know that OSPI gives schools a life expectancy of 30 years. He praised Bellingham Public Schools for keeping the buildings going for much longer but said that some of them are at the end of their life span.

Meeting/Group Norms. Bob discussed the importance of group norms and how these agreements allow teams to perform well through this process. The entire group was able to provide input on the group norms they feel are most important by practicing again on the Miro board.

Guiding Principles. Jeff explained that while we all come from different backgrounds and have different guiding principles, it is important for this task force to find some common principles to guide decision making. Steve led the group in an exercise to help determine the top guiding principles task force members believe should be addressed in the bond package. The large group was divided into break out groups for this exercise. OAC plans to report the results of this exercise at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned. Jeff thanked the team for being willing to be part of this group and reminded them that the next meeting is 3:30 to 5:30, Thursday, Oct. 7. Steve asked the members to leave a few more thoughts and questions for this task force on the Miro board.