



Facilities Planning Task Force

Meeting Summary

Oct. 21, 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/Agenda: Bob welcomed the group and asked if anyone had edits or changes to the last week's meeting summary. No changes were suggested. Bob outlined the agenda for the day which included reviewing the district's strategic goals and initiatives, learning about the Community Transitions (CT) Program, learning about sustainable practices and accessibility at BPS and digging deeper into what goes into rating the performance of a facility. He also shared that there will be an opportunity to tour two schools, Alderwood and Carl Cozier elementary schools, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 28 and that the next task force meeting will be in-person from 3:30 to 5:30 on Thursday, Nov. 4 at Parkview Elementary.

Questions and Answers: Assistant Superintendent of Finance Simone Sangster answered questions about her presentation at the last meeting that task force members posted on the Miro board.

Districtwide Initiatives: Jeff discussed the districtwide initiatives presented in [The Bellingham Promise](#), the district's strategic plan, and recapped the six key strategies that guide the district's work. He then described the six goals the proposed draft 2022 bond would deliver on these strategies.

Community Transitions: Jeff introduced Assistant Director of Special Education Analisa Ficklin, who presented a video about Community Transitions and their accomplishments and needs. Special Education teacher, Liz Madden, joined Analisa to explain more about specific needs for space at CT and how they have needed to partner with Western Washington University to accomplish some of their educational goals as they don't have the space in their current location. Analisa described what CT offers and how additional space and resources will help them provide more educational services.

Accessibility and Early Learning: Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kristi Dominguez shared the importance of space in early childhood education and how focusing resources on early childhood education in general helps children succeed. Kristi described what "the environment as the teacher" means and the key features in a learning space that contribute to high quality early childhood education. She showed examples of indoor and outdoor spaces from our schools. Director of Capital Projects Curtis Lawyer provided input on playgrounds planned for the new schools and the intention to eventually replace all playgrounds throughout the

district. He also explained how playgrounds have changed through the years and our intention to create inclusive playgrounds and outdoor spaces.

Questions: Task force members asked about accessibility standards for playgrounds and how these standards are being determined. Executive Director of Operations Jessica Sankey explained the work done recently on the [Playground Standards Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee](#) and how that work is informing decision making about accessibility needs on playgrounds and in schools.

Sustainability: Director of Facilities and Sustainability Mark Peterson provided a big picture view of facilities and sustainability and the district's goal to make each building the highest performing building possible. Mark explained the district's philosophy of sustainability and the momentum the district currently has in this direction. He also described plans and goals for the future for Bellingham Public Schools when it comes to sustainability, one example being a Bellingham High School rain garden.

Break out groups. The task force separated into break out groups for small group discussion and to work on the Miro board to give feedback on which sustainability elements are most important to them and ask questions about design elements.

Facility Focus: Ashley McClaran from OAC and Curtis provided a more detailed description of facility assessment components to help the task force members better understand how design capacity, building condition and functional performance are related to the life of a facility. They provided current performance ratings of each BPS school and school performance scores from 2017.

Meeting adjourned. Jeff thanked the team for their time and reminded them about a school tour opportunity and the next meeting which will be in person.

- Open house tour opportunity. Alderwood and Carl Cozier. 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 28.
- Task Force Meeting. In person from 3:30 to 5:30, Thursday, Nov. 4 at Parkview Elementary.