



## **Facilities Planning Task Force**

Meeting Summary

November 18, 2021, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Alderwood Elementary

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

**Welcome/Agenda:** Jeff welcomed the task force members to the brand new Alderwood Elementary and introduced principal Micah Smith. Micah shared some of the features of the school and suggested they notice/look for them when they tour the building. Jeff reviewed the agenda for the evening and reminded the group of their goal to submit a recommendation to Dr. Baker by December 1.

**Areas of Investment:** Jeff reviewed each of the areas of investment.

- Build a new facility for Community Transitions
- Build a 15<sup>th</sup> elementary school to be used as a swing space
- Begin design to replace Carl Cozier, Columbia and Roosevelt elementary schools
- Support completion of current projects
- Improve safety, sustainability and accessibility at a number of schools

Steve reviewed the homework task force members were given at the last meeting which asked task force members to validate areas of investment. (The discussion questions and answers are in the Miro PowerPoint.)

**Holistic View of Asking for Funds:** Bob discussed factors that come into play when asking the community to consider a bond. He said that Dr. Baker will make the final decision and will consider what the tax impact means for the entire community. The task force discussed:

- Will building ever be completed in the district?
- Growth in Bellingham is not stopping any time soon.
- Reminder about the three parts of facilities assessment and how they determine priorities.
  - Functional performance
  - Building condition
  - Design capacity
- Sustainability

**Potential 2022 Bond Measure:** Simone reviewed the financial elements of the potential bond measure based on key assumptions about growth, current levies, interest rates and tax rates.

Discussion topics included:

- The importance of including improvements the community can see, such as new inclusive playgrounds.
- Sustainability, while important, is not something the community can necessarily see evidence of. How can we increase visibility of sustainability efforts?

**Top Priorities:** Topics that have risen to the top of the priority list include: Improved accessibility & inclusive learning, improved sustainable practices and improved support for student health and wellness.

**Final Recommendation:** The task force spent the remainder of the meeting discussing and looking for consensus on what the recommendation to Dr. Baker should be.

Members discussed the following:

1. Whether they recommend the bond include additional \$5 M investment in sustainability for the 15<sup>th</sup> elementary school.
2. Increasing the number of inclusive playgrounds within or beyond the \$5 M sustainability increase.
3. How to best define what sustainability means.
4. Task force members talked about being mindful of voter fatigue when it comes to bonds.
5. Is it a school district's job to set the standard for the community in terms of sustainability?
6. While the 15<sup>th</sup> elementary school is an opportunity to set an example of what future schools will look like, will it be compelling to our community?

**How to Stay Involved:** Lynnette Bennett asked task force members if they would like to be part of the Citizens for Bellingham Schools Committee to continue work on the bond and provided a signup sheet if anyone was interested.

**Meeting adjourned.** Bob thanked the task force member for their time and let them know a draft recommendation would be emailed to them for review by Nov. 24.