Bond Task Force Background
Bond Task Force

Background: Why the Task Force was formed

• Ferndale School District putting a facilities bond request on the November 2018 ballot
• Many projects are needed and the community cannot afford to pay for them all at once
• School Board wants the November 2018 ballot measure to reflect Ferndale community priorities
Task Force Purpose

• Consider the age, conditions and capacity of school facilities

• Consider current and projected community needs

• Learn about Ferndale School District’s work to date on long range facilities planning and identified capital facilities needs

• Consider the needed facilities projects and recommend a facilities bond project and cost list
Bond Task Force

Task Force membership

- District sent out an open call for members
- Members self-identified
- Anyone who attended meetings was included
- Task Force participants identified additional interests to include
Bond Task Force

Members of the Task Force are...

- Ferndale Community members
- Ferndale property owners
- School initiative supporters
- Parents
- Current and retired teachers or other school staff
- Law enforcement professionals
- Special education professionals
- District voters
- District employees
- Business owners
- Career Technical Education (CTE) advocates
- Public education advocates
- FFA volunteers
# Members list

* Indicates participation in the Communications Sub-Committee  
♦ Indicates participation in the Recommendations Sub-Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Participation</th>
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<td>Wendy Waisco</td>
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Bond Task Force

Our work to date

• **6** full Bond Task Force meetings
• **4** school tours
• **3** Communications Sub-committee meetings
• **2** Recommendations Sub-committee meetings
• **Countless** hours reviewing documents outside of meetings
Bond Task Force

Education: We learned a lot!

• District’s educational philosophy
• How the District calculates capacity and projects enrollment
• How school facility improvements are funded
• What the state does (and does not) contribute
• Condition of our school facilities
• Costs, drivers and trade offs for facilities improvements
Bond Task Force

We talked about a lot and asked a lot of questions

• How much can our community afford?
• What does our community expect?
• What are the most important facility needs?
• How did our schools get so bad?
• What’s important to the community about our schools?
• How should we prioritize funding?
• How can we hold the District accountable for bond spending?
1) Developing a bond project list should be a transparent and inclusive process that builds trust between the Ferndale community and the school district.

2) **Ferndale community preferences** should guide development of the bond project list.

3) The bond project list should be forward-thinking and adaptable to changes in the Ferndale community.

4) The bond project list should be realistic, financially responsible and cost effective.

5) The bond project list should consider the needs of a diverse body of students and provide them all with opportunities for success.
Recommendations:
• Ferndale High School
  • Keep and upgrade Performing Arts Center
  • Build new high school at same location
• Safety and security
  • Make needed improvements at all buildings
• Accountability
  • Create a community oversight committee
• Address critical facilities needs at other schools
Bond Task Force

Recommendation for Ferndale High School

*Keep and modernize the Performing Arts Center and build the remaining high school as new*

**High school:** $103 million  
**PAC upgrade:** $5 million
Main considerations for Ferndale High School (FHS)

- School Board requested we make the high school a “signature project”
- Safety concerns (there are currently between 80 to 100 different access doors)
- All students benefit (all students eventually go to FHS)
- New facilities support and enhance current student programs (such as Career Technical Education (CTE), athletics, music, and more)
- Performing Arts Center (PAC) is a community resource and an excellent facility that needs upgrading
- Significant savings from reduced maintenance and more efficient utilities can be used to address facilities or educational programming in the District
Safety and Security

Safety, security, and exterior LED lighting improvements on all needed buildings

Cost: $811 thousand

Rationale:

• Safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount
• Controlling building access currently difficult
• Many District facilities currently can’t be rapidly “locked down”
Other critical facilities needs

The District should address highest priority critical needs at other District facilities

Cost: $6 million

Rationale:

• Substantial list of facility needs throughout the District
• More than we can address in one bond
• Highest-priority needs
  • Address all leaks: keep buildings dry
  • Update HVAC controls: reduce labor-intensive maintenance demands
• Replace 15+ year-old hot water tanks: failures are imminent
Consider remodeling and reopening North Bellingham Elementary

Discussion

• Would provide a neighborhood school on the east side of I-5
• Neighborhood schools highly valued by District
• There is the potential to contribute to reduced class size at early grade levels
• Would provide additional capacity to help with anticipated future growth
• Would allow the District to expand early learning in other neighborhood schools
Bond Task Force

Not recommended at this time

Rationale for why not included:

- Concern with cost ($6.9 million for limited remodel)
- Concern with District taking on too much (do one thing well)
- Concern that funding North Bellingham would reduce focus / investment on other critical facility needs
- Concern limited remodel would not be enough: North Bellingham could be perceived as second class
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Ferndale High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upgrade PAC</td>
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<td>Security upgrades</td>
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<td>Most critical needs</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL COST (rounded):</strong></td>
<td><strong>$115 million</strong></td>
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The District should establish a community oversight committee to monitor and work with the District on all bond spending

Rationale:

• District did not implement all projects as detailed in the 2006 bond measure, which resulted in loss of trust in the community
• Oversight committee will help rebuild trust
Bond Task Force

School Board discussion
Bond Task Force

Next Steps
Next steps

- Task Force considers feedback from School Board on March 7th
- Task Force finalizes recommendations
- Task Force develops report with final recommendations
- Task Force report presented to School Board for action on March 27