

Long-Range Facilities Committee

February 11, 2025



Bond/Levy Planning - Next Steps

1. Request for Qualifications for pre-bond work
2. Finalized study & survey of facilities
3. Begin a facilities committee to guide the work

Bond Planning - Next Steps

Seek a Pre-Bond firm to assist with the process from start to finish Three Reasons

1. Assist in facilitation of citizens long-range facilities committee to identify Bond/Capital Projects priorities based on the survey & study results
2. Guide the long-range facilities planning team through the data, enrollment reports, and capacity planning to have the information necessary to build the long-range plan.
3. When a district asks taxpayers for money to fund a project, those voters will reasonably have questions. Chief among those questions are: “Do we really need this?” and “Can we afford it?” The role of a construction manager is to work directly with our citizens and public informations officer to provide facts that inform the public and to support the district by answering tough questions



Bond Planning - Next Steps

Complete an updated Study and Survey of facilities

- Main purpose of the survey is to assist with identifying Bond priorities and obtain updated information snapshot into ICOS (Information & Condition of Schools) for OSPI state match fund calculations
- Last Survey was complete in Feb 2014. Recommendation is this is done about every 6 years
- We are utilizing an OSPI grant to conduct a Survey & Study of our facilities. Completed in the Fall of 2023 and the report given to the board in the Winter of 2024
- **Timeline:**
 - ~~Complete Study and Survey Grant Application – April 2023~~
 - ~~Hire Firm to conduct Study and Survey – May 2023~~
 - ~~Firm completes Study and Survey of all facilities – June through December 2023~~
 - ~~Study and Survey report to board – February 2024~~
 - ~~Form facilities Committee to begin prioritizing needs and developing Bond Package February 2024~~



Bond Planning - Next Steps

Establish a Facilities Committee

- Prioritize the needs of the district with the Study and Survey
- Long-range facilities planning with the Study and Survey
- Serve as a liaison between the community and the district
- Finalize a bond package that balances the needs of the district and the support of the community
- Support all pre-bond work



Facilities Committee

The Wenatchee School District's Long Range Facilities Planning Committee is responsible for identifying and planning upgraded school facilities while promoting a thriving community through collaboration with its members. The committee is committed to data-driven decision-making and conducts its affairs in a businesslike manner, aiming to achieve specific objectives and goals. It comprises representatives from various stakeholder groups who are willing to assist the district in delivering quality facilities that support the promise of providing an excellent education to students.

 [Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

 [Documents and Resources](#)

FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

[Facilities Plan](#)

[Facilities Committee](#)

[Current Facilities Projects](#)

[Completed Capital Projects](#)

[Small Works Information](#)

Review Summary - March 27, 2024

- Purpose of our work
- Outcome: to build a Long-Range Facilities Plan for the WSD
- Data Reports:
 - Enrollment Reports and Projections
 - Capacity Analysis
 - Conditions Report: Physical and Functional
- Short Committee Survey

PURPOSE

Bring together a community-representative committee to review data and information:

 enrollment

 physical condition

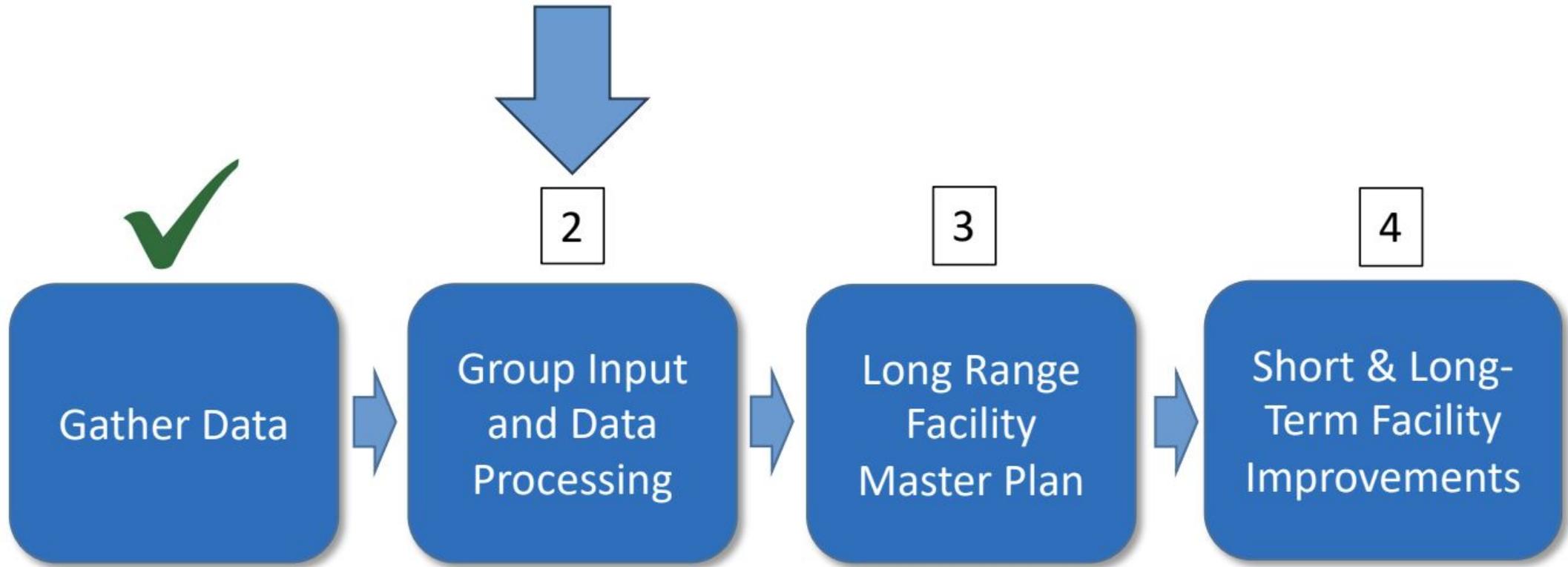
 capacity & utilization

 functional adequacy

 educational program

Define facility needs, as determined by data and program, and prioritize solutions





Review Summary - April 19, 2024

- Perception Data Review - Community
- Clean Energy Audit Information
 - Michael Coffey - McDonald-Miller
 - Scope of the work
 - Preliminary Scoping Assessments
 - District fines for non-compliance
- Group Work Time
 - Strong goal to have the District Office complete the Investment Grade Audit (IGA) for WHS
 - Fully funded through out local PUD
 - The IGA should be complete in March

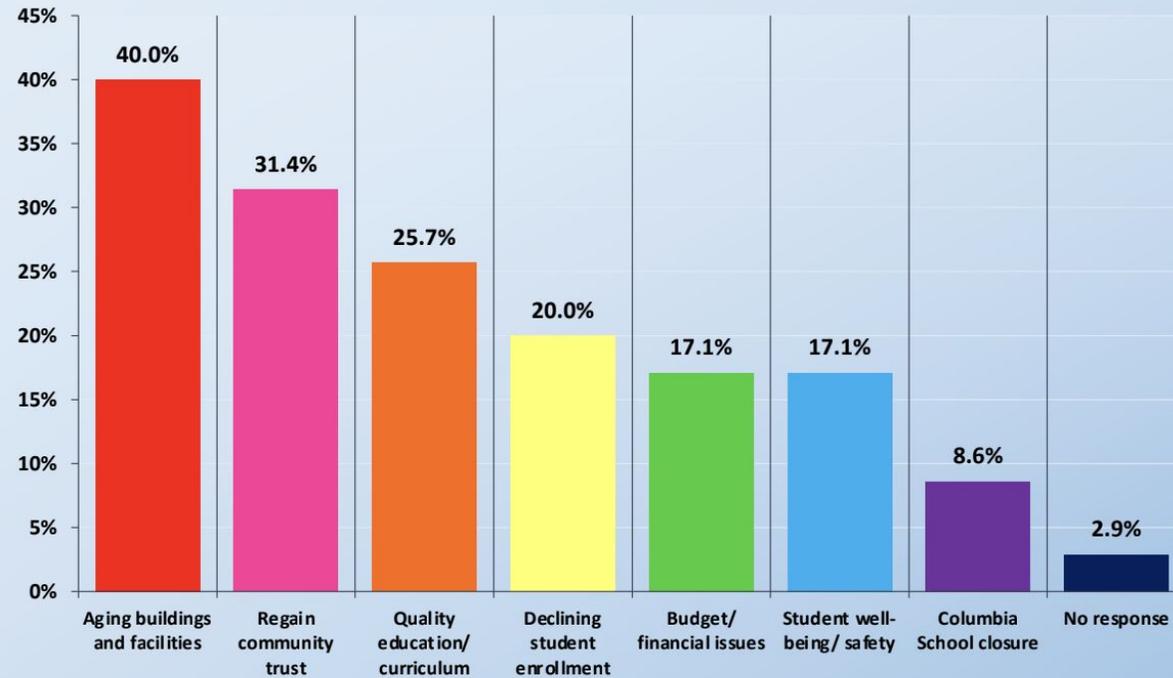
PERCEPTION DATA – DISCOVERY INTERVIEWS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong programs and curriculum• Great staff and teachers• Creating access, and equity of access, for all students• Partnerships with community organizations and businesses to support services for/to students and families• Athletics• School Board• Superintendent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• District communications and community engagement• Athletic Director situation• State of facilities / buildings• Delayed challenging decisions



PERCEPTION DATA - COMMITTEE

What, in your opinion, is the most pressing need in the district today?



Review Summary - June, 2024

- Reviewed Group Feedback from April
- School Budget Overview
- Levies versus Bonds
- Described our usage and future plans for Columbia Elementary as of June 2024
 - District Goals
 - What will not happen to Columbia
- Table group work

Review Summary - October 19, 2024

- Share feedback from Group Work on Columbia Elementary
- Community Survey Data review
- Facilities Maintenance Repairs and Renewal
 - Deferred Maintenance Plan
- Table Work
 - As a group prioritize the top five most important areas for the district to focus on

Columbia Elementary Feedback

Feedback on District's goals of using Columbia Elementary to maintain and grow programming

- After School Programming HQ
- Parent Classes (ex. Love & Logic)
- Valley Academy
- Community Engagement e.g. Health Sciences, CTE, Academies (x2)
- Rent the building to generate revenue for the district (x2)
- Additional early learning opportunities
- Limits potential uses for the community
- Where does money come from for maintenance? (x2)
- How do we honor Columbia's history?



Review Summary - January , 2025

- Tour of WHS Facilities
 - CTE Area
 - Cafeteria and Kitchen
 - Gym and Locker Room
- Debrief of the Tour
- Committee Feedback on Maintenance
- Planning and Discussion - morphed into a needed community conversation



Celebrations and Milestones

- Completed the Survey and Study
- Almost a year of work with our Long-Range Facilities Committee
- Partnership with the Public Utilities District
 - **AEM Energy Champions program** - saving our district thousands of dollars monthly on energy output
 - **District-wide lighting project** - Lewis and Clark Elementary, Foothills, WHS Track, Newbery Elementary - the tip of the iceberg
 - Payment for the **Investment Grade Audit** for Wenatchee High School - \$175,000
 - Support for the **Department of Commerce Clean Building Performance Standards Grant** = \$565,000

Comments, Questions, and Celebrations

Facilities Survey Findings

February 11, 2025



Facilities Planning

The district contacted with consultants from Turner Townsend and Heery to;

- Study district facility needs in depth,
- **Conduct a facilities survey**
- Facilitate a long range planning committee,
- Support the committee in making a recommendation to the on a long range plan for facilities improvements.

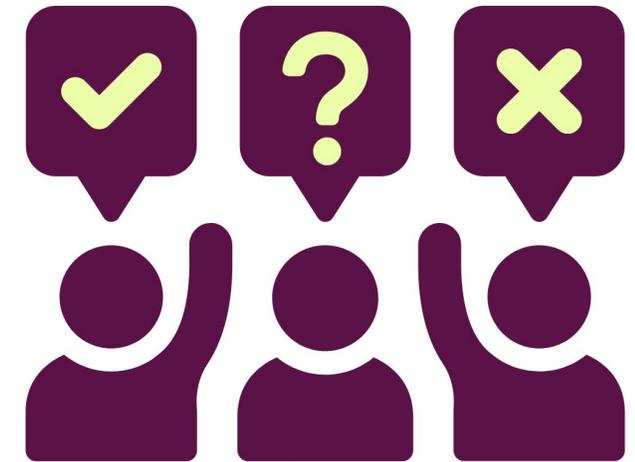
Facilities Survey

Purpose: The goal was to understand perceptions, identify concerns, and address critical issues as the district continues evaluates facilities plans.

Methodology: The study, conducted by Critical Data Strategies, involved online survey and phone interviews across three groups:

1. community leaders (phone)
2. parents/guardians (online)
3. community residents (online)

Timing: The study was conducted between September and October 2024 by Critical Data a Spokane based firm.



Survey Participation

1,217 interviews	
803	Parents / Guardians
374	Community Residents
40	Community Leaders

- The survey was available online in both English and Spanish
- 10% of surveys were completed in Spanish

Key Finding Across All Groups

Dominant Concerns: A common theme throughout the study is the community's concern regarding the district's financial management and the need for transparency.

Importance of Issues: The study asked participants to rate the importance of several issues facing the district. Seven of eight issues were rated a '4' or higher (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being most important), indicating widespread concern across many fronts.

Ranking Issues

The highest ranked challenges across all groups included:

1

Student & Staff Safety

2

Making Improvements to old and failing school buildings and equipment

3

Preparing Students for Meaningful Careers

Additional Ranked Areas

4

Preparing students for two-year, four-year and/or technical education after high school

5

Funding for Schools

6

Building Trust

7

Creating and sustaining partnerships between families, community members and schools



School Bonds & Levies

There is a significant lack of understanding regarding the difference between school bonds and levies, and how they must be renewed.

Only 29.6% of all respondents have a thorough understanding, while 30.5% have little or no understanding.

There's widespread agreement across all groups on the need for additional information before supporting a school bond or levy, with primary emphasis on:

- **How the money will be spent:** The most common request from all groups.
- **Impact on students if it does not pass:** This was also a widely shared concern.
- **Why the money is needed:** A significant number of people seek to know the purpose behind the request.
- **Effect on taxes:** This is a common concern among residents and parents.

Community Engagement

The study shows a significant difference in engagement levels. Parents/guardians tend to engage with the district more frequently than residents, with the vast majority of parents (96.9%) having engaged with the WSD in some way within the past two weeks.

In contrast, residents engaged less frequently:

- with 6.1% of residents engaged within the past two weeks,
- and 48 residents reporting they have never engaged with the WSD.

There's a desire for more town hall meetings and community feedback sessions, with a focus on more transparency and collaboration.

District Grade



The overall sentiment towards the Wenatchee School District is mixed, with a majority of respondents giving the district a "C" grade:

42.1% of parents/guardians and 34.2% of residents gave the district a "C".

50% of Community Leaders gave the district a "C".

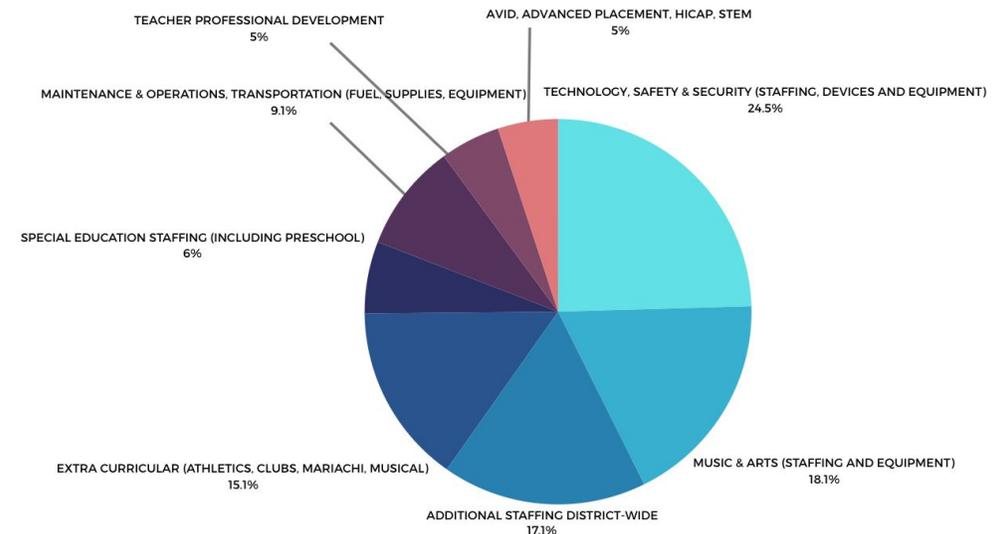
Significant portions of all respondent groups graded the district a "D" or "F" indicating dissatisfaction.

Comments about "F" grades often cited financial mismanagement, a lack of transparency and a loss of trust.

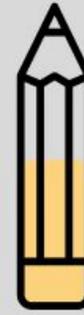
Financial Transparency is Crucial

Across all groups, there is a strong demand for greater transparency and accountability, particularly regarding the allocation of funds.

Many respondents mentioned that the district needs to demonstrate it can wisely and effectively manage funds before they will support new bonds or levies.



Community Leaders



Medium Engagement
Level



District
Letter Grade

Primary Concerns: Funding for schools, building trust, and preparing students for careers were the top concerns among community leaders.

"Funding for schools" was rated as "extremely important" by 57.5% of community leaders, with an average rating of 4.35 out of 5.

"Building trust with the community" was rated as "extremely important" by 57.5% with an average rating of 4.33 out of 5.

Information Needs: When it comes to bonds and levies, leaders want to know specifically how the money will be spent (55% mentioning this).

Grading: Half of the community leaders interviewed graded WSD a 'C'. 35% graded the district a 'A' or a 'B'.



Parents/Guardians



High Engagement
Level



District
Letter Grade

Engagement: Parents/guardians are significantly more engaged with the school district, with 96.9% engaging within the past two weeks.

High Concerns: Safety, Funding, Preparing students for careers and Building Trust were top priorities.

Information Needs: Parents/guardians primarily want to know “How will the money be spent?” before supporting a bond or levy.

Grading: While some parents gave the district high marks, many expressed frustration with recent financial issues and a lack of transparency. 42.1% of parents gave the WSD a grade of C.

Specific issues from parents/guardians: Concerns about teacher's personal views, staff pay, class size, facilities, athletic program strength, the district reputation, and part-time temporary athletic director.



Community Residents



Low Engagement
Level



District
Letter Grade

Engagement: Residents are less engaged than parents/guardians.

Primary Concerns: Similar to parents, residents are concerned about safety, funding, career preparation, and community trust.

Information Needs: Residents also want to know “How will the money be spent?” before supporting a bond or levy.

Grading: Many residents gave the district a "C" grade (34.2%), reflecting a general sense of the district being average.

Specific Issues From Residents: Some expressed the need for smaller bonds based on priority of needs and for community meetings at each school. Other issues included metal detectors in schools, the need for curriculum to be shared with parents, the concern that the money doesn't follow the child, that there is declining enrollment and a recent school closure, and a need for building improvement.

Summary



The study had a large participation, indicating the community's concern and connection to the Wenatchee School District.



The community has concerns about the district's finances and transparency.



There is a need to build trust with the community.



Community members want to know how money will be spent.



Many community members feel current leadership is working to improve the district, but more needs to be done.



Recommendations



Address the need for updated facilities, especially at the high school.



Improve communication and transparency with the community regarding all issues, including budget and decision making processes.



Develop a clear plan for how bond and levy money will be spent, focusing on student impact.



Focus on building trust with the community.



Take action on the feedback to show that the district values the community's input and is committed to improvement.



Continue to highlight the positive things happening within the district.



Next Steps for Facilities Planning

- Data will be shared with long range facilities committee
- Utilized by the team along with other data to develop a recommendation to the board on future facilities upgrades.

More info:

[wenatcheeschools.org/facilities/facilities-committee](https://www.wenatcheeschools.org/facilities/facilities-committee)