Community & Staff Conversations Update

NOVEMBER 2023



Thank you to the many staff, parents, and community members who attended the first series of our **Community & Staff Conversations on Facility Needs!**

There were a total of six opportunities for our district stakeholders to provide valuable feedback that will help shape the future of your schools. With **over 180 people attending** the sessions, we are grateful to better understand your top priorities that will inform our long-range facility planning efforts.

During the sessions, the district and its facility planning partners, Findorff (Construction Manager) and Somerville (Architect and Engineer) shared:

- An overview of the current state of the district's facilities and grounds, and academic and co-curricular achievements
- Details on our long-range facility planning process, guiding principles, and timeline
- A summary of the district's financial status, and historical enrollment and mill rates
- The completed facility assessment that included identified capital maintenance and space needs related to educational adequacy and capacity

The primary goal of the sessions was to gather staff and community input on priorities related to facility needs. At each of these events, attendees participated in both small-group and large-group conversations and an individual prioritization exercise using the following categories:

- Capacity (classroom and learning space availability)
- District-wide capital maintenance
- **Flexible and collaborative spaces** (classrooms, collaboration areas, small- and large-group instruction, updated/moveable furniture)
- Physical education/athletics (gymnasiums, outdoor fields, multipurpose facility)
- **Safety and security** (main entrances, fencing, pick-up/drop-off, parking)
- Sense of belonging (community spaces, visual school pride/branding)
- Space and program needs (special education, kitchen, library, tech ed, music, fine arts, playgrounds)
- **Support spaces** (conference rooms, nurse/health rooms, storage, offices)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Community & Staff Conversations (Series 2)

Feb 7, 2024 | 5:30-7:00 p.m. Coloma Elementary School

Feb 8, 2024 | 5:00-6:30 p.m. Westfield High School Library

Feb 10, 2024 | 9:30-11:00 a.m. Westfield Elementary School

Feb 12, 2024 | 5:30-7:00 p.m. Oxford Elementary School

Feb 13, 2024 | 6:00-7:30 p.m. Neshkoro Area Fire Protection District

Dates and times are subject to change. Please use the **QR CODE** to confirm details and learn more about our facility planning efforts.

QUESTIONS?

Michelle Johnson

District Administrator

michelle.johnson@westfieldpioneers.org

(608) 269-2141, ext. 1011



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As a result of the prioritization exercise, community and staff members identified the top priorities as **space and program needs**, **safety and security**, and **district-wide capital maintenance**. Although these were clearly the highest priority, there were other spaces and categories that we will continue to explore based on input.

Over the next few months, the district, Findorff, and Somerville will compile, review, and use the feedback we received to develop potential solution(s) that address priority facility needs. These potential solution(s) will be presented during the **February Community & Staff Conversations on Facility Needs.** We will also be bringing potential costs for the solution(s) to help our stakeholders further refine their priorities compared to the potential tax impacts.









