

# Facility Advisory Committee

May 11, 2023



# Agenda

- 1) Welcome Back and Tonight's Agenda
- 2) April FAC Meeting Review and Regrounding
- 3) Elementary School Facilities Detail
- 4) Elementary School Enrollments and Related Challenges
- 5) Table Team Discussion #1
- 6) Early Community Survey Results
- 7) Explore Elementary School Consolidation Options
- 8) Table Team Discussion #2
- 9) Next Meeting / Committee Feedback



# Next Meeting

## **FAC Meeting #1: April 20**

**Goal:** Develop a common understanding of the relevant conditions and factors

**Topics:**

- Purpose and norms
- Facilities history and overview (Joe L.)
- Enrollment history/projections (Aaron)
- District financial overview (Patty)
- Survey (Bill Foster)

## **FAC Meeting #2: May 11**

**Goal:** Understand elementary (ES) facilities, explore ES consolidation options

**Topics:**

- ES facilities detail (Joe L.)
- ES enrollments and challenges (Shelley & Troy)
- Early survey results (Bill F.)
- Explore ES consolidation options

## **FAC Meeting #3: June 12**

**Goal:** Evaluate ES consolidation options, understand secondary facilities

**Topics:**

- Survey results (Bill F.)
- Evaluate ES consolidation options
- Secondary facilities detail and challenges (Joe L & Stacey)

## **FAC Meeting #4: July 19**

**Goal:** Refine ES consolidation options, explore ES boundary options

**Topics:**

- Use survey results to inform parameters
- Refine ES consolidation options
- Explore ES boundary options



# FAC Members

Alex Attardo

Jerry Wacek

Michelle Powell

Andrea Trane

Joan Parke

Mo Yang

Anna Stindt

Karl Green

Nell Saunders-Scott

Bill Lanzel

Kathi Blanchard

Paisley Sichone

Courtney Lokken

Katie Bittner

Steve O'Malley

Ed Scholl

Linda Hansen

Tamara Gruen

Heidi Odegaard

Mac Kiel

Taylor Ledvina

Jed Olson

Matt Johnson

Tim Alberts

FAC Facilitator: Joe Schroeder



“Coming together is a beginning,  
Staying together is progress,  
And working together is success.”



– Henry Ford



# April FAC Meeting Review

# LC FAC

A word cloud featuring various terms related to education and personal development. The most prominent words are 'future', 'committed', and 'curious'. Other visible words include 'ready', 'information', 'optimistic', 'challenge', 'journey', 'excited', 'innovate', 'open', 'thoughtful', 'absorb', 'communication', 'creative-solutions', 'inquisitive', 'community', 'youth', 'motivated', 'interested', and 'absorb'.

future  
committed  
curious  
ready  
information  
optimistic  
challenge  
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creative-solutions  
inquisitive  
community  
youth  
motivated  
interested



# Exit Slip Feedback from Our April Meeting

## **What went well?**

- Well-prepared materials/information
- Good discussions/conversations
- Thoughtful people on the committee

## **What could be improved?**

- More time to talk
- Improve the draft survey
- Stay focused on the purpose

## **What do you want to learn more about?**

- More details about enrollments and the location of students
- More details about buildings and maintenance
- More about the student experience in buildings





## Question / Response Form Check-in



Submitter: Paisley Sichone

### **What are the pros and cons of making Logan & Central 6-12 and closing Longfellow and Logan MS?**

- Costs are prohibitive to make true separate middle and high schools in the same buildings. As an example, creating separate cafeterias or building new science rooms to keep students separate is a large expense. Portions of facilities are already stretched at each level including music rooms, cafeterias, and gymnasiums. This relates to more offerings over the years, while at the same time experiencing reductions in enrollment.
- The mixing of these two different development levels comes with some risks. No school district large enough to efficiently separate these groups of students typically does so in this way. K-8 buildings exist in a variety of districts (with their own issues), but 6-12 buildings in places where school districts have a choice do not generally exist.



# FAC Tasks

- Review demographic data, enrollment projections, facilities assessments, best practices and other factors that impact school district facilities.
- Integrate community feedback from surveys and other means into evaluations and recommendations.
- Serve as factual “key communicators” to the La Crosse community.
- Explore, evaluate, and refine potential elementary school arrangement and facilities consolidation options.
- Explore, evaluate, and refine middle and high school facilities improvements that result in equal opportunities for students.
- Prepare and present a final report summarizing findings and advisory recommendations to the school board by December 2023.



# Staying Focused

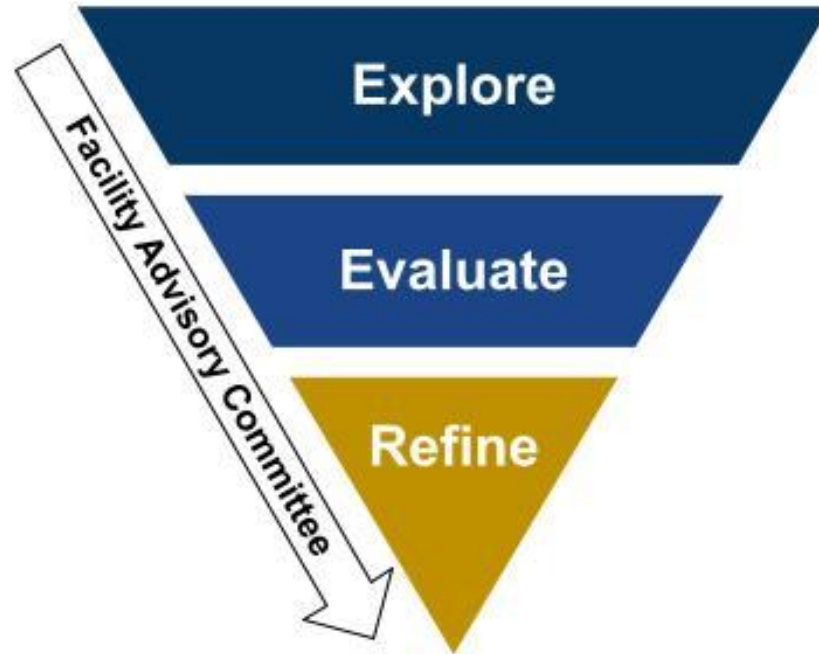
## FAC Purpose

- Recommend potential elementary school arrangement
- Recommend elementary facilities consolidation options
- Recommend MS/HS facilities improvements that result in equal opportunities for students

## FAC Non-Purpose

- Addressing student behavior
- Attracting and retaining staff
- Increasing enrollment
- Increasing property values
- State politics
- City improvements
- Number of high schools
- Open enrollment





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- Secondary facility challenges (Stacey)

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## **FAC Meeting #4: July 19**

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**Topics:**

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- Refine ES consolidation options
- Explore ES boundary options



# Meeting Schedule and Topics Continued

<p><b>FAC Meeting #5: August 14</b> <b>Goal:</b> Evaluate ES boundary options, explore secondary facility options <b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate ES boundary options</li><li>• Refine ES consolidation options</li><li>• Explore secondary facility options (Bray)</li></ul>	<p><b>FAC Meeting #7: October 17</b> <b>Goal:</b> Develop and refine draft of FAC report <b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop and refine FAC report</li><li>• Refine secondary facility options</li><li>• Evaluate long-range capital improvement cycle recommendations</li></ul>
<p><b>FAC Meeting #6: September 14</b> <b>Goal:</b> Refine ES boundary options, evaluate secondary facility options <b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refine ES boundary options</li><li>• Refine ES consolidation options</li><li>• Evaluate secondary facility options</li><li>• Explore long-range capital improvement cycle (PMA, Bray)</li></ul>	<p><b>FAC Meeting #8: November 2</b> <b>Goal:</b> Refine final report to School District <b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refine FAC report</li><li>• Refine long-range capital improvement cycle recommendations</li></ul>



# Our Norms

- Start on time; end on time or early.
- Suspend judgment.
- Listen to understand; be civil.
- Respect others and self; respect opinions other than your own.
- Be forward-looking, focused on the future.
- Make decisions through consensus:
  - Ensure that every different perspective on a topic at hand has opportunity to be heard
  - Ensure that the will of the group on that topic is clear.



# Elementary School Facilities Details



# Northside/Coulee Montessori Elementary School

## School Demographics

K-5 Enrollment (NS/CM)	232 / 109 = 341
Capacity	549
Economically Disadvantaged	78% / 64%
Of Color	57% / 23%
Students with Disabilities	24% / 15%
English Learners	17.6% / 2.7%

## Attendee Data

Transfer In	22% / 70% (58/83)
Open Enrollment	2.3% / 12.7% (6/15)
Eligible for Bussing	0% / 0% (0/0)

## Boundary Data

Live in Boundary	396
Closer to Another Elementary	0% (0)
Transfer Out	24% (132)

## District Data

Live within One Mile of School	483
Live within Two Miles of School	680



## Building Information

Original Construction	2014
Additions	None
Site Size (Acres)	3.6
Square Footage	86,767
Parking Stalls	40
Average Annual Operating Costs	\$147,756





## Building Assets and Challenges

### **Assets**

- ✦ A new building in great condition
- ✦ Located in a dense area with many children nearby
- ✦ Solar panels installed through partnership with SOLS

### **Challenges**

- ✦ A compact site plan
- ✦ Limited outdoor options for students and staff
- ✦ Limited parking
- ✦ Challenging drop off/pickups
- ✦ No dedicated bus lane
- ✦ Two choice schools in one building

### **Identified Maintenance and Capital Projects**

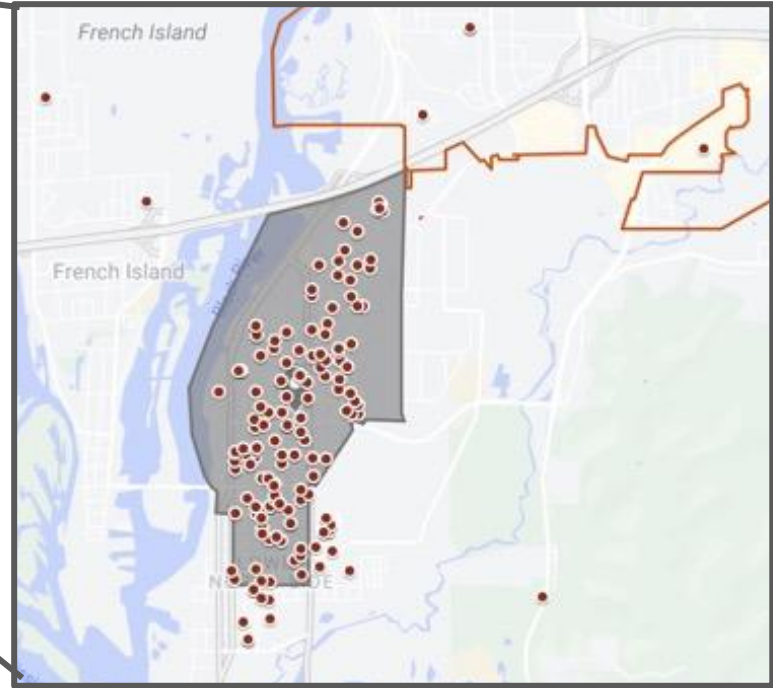
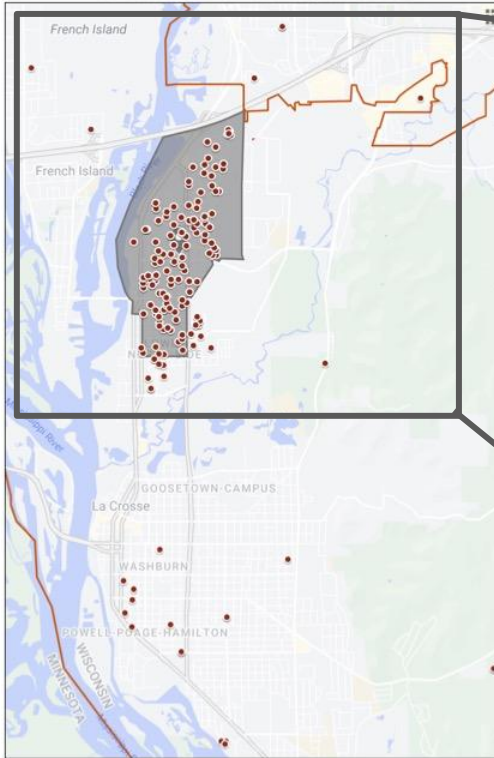
Outside storage shed, cubbies, drinking fountain, replace playground fall zone material, shade on windows, 2nd floor special needs restroom.

Identified Maintenance Costs

\$205,840



### Northside Attendance Area and Student Location



#### Additional Information

Northside Elementary has two schools in one building. A school on a year-round calendar and a Montessori school. The opt-outs for the year-round calendar may choose the Montessori school to stay on a traditional calendar. 35 students intradistrict transfer from within the Northside boundary to the Montessori school. Transfers out do not include these students.



# Elementary School Enrollments and Related Challenges



Shelley Shirel, Director of Elementary Education

&

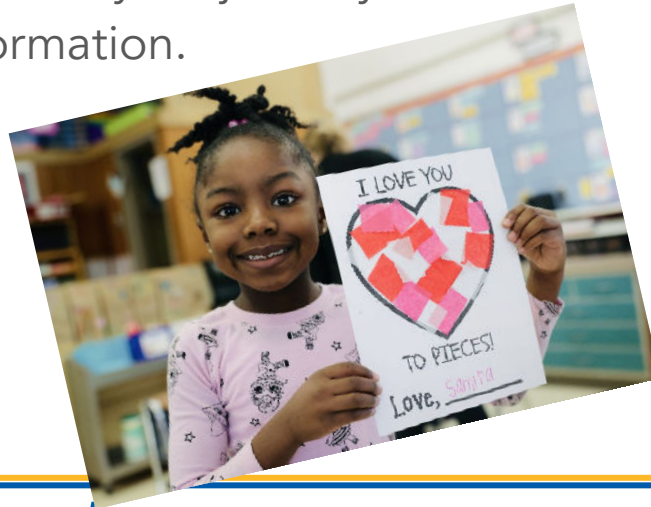
Troy Harcey, Associate Superintendent of Instruction

Graphic from *Public School Enrollment Is Down By More than a Million. Why?*, by T. S. Dee, November 2, 2002. Education Week.



# Important – and Intentionally Repetitious – Messages!

- Thank you for serving on the FAC; we appreciate you.
- Declining enrollment, budget deficits, and aging facilities remain issues.
- BFOTO → and a team of this size. Powerful!
- Our role is to help inform your journey/recommendation(s) process by providing salient information.





# Overview: School District of La Crosse Elementary Schools



Southern Bluffs



Hintgen



State Road



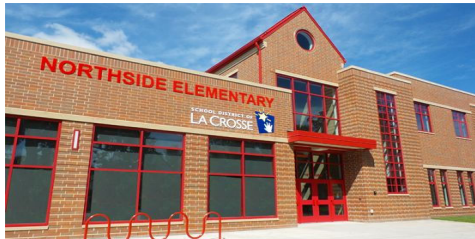
Spence



Hamilton/SOTA I



Emerson



Northside/Coulee Montessori



Summit Environmental



Northwoods International

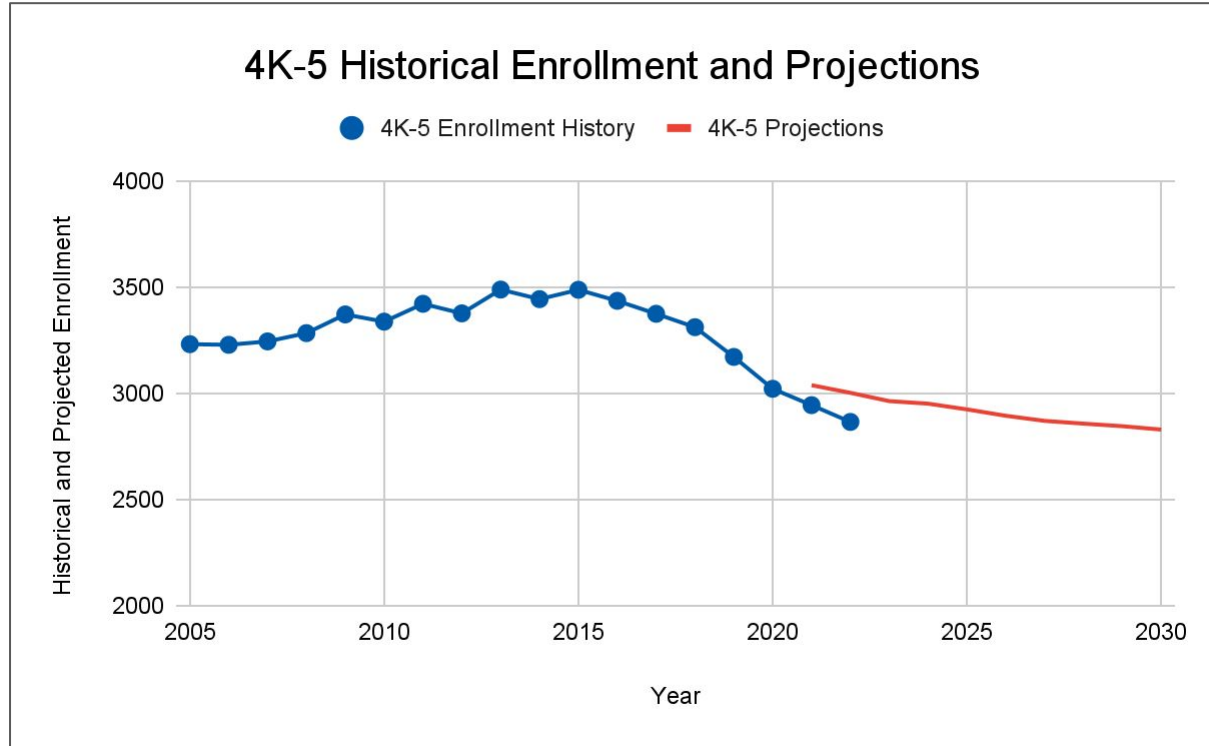


# Elementary Enrollment Trends

Historical enrollments have fallen by 659 since a recent peak in enrollment in 2013.

Enrollments have come in less than anticipated based on projections.

Projections indicate a loss of another 97 4K-5 students by 2030.



# Low Enrollment Challenges – Staffing Inefficiency

- Music
- Art
- Physical Education
- Library
- English Language (EL)
- School Psychologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech and Language
- Adaptive Physical Education



Increased “windshield time” has an impact.





# What is an “ideal” elementary school for La Crosse?

An “ideal” SDLAX Elementary

- 350 - 400 students
- 18-20 sections
- 3-4 sections per grade level

This would allow for full time MAPEL specialists, support staff such as special education teachers, EL teachers, counselors, success coaches, etc.

Comparable economic status between buildings would be desirable.



# Low Enrollment Challenges - 1-2 sections per grade level

Challenges of 1-2 sections per grade level:

- Inability to create balanced classrooms
- Loss of collaborative planning between teachers
- “Balloon” grade levels
- Increase in split classrooms



## Low Enrollment Challenges – Fewer Staff Resources



Larger staff = increased flexibility, creativity, and responsiveness

Smaller staff = limited ability to flexibly adapt



# Low Enrollment Challenges - Small Grade Level Numbers

Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR)

K-3 (18:1) 4th-5th (25 or less)

Options:

- Really large
- Really small
- Splits



# Boundary Schools, Choice, Charter and ITs Oh my!

## Glossary of Terms



**Boundary School** - school assigned to based on home address



**"Neighborhood" School** - school in neighborhood



**Choice School** - unique feature (thematic, calendar...), application required



**Charter School** - boundaryless school, application required



**Intradistrict Transfer (IT)**- transfer within La Crosse to another school



**Opt Out** - Calendar configuration allows a student to attend another school



**Open Enrollment** - Transfer from another community to La Crosse or vice versa

Example: Hamilton currently is a choice school and a boundary school in the Powell Poage Neighborhood. For 2022-23, 64% of students living in the boundary transferred out and 60% of students that attend have "choiced" in, many of whom can easily walk to the school from their home.



# Elementary Challenges - Multiple Choice and Charter Schools

“District of Choice”

“One size does not fit all”

“Options for students and parents”

Equity - Choice and Charter Schools are available for ALL students and families



# Elementary Challenges - Boundary Schools and ITs

Every student in the district is entitled to attend their boundary school.

Movement, Movement and More Movement.

30% of students attend a school other than their boundary school



# Elementary Challenges - Multiple Calendars

2 calendars in one school

- 45/15 calendar (year round)
- traditional calendar

District (and vendors) operate on a traditional calendar

Families that don't want this calendar configuration can request to "opt out" and attend another school.





# Excellent Educational Opportunities for ALL students

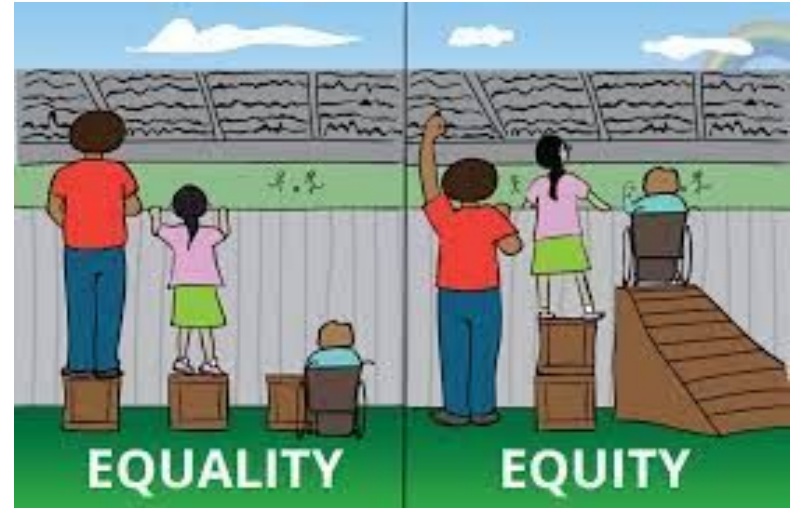
“Fair is not always equal”

“Inequality to create equity”

The poverty levels vary significantly between elementary buildings.

**Northside - 82%** vs **Southern Bluffs - 34%**

Efforts are made to provide schools and students with “what they need” vs all things equal.



# Building Closure Impacts on Enrollment and Sections

<b>K-5 Elementary Enrollments and Sections</b>		
	AVE Enrollment	AVE Sections
Current (9)	275	16.3
Close 1 ES	310	18.3
Close 2 ES	354	20.9
Close 3 ES	413	24.3

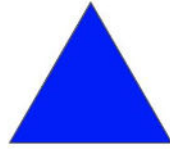


# Table Team Discussion #1: Elementary School Enrollments and Related Challenges

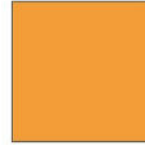
## Triangle, Square, Circle Reflection

Please Identify Roles:

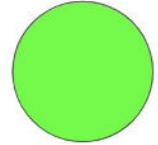
- Timekeeper
- Scribe
- Reporter



Three Key Points/Takeaways:



Something that Squares With  
My Thinking/Beliefs:






















A Question or Two  
Circling in My Head:



# Early Community Survey Results

**What factors are most important as we plan for elementary school reconfiguration? Please select up to five (5) in total. (n=1113)**

Appropriately-sized classrooms (0)	792 (71.2%)	
Safe & secure schools (0)	719 (64.6%)	
Neighborhood accessible schools (0)	543 (48.8%)	
Comparable opportunities for students at each school (0)	538 (48.3%)	
Safe vehicle traffic flow for student pick-up/drop off (0)	364 (32.7%)	
Social/economic diversity in our schools (0)	329 (29.6%)	
Important part of the community/"sense of place" (0)	292 (26.2%)	
Dedicated art and music/band classrooms (0)	290 (26.1%)	
Bus ride time (0)	225 (20.2%)	
Accessible playgrounds (0)	199 (17.9%)	
Eco-friendly, energy-efficient buildings (0)	198 (17.8%)	
Cost of building renovation/adaption/replacement (0)	164 (14.7%)	
Building maintenance costs (0)	147 (13.2%)	
Lower school operating costs (0)	138 (12.4%)	
Dedicated gyms (not shared with the cafeteria) (0)	131 (11.8%)	
Dedicated space for small group instruction and student collaboration (0)	120 (10.8%)	
Adequate parking (0)	84 (7.5%)	
Aesthetically appealing (attractive) schools (0)	60 (5.4%)	
Meeting spaces for staff, parents, and the community (0)	33 (3%)	

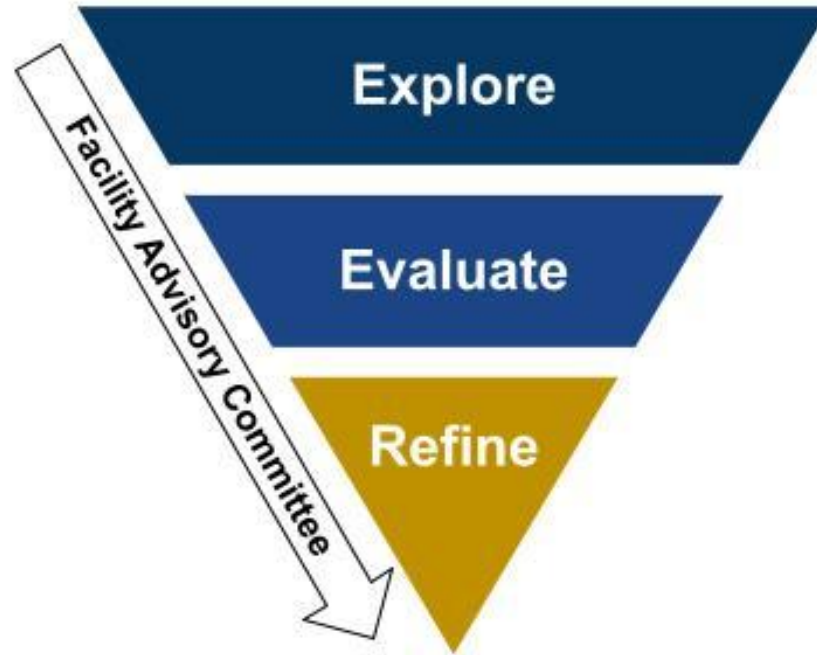


# Top Two Tiers

1. Appropriately-sized classrooms
  2. Safe & secure schools
  3. Neighborhood accessible schools
  4. Comparable opportunities for students at each school
- 
5. Safe vehicle traffic flow for student pick-up/drop off
  6. Social/economic diversity in our schools
  7. Important part of the community/"sense of place"
  8. Dedicated art and music/band classrooms



# Explore Elementary Consolidation Options



# Table Team Discussion #2: Exploring Elementary School Consolidation Options

Continue Roles:

- Timekeeper
- Scribe
- Reporter

## Part 1:

Use the Elementary School Facilities Details presented earlier this evening to...

Identify 2-3 Key Assets and 2-3 Key Challenges for each of the TWO Elementary Schools assigned to your table

As you pursue this exercise, please focus on key factors that stand out at each school relative to other elementary schools in the district.

School _____	
Assets	Challenges





# Schools to Explore

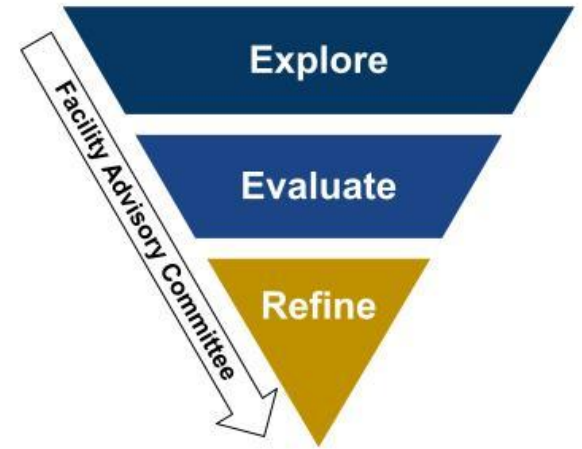
Table 1: Southern Bluffs and Hintgen

Table 2: State Road and Spence

Table 3: Hamilton/SOTA I and Emerson

Table 4: Northside/Coulee Montessori and Summit Environmental

Table 5: Northwoods International and Southern Bluffs



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# Table Team Discussion #2:

## Exploring Elementary School Consolidation Options

I Notice...?

I Wonder...?

### Part 2:

A) Individually, review the flip charts detailing key factors identified by table teams for each elementary school. (I notice... I wonder...)

B) At table teams, with this input in mind as a starting spot, identify elementary school consolidation options that the FAC should review and evaluate, beginning in June.



# Gallery Walk

As you look at the note sheets from other tables,

In the context of consolidation of buildings,

What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Example: I notice that few kids at Northwoods live within two miles of school. I wonder if more kids could walk to school if we consolidated that school?

I Notice.. 

I Wonder... 



# Table Team Discussion #2:

## Exploring Elementary School Consolidation Options

### Part 2:

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I Notice..?	I Wonder...?



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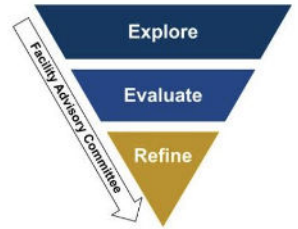


## Part 2 B:

FAC Table Team # \_\_\_\_\_  
May 11, 2023

Elementary School Consolidation Options  
for FAC Evaluation:

- 
- 
- 



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# Committee Feedback

Exit Ticket



Exit Ticket

What went well? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What could be improved? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you want to learn more about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



