



Draft Bond Task Force Recommendations

Tuesday, February 27, 2018



Bond Task Force Background

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

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

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

Jamie Albrecht	Aanika Aspund	Bob Baumstark	Wendy Beebout	Julia Besola	Joy Born ◆	Victor M Boulos
Anne Bower	Faye Britt ◆	Michael Britt ◆	Dustin Brittain	Scott Brittain	Terry Brown	Tami Clark
Riley Cornelsen	Kristen Cox	David A Curuos	Kendra Cristelli	Aurora Davis	Kristie Edwards ◆	Edwin Elefson ◆
Rusti Elefson ◆	John Fairbairn	Connie Faria*	Maralise Fegan ◆	Rob Fickeisen	Peter Finstuen	Hugh Foulke
Dustin Griffin ◆	Mai Chi Griffin	Tina Harmer	Gordon Harmer	Donny Hennig	Gregg Heyne*	Aanikka Hodges
Lesli Higginson	Kathy Hopkins ◆	Nicole Inman	Denise Kamschulte ◆	Bud Larson* ◆	Wendy Lawrence ◆	Sarah Lenssen
Cindy Lower	Jake Locker	Joe Lupo* ◆	Taylor Lupo	Dawn Martin	Joey McAlpine ◆	Doug McDonald
Bruce McKay	Audra McLain	Sandi McMillan ◆	Steve Menefee	Damian Miller	Tasha Miller	Amy Nylén
Jamie Plenkovich ◆	Sydney Randall	Cathy Raymond ◆	Ken Rehberger	RM Refk	Julie Rice	Chad Schmitt
Katrina Schmitt	Catherine Schuman	Al & Mary Seaton	Nicole Smith ◆	Charmel Solomon	James Taylor	Terry Terry*
Brandi Tilton	Kimberly Towle	Shauna Torretta ◆	Tony Torretta	Dennis Tucker	Eric Tripp	Patrice Valentine
Ryan Valentine	Jeremy Vincent ◆	Garin Wallace*	Wendy Wasisco	Erin Williams ◆	Candice Willson ◆	Kalen Hanna

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



Task Force Education and Discussions

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

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?



Task Force Draft Recommendations

Our Guiding Principles

- 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

Draft recommendations overview

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

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

Not recommended at this time

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

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

DRAFT Recommendations Cost breakout

Ferndale High School	\$103 million
Upgrade PAC	\$5 million
Security upgrades	\$811 thousand
Most critical needs	\$6 million
TOTAL COST (rounded):	<hr/> \$115 million

Accountability

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



School Board discussion



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