

Eden Valley-Watkins Public Schools
Listening Session
Agenda 2/27/18

1. Introductions
2. Background – Superintendent
3. Input on District & Facility Thoughts – We are looking for your input. Please share key words, phrases or ideas that will outline a framework to prioritize how we go forward with District and Facility planning. These thoughts are focused on the following general categories.
 - 3.1. Community – What does the School mean to the communities and how are the facilities used by the communities?
 - 3.2. Educational – How do the educational programs benefit the students?
 - 3.3. Physical – How are the physical facilities used to deliver the educational programs and what improvements should be considered?
 - 3.4. Other – Is there any other topics to consider
4. Group Views of Current Facilities
 - 4.1. Thoughts of previous bond referendum programs...
 - 4.2. What would you like to see...
 - 4.3. What would the district voters support...
 - 4.4. Keeping the public informed...
 - 4.4.1. Flyers
 - 4.4.2. Newsletters
 - 4.4.3. District Website
 - 4.4.4. Social Media
 - 4.4.5. Other
 - 4.5. Facilities Task Force
5. Meeting Recap and Next Steps – Community Task Force Define Process
 - 5.1. The Task Force will assess and define the needs of the district.
 - 5.2. The Task Force will present a recommendation to the School Board.
 - 5.3. A Referendum date is determined.
 - 5.4. The plan is submitted to the state for review and comment (3 month process)



Eden Valley - Watkins Public Schools Listening Sessions Notes 2/27/18

Facilitators:

Preston Euerle – RA Morton

Jim Wilson – Wendel

Dan Goemann - Wendel

3:30 pm - Staff

General Comments on the EVW Community

- The community usage of the school buildings is high.
- There is a high level of community support for the School District.
- The District has a positive image within the community. Community has pride for District.
- Important to keep a building operational in both Watkins and Eden Valley.
- Combining elementary into the EV building would not be feasible. Already dealing with long bus ride times.
- Some in the community may suggest tear down and build new.
- Need all voices from the community to be heard.

Comments on the June 2017 Referendum

- Activity surrounding the referendum seemed very quiet.
- There was a feeling that the community didn't understand what they were voting for.
- There was not enough information presented to the community. Some did not receive any information. Many would have liked graphics to explain the scope of the project.
- More voting options could have been positive.
- Lots of negative chatter about the athletic fields component of the project.
- Needed to market the athletic facilities component as more than "just football"...such as physical education, community education, baseball, softball, track, practice.
- Turf field could provide even more uses and opportunity.
- Appeared to be three levels of support
 1. Safety/Security (most support)
 2. Football
 3. Track (least support)
- The technology device initiative created some confusion with the referendum.
- June timing was not good for the vote.
- Some concern over the amount of existing debt (\$16M) that would be added to.
- Football and track were "wants"
- Poor voter turnout. "Nobody knew about it"
- Ineffective "Yes" group.
- "No" group had a strong presence and was organized.



Watkins Elementary

- Poor wayfinding.
- No security. "Just walk right into the hallway"
- HVAC in poor condition. Can no longer get parts for the unit ventilators, which are very old.
- No meeting space or office space.

Eden Valley Elementary

- Safety and security a major concern.
- Pick up and drop off routine is chaotic. Very poor vehicle circulation.
- Bus/Car/Playground conflicts.
- Parents can't see their kids go in the building so they wait in their cars as long as possible, or walk the kids into the building which contributes to congestion.
- HVAC upgrades needed. Addition of AC would boost community usage.
- No meeting space or office space.

High School

- "Worst football field in the State of MN"
- Plumbing is in poor condition, domestic piping and waste. Lift station is very loud and disruptive.
- The 1927 building is very hot and affects ability to learn. Many teachers bring their own fans.
- The building is outdated in terms of learning styles. Need to add flexible "21st Century" learning areas. Utilize technology to take advantage of personal devices.
- There are no individual or small group study areas.
- Need for a "commons" area in the building. Possibly in the cafeteria.
- Teachers would like flexible furniture.
- Boys locker, wrestling and weight rooms are very poor. Can see directly into boys locker from hall. Dungeon gets used for changing due to lack of space.
- Is it possible to build on top of the wrestling/weights area?
- Site is limited by being landlocked.
- Existing grade configuration is working well.
- 1963 building has water line issues and needs HVAC upgrades.
- Poor ventilation at toilet rooms.
- Parking is lacking and generally does not work well, especially during events.
- Dedicated computer labs may not be as important due to personal devices. Some of this space could be converted to different uses.
- Maker spaces would be a positive addition.
- Need to consider project scope for the agricultural curriculum and community.



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7:00 pm - Community

General Comments on the EVW Community

- School facilities used extensively for community events such as scouting, funerals, etc.
- The District has a reputation for being frugal.
- The District has a reputation for quality education – high test scores. This is a reason for families to move here.
- Cross pollination of school and community organizations such as Lions, Business, and Chamber of Commerce.
- Schools "keep the community thriving."
- Community needs to be vocal. All input is valuable.
- Overall education of the public is a challenge. People get their news differently now.
- Elderly community, fixed income.
- What is the long term goal for the District?
- "How are we setting ourselves up for the future?"
- "Same people making the same decisions."
- Word of mouth is the most effective form of communication for this community.
- The community needs to be proactive in sharing information.
- Could/should involve students in the process.

Comments on the June 2017 Referendum

- Not enough visuals. Did not adequately explain the scope of the project.
- Safety and security at the elementary schools had a high level of support.
- Athletics scope could be a second question on the ballot.
- The athletic fields scope took all of the public focus away from the rest of the project needs.
- Athletic fields as part of the project was bad timing given that the last referendum was largely centered on athletics with the new gym.
- Needed to educate the public on the safety component of the football field scope.
- Not much scope that was directly for education.
- Difficult for the public to understand infrastructure issues at the buildings because they can't physically see them.
- "No" voters were organized and motivated.
- The Ag2School tax credit was approved at the last week before the referendum.

Eden Valley Elementary

- Bus and car drop off is an "accident waiting to happen" and a "total free-for-all", "Doesn't work."
- Parents wait because they can't see their kids enter the building.



Watkins Elementary

- Building not sprinkled. Additional area could trigger code requirement.

High School

- Boys locker room too small. Visibility directly into locker room from hall.
- The public may not understand how much the track is actually used.
- Football field is "horrendous."
- Safety and security is a large component of wanting a new football field. Current situation is not safe with traffic and congestion concerns.
- Eliminate any "frills" in the project scope. Need to focus only on the "essentials." Safety, security and structure.
- Accessible parking needed at the high school. Currently only 4 accessible spots, and only 2 of those are really useful.

Listening Session Sign-In Sheet

STAFF SESSION

Community Session	EV-W Public Schools
Meeting Date:	2/27/2018

	Name	E-Mail	Phone
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Listening Session Sign-In Sheet

COMMUNITY SESSION


Community Session	EV-W Public Schools
Meeting Date:	2/27/2018

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Meeting Date:	2/27/2018

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COMMUNITY SESSION

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Meeting Date:	2/27/2018

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