



Bond Task Force Final Recommendations

Tuesday, March 27



Bond Task Force background

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

Task Force members 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
- Future Farmers of America (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 ◆	Ryan Kimball	Kellie Larrabee	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	Connie Miller
Damian Miller	Tasha Miller	Amy Nylan	Jamie Plenkovich ◆	Sydney Randall	Cathy Raymond ◆	Ken Rehberger
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	Ryan Welch
Erin Williams ◆	Sarah L. Wills	Candice Wilson ◆				

Our work to date

- 8 full Bond Task Force meetings
- 5 school tours
- 3 Communications Sub-committee meetings
- 2 Recommendations Sub-committee meetings
- Countless hours reviewing documents outside of meetings

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.

Quote

“A school is the heart of a community. If the school is vibrant, forward thinking and secure, the community will thrive.”

-Bond Task Force member



Task Force education and discussions

Task Force meetings

We learned about...

- The 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 facility improvements

We asked 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?

Quote – We had extra meetings

“I realized after the second Task Force meeting and a couple of school tours that this conversation was more complicated than just fixing one school facility. The School District needs are greater than a reasonable bond request can fulfill. The topic is important on so many levels, to so many people, that more meetings were necessary for us to deliver a good product. And many of the Task Force members agreed.”

-Bond Task Force member



Task Force final recommendations

Final 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
- Address critical facilities' needs at other schools
- Accountability
 - Create a community oversight committee

Main considerations for Ferndale High School (FHS)

- “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



Bond Task Force

Recommendation for Ferndale High School

Build new Ferndale High School as new, except keep and upgrade the Performing Arts Center

High school: \$105 million

PAC upgrade: \$2 million

New Ferndale High School Features

- Two-story building constructed to current standards
- Classrooms constructed north of existing gym to minimize disruption to students
- Provide flexibility and multi-use capability to support current and future programs
- Address drainage issues at the site
- New outdoor stadium (grandstands, artificial turf combination field and track)
- New athletic fields and parking on the site of existing structures
- Incorporate parts of Old Main facade into design elements of the new campus

Key upgrades to the PAC would include...

- Groundwater repairs
- New sound and lighting systems
- Roof repairs
- New HVAC system
- New sprinkler system
- Technology upgrades

Safety and Security

Safety, security and exterior LED lighting improvements on all needed buildings

Cost: \$1 million (rounded)

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: \$4 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

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 within the community
- Oversight committee will help rebuild trust

Final Recommendations Cost breakout

Ferndale High School	\$105 million
Upgrade PAC	\$2 million
Security upgrades	\$1 million (rounded)
Most critical needs	\$4 million
TOTAL COST (rounded):	\$112 million

Quote

“While there may have been points that members disagreed about, the consensus was that we can do better for our community and that everyone agrees that the time is now to put forward a bond that has been developed through an open, transparent and thorough process.”

- Bond Task Force member

Considered, but not recommended

Consider remodeling and reopening North Bellingham Elementary

- Much discussion, high passion
- Some thought it essential for voter support, differentiation from previous, failed bond measure and support for elementary schools
- Most members supported, but not in this bond measure due to additional cost to overall ask

Other thoughts for the School Board – no consensus

Develop a new Task Force after the 2018 Bond Measure vote is concluded

- Focus on elementary schools (and maybe middle schools)
- Same scrutiny and community involvement as high schools

“We owe it to the students, teachers and community to perform the same level of due diligence on future elementary school and middle school proposals as we have done in preparing this proposal for the high school.”

-Bond Task Force member

Other thoughts for the School Board – no consensus

Options for Washington State School Construction Assistance Program (“state match”), if available

- Use to address any cost overruns
- Use to address additional needs on the District’s prioritized critical needs list
- Use to “buy down” the bond to shorten the term of the bond repayment period
- Use to reduce bond amount and “rebate” to taxpayers in reduced tax rate



Next steps

Summary & next steps



The Task Force reached agreement on four key recommendations, including:

- Rebuilding Ferndale High School, except keep and upgrade the PAC
- Improving safety and security across the District
- Address priority critical building needs
- Establish Community Oversight Committee for bond measures

Next steps:

- The School Board to consider Task Force recommendations
- School Board to determine projects and budget to include on November 2018 bond measure