



MATTERS

February 2014 – Special Facilities & Safety Issue

Mead School District Facilities & Safety Report



Taskforce Recommendations Unveiled

Comprehensive, Year-Long Studies Benefit School Safety and Identify District Facility Needs

In February of last year, the School Board authorized the development of a six-year Capital Facilities Plan and a six-year Safety Plan. Why? Because Mead Schools are not immune to tragic events and it was time to update the district's Capital Facilities Plan, which is revised/developed every six years. Advisory committees for each plan were organized and community members invited to serve.

In order to forecast the need for new school buildings and/or modernization of existing schools, the Facilities Planning Committee held 17 meetings

in 2013. Led by Ned Wendle, Director of Facilities & Planning, the committee studied enrollment projections, toured buildings, listened to school principals and looked at facility needs relative to life safety and building security.

Following the Sandy Hook tragedy, Student Services Executive Director Jared Hoadley asked concerned community members to join the Safety Planning Committee. Taskforce membership included experts in tactical and technical school safety practices and procedures. After convening 11 times the committee developed safety recommendations for each district building, including electric door locks, cameras, panic buttons and single points of entry.

Inside this special edition of *Mead Matters* are more specifics about the recommendations of both the Facilities Planning Committee and Safety Taskforce. Additionally, you will find a list of the Mead patrons who generously volunteered their time and talents to serve as committee members. Thanks to each of them - we greatly appreciate their thoughtful analysis of district safety and facility needs.

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We Want Your Input . . .



Facilities Planning Committee & Safety Taskforce Community Information Meetings – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12 – Northwood Middle School
Wednesday, February 19 – Midway Elementary





Three-Stage Approach Recommended by Safety Taskforce

Safety Committee recommendations are summarized below and fall into four general categories: Standardized Policy & Procedures, Training, Facilities and Staff. Within these categories the committee further identified items as either needing attention ASAP, within two years or beyond two years. Several ASAP items have already been addressed and include a new phone/intercom system with the ability to signal a “lockdown” from any phone in the district. Additionally, all district personnel now wear ID badges. Other priority projects, such as single points of entry, are more costly and will require funding from a capital facilities bond.

ASAP. Most Important

- Develop standardized, district-wide lockdown protocols
- Secure lockdown technology for every classroom
- Require all staff to wear ID badges
- Increase staff/student emergency drill rehearsals
- Design a single point of entry for each district building
- Install main office panic alarms
- Advocate for additional school resource officers
- Solicit community volunteers to help support security



Within two years. Near Term

- Provide professional development to enhance staff-student relationships
- Practice emergency drills at unannounced times
- Install main entry buzzers
- Acquire “door ajar” notification system
- Mount cameras at main entry & non-entry doors

Beyond two years. Long Range

- Require all students to wear ID badges
- Upgrade student records alert system
- Install cameras in common areas & parking lots
- Enhance community volunteer program

Safety Taskforce Committee Members

We extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals who served as members of the Mead School District Safety Taskforce:

Kevin Bauer
Charla Caruthers
Chad Eckberg
Wes Graham
Heather Havens

Jared Hoadley
Tricia Kannberg
Jim Preston
Dan Sears
Jill Stephenson

Tim Walters
Ned Wendle
Carrie Webbenhurst
Chris Young



How You Can Help

Become a school greeter. We are looking for friendly faces to commit to short, two to three hour sessions of time, one to five days a week to welcome visitors to our schools. Volunteers can be anyone over the age of 18 and training is provided. Contact Student Services at 465-6008 for additional information.



Facilities Planning Committee Recommends Menu of Projects for School Board Consideration

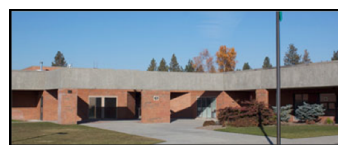
Recommendations from the Facilities Planning Committee are summarized below and include ten major categories/project types. Projects range from security upgrades, as recommended by the Safety Taskforce, to major projects that include the modernization of Shiloh Hills and Midway elementary schools and replacement of Northwood Middle School – all three schools qualify for state match monies.



Shiloh Hills Elementary – Est. 1980
34 years old



Northwood Middle School– Est. 1958
56 years old



Midway Elementary– Est. 1980
34 years old

- Major Projects

- Full Modernization – Shiloh Hills Elementary & Midway Elementary
- Replacement – Northwood Middle School
(recommend rebuilding school adjacent to existing gym & weight room, which will be retained)

- K-12 User Needs

- Retrofit High School Classrooms – two science (Mead HS) & two STEM (Mt. Spokane HS)
- Upgrade Portables - Brentwood & Meadow Ridge

- Roofing Projects (Brentwood, Evergreen, Meadow Ridge, Colbert portables)

- Handicapped Accessibility Improvements (district-wide)

- Site/Traffic Improvements (Brentwood, Colbert, Evergreen)

- Outdoor Track Replacement (Mt. Spokane & Mead HS)

- Infrastructure & System Needs

- New Carpet – Brentwood, Evergreen, Farwell, Meadow Ridge
- HVAC Unit & Control Replacement – numerous schools

- Property Acquisition for Future School Site(s)

- Technology Needs (district-wide)

- Security/Safety Needs (district-wide)



All proposed items will be discussed in detail at the Community Information Meetings before a final recommendation is brought to the School Board.

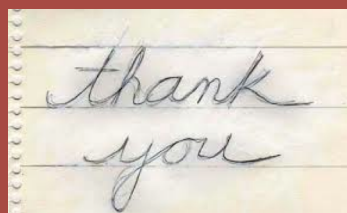
Facilities Planning Committee Members

We extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals for serving on the Mead School District Facilities Planning Committee:

Sami Absalonson
Gary Drumheller
Dan Eagle

Candace Mumm
Sonia O'Connor
Craig Penfield

Bob Sleeth
Al Swanson
Bobby Tobiason



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Mead School District Upcoming Drama Productions

Mt. Spokane High School
Theatre Arts Department
Proudly Presents



March 19-21 & March 26-29

Mt. Spokane High School
Performing Arts Theatre – 7 pm
\$10 adults; \$7 seniors/students

MEAD High School
Theatre Arts Department
Proudly Presents



**February 27 & 28
March 1, 6, 7 & 8**

Mead High School
Performing Arts Theatre
7 pm
\$8 adults
\$5 seniors/students

Promoting A Strong Learning Tradition A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller



First, let me express my personal thanks to members of the Facilities Planning Committee and Safety Taskforce. Their time and thoughtful consideration of district facility and safety needs is very much appreciated. I encourage you to learn more about their recommendations and provide input at one of the upcoming Community Information Meetings.

This month as you are out and about, you will notice new banners on our schools. (More than 50% of the cost for the new banners was donated.) These banners display our new *Learn, Lead, Mead* tagline. In addition to promoting our strong learning and leadership tradition, the banners identify each school as being a part of the Mead School District. It may sound silly, but because of our proximity to other districts there have been numerous instances of confusion with parents and patrons – they have not been sure which school district they live in.

The Mead School District is known around the state as a leader in education as evidenced by our outstanding graduations rates (92% “on time” and 95% “extended” for Mead and Mt. Spokane High Schools) and the fact that 7 out of 10 high school graduates attend college – tops in the Spokane Region as reported by the Spokesman Review (August 2013).

The new *Learn, Lead, Mead* banners celebrate our strong learning and leadership tradition, identify each school as part of the Mead School District and help promote a positive, welcoming environment for our community. You will also find the new tagline on district webpages and school newsletters.

In closing, I invite you to attend one or both of our upcoming high school drama productions and the February 25th STEM+ Open House.

Learn. Lead. Mead
School District



S

Science

T

Technology

E

Engineering

M

Mathematics

Celebrate STEM+ Education Open House – Tuesday, February 25, 2014 Mt. Spokane High School Commons, 7-8:30 pm

Parents, students and community members are invited to come learn about the unique STEM+ education opportunities taking place in the Mead School District. Students and teachers, along with business community members, will showcase their innovative work in the areas of Biomedical Science, Engineering and Entrepreneurship.

Correction to Spokesman Article

On January 15, 2014, the Spokesman ran a story on local construction projects.

The story incorrectly reported the cost of a Mead Schools STEM building conversion. The correct dollar amount for the minor code upgrades to a leased building on the Newport Highway is approximately \$100,000 not \$2.4 million!