

**Verbatim Responses**

Recorded on worksheets as a result of the small group work activity  
Community Engagement Session #5 • May 17, 2022

On May 17, 2022 Vision Forward held the fifth session, *Facilities for Learning*, which included a small-group work session. Approximately 90 community members and SJSJ staff attended in person and another 11 participated virtually. The presentation began with a brief overview of the previous four sessions by Superintendent Dr. Doug Van Zyl. Mr. Mickey Gill, Director of Operations and Mr. Casey Housman, Coordinator of Maintenance and Warehousing then provided information on district facilities. A video featuring St. Joseph employees and students provided first-hand insights on current facilities and their thoughts for future improvements needed. After the presentations, participants both in person and via Zoom divided themselves among 15 tables and prepared responses to the following tasks:

**Table #1**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Grateful for efforts of maintenance department to provide safe spaces	Devotion to historic architecture

**Task #2**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to align SJSJ buildings to improve our facilities for learning? List your top priorities on the chart.
- ▷ Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Right size building capacity	1	Balancing/simplifying feeder system
Classroom Environment	2	Update HVAC units and Create collaborative learning
Athletic field & facility upgrade	3	Increase facility capacity & quality, Repair damaged fields and upgrade equipment

**Table #2**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Teachers care	Passionate coaches

**Task #2**

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- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Proactive vision/concrete steps HS/MS realignment educational opportunities		
Consistency at middle school		
Focus on all things in the school		*Alternative school/management school *Behavior support for teachers

**Table #3**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Outstanding teachers and dedication of staff even with current facilities	ACT scores have been going up Central HS Scholar Bowl - 1 <sup>st</sup> place in state

**Task #2**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to align SJSD buildings to improve our facilities for learning? List your top priorities on the chart.
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- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
All middle schools should be 6, 7, 8 grades	1	Build a bigger middle school; 1 or 2 new ones
Upgrade learning environments districtwide	2	Use existing bonding capacity to renovate as many existing schools to deal with existing deficiencies.
Consider consolidation of schools	3	Combine 2 elementary schools *Renew the levy in August

**Table #4**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Staff works efficiently with what they have and what they have been given	We honor students and staff The pride from their place and space

**Task #2**

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- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Buildings under capacity and lots of money	1	Rethink boundary lines, Align the elementary, middle and high schools
Classrooms and learning spaces don't meet needs of their future students & business needs	2	Remodel existing spaces
Athletics fixed, equitable across schools	3	Fund the resources and extend out to community

**Table #5**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Outside of older buildings are pretty and stately looking.	Our students do not make excuses about poor facilities and playing conditions and are doing the best with what they have.

**Task #2**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to align SJSD buildings to improve our facilities for learning? List your top priorities on the chart.
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- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Two brand new high schools with 21 <sup>st</sup> century facilities including sports and arts	1	Build 2 new high schools with a bond
Update high schools if possible to make 6-8 grade level middle schools	2	Create new space to get all 6-8 make 6-8 grade level middle schools
Consolidate/update or build new elementary including early learning centers	3	Realign K-12 so the flow is not so from elementary to middle to high schools

**Table #6**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Dedication of staff, students Staff believes in the students	Employees do a lot with a little

**Task #2**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to align SJSD buildings to improve our facilities for learning? List your top priorities on the chart.
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- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Consistent MS model	1	Repurpose buildings 2 – 5/6 grade buildings, 3 - 7/8 grade buildings
Inconsistent enrollment vs. capacity, Redistrict to even enrollment to other buildings, Create consistent MS model	2	Redistrict, Combine/build/consolidate
Insufficient HS Facilities matter when recruiting	3	New Build

**Table #7**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Good stewardship with maintenance budget (patience!)	Dedicated staff

**Task #2**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to align SJSD buildings to improve our facilities for learning? List your top priorities on the chart.
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- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Optimization – 2 high schools	1	Pass a school Bond August levy
Redistricting/feeder clarity	2	
Equal opportunity/school programs	3	

**Table #8**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Pride in SJSD – People oriented	Highly skilled, hard-working maintenance staff

**Task #2**

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- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Students not feeling supported by our community	1	Passing bond issues
Buildings not being used to full capacity or used to full capacity and cost effectively	2	Redraw boundary lines, Cleaner feeder system, Consistent grade levels
More space for collaboration in academics and for more opportunities in athletics	3	Repurpose or remodel buildings that have the space, Each HS has fields/facilities on campus

**Table #9**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Progress with HVAC & security	Flexibility of staff during adverse conditions

**Task #2**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to align SJSD buildings to improve our facilities for learning? List your top priorities on the chart.
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Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Consolidate schools (waste of resources)	1	One high school discussion
Alignment of schools (Boundaries) Effective use of buildings	2	Set boundaries, feeder system
New facilities	3	

**Table #10**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Consensus among students and staff on need	The school staffs

**Task #2**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to align SJSD buildings to improve our facilities for learning? List your top priorities on the chart.
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Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Building level priorities as determined by those closest to it. (teachers, staff, students, neighbors)	1	Bond issue after this is done, (local priorities, not from an outside consultant)
HVAC Issues and Environmental	2	
Sports Facilities	3	

**Table #11**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Create safe environment Safe family environment	Do good with resources we have

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Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Continuous facility upgrade. Repurpose, refinish and replace	1	Facilities are not a magic pill
Balance schools socioeconomically, clear feeder strategy	2	Middle schools
Educate community – don’t threaten	3	Don’t oversell doom and gloom *Most people want change, just don’t agree on how

**Table #12**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
High resilience	Strong community pride



**Task #2**

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Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Maximize current facility usage		Be creative
Leverage your technology		
Classroom comfort & security		

**Table #13**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Two new school built/last 10 years	Tradition/Neighborhood schools

**Task #2**

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Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Develop the plan – Carry it out	1	
Consistent grades and facilities in middle schools	2	
Two new high schools	3	

**Table #14**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Early Childhood Learning Center and the desire to expand that so more children can have access	There are many staff and students, administrators are still hopeful for the future of our school district.

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Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Have a clear plan as what to do with the buildings and communicate to community	1	Develop the best plan for high school capacities and cost to maintain. Actually, carry out the plan
Develop a clear district boundary map for elementary, middle school, high school	2	
Educate the public on the issues and current conditions of our buildings	3	

**Table #15**

**Task #1**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Buildings/facilities have gotten more life than most people would have expected and still high-achieving students and athletes.	Early Learning Center

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Top Priorities to Align Buildings to Improve Our Facilities for Learning	Ranking 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
1-2 New High Schools (ex: MCI) reduce facilities and build new ones	1	1-2 new high schools (new identities) reduce facilities and build new ones w/ equity athletic facilities Concrete plan & follow through, Community support (critical), Create pride in community
More streamlined feeder-system	2	Geographical Neighborhood schools Kids move up to same schools
We want people to move here and stay here and dig in. Vision!!!	3	