

Please share any input on the proposal of a K-12 Lake Marion Campus.

I believe it will overall benefit the students, teachers, staff, district and county.

Looks good

Very informational

Sounds like a great way to save money and serve our students

Awesome

The only worry I have regarding this move for Holly Hill Middle, Holly Hill Elementary and St. James-Gillard is the length of time that these children will spend on a bus.

This sounds like a doable and cost effective plan.

I support this proposal.

This is a very great idea!

Great idea

Good idea for future use.

I think that consolidating the east to one campus is a long term money saver and better for the families. This would also help with buses.

Great idea!! Include facilities for the arts and agriculture. Example swimming pools, dance studios, garden area or greenhouse.

I think that is a great idea. P

I the proposal is a good one

NA

None

This sounds like a solid plan.

I think that is great to combine the school to give student a state of art learning environment and a cost saving plan.

I agree with developing a large facility for a K-12 Lake Marion Campus.

I believe this proposal would save money and also would be a good investment for the district.

I think this is a great proposal developed for our students. It will be well worth it because our students are our future and they need to be involved in a better education.

I believe if the proposal is going to enhance student learning it is a good idea.

I think this is a good plan.

How will this consolidation affect teachers/staff?

It appears the district has researched the need very carefully and observed other state of the art schools across the state. I'm sure this will bring more families to the county.

This idea sounds great, but I could see traffic/congestion being a huge problem with the area. Also- making sure the campus is taken care of so it doesn't end up damaged within a short amount of time. I'm also concerned of students travel time.

If proposal goes through, would all teachers, related arts teachers, counselors, staff etc. within the East maintain their positions, or would some positions be removed?

Great idea

If elementary schools in the east are to be consolidated, they should NOT be next to the high or middle schools.

Good idea

I think this would be the best solution! We have to understand that these schools mentioned are older schools. A new school and new environment brings new student from all over the US. This is definitely a win win!

How will staffing be affected? Would current administrators have to reapply for their current position?

I disagree with this plan. The church and school is the backbone of the community and if all of the schools are taken out of the community what would we have. The East is wide spread, no school in the Eutawville area would be a big void for the people of the Eutawville community. We can not see our babies traveling from the county line to Santee. We understand that modern up to date facilities are nice but why not up-grade our school or build the new facility in Eutawville so the people of community can have a school. Don't take the hub of our community away from us. We spoke with some of the Senior members of our community and they can't believe Eutawville will be out a school. PLEASE! PLEASE reconsider leaving St. James-Gillard Elementary School in the Eutawville community.

This is good use of the space in making this a K-12 campus.

I feel that this would be great for the students.

It would be great for our SPED students that are not able to move around outside unassisted to have a place to play. There needs to be swings, etc. outside that are wheelchair accessible.

All buildings should have a room for Speech Therapists and a room for OT/PT.

I think updates are a great idea and putting them on the location of the already present high school property sounds like a good idea. However I do not live in this area so I'm not sure how this will impact the buses and drive time for parents. However if they are taking all of their children to one school that seems more convenient.

That is a good use of the property.

This would be nice to have these students in the same location from the time they enter in 4K to the time they graduate since they all end up there anyway.

Awesome for the East Region.

Addition of Middle School Wing at Lake Marion should not be done. Ellore Elementary Middle School should remain open. Some students from Vance may attend Ellore Elementary / Middle School. Students from the 301 area that attend Bowman may attend Ellore Elementary/Middle School. This is an avenue to increase enrollment and increase utilization. A new school should be constructed within the Eutawville, Vance and Holly Hill area with a central location.

Is there any way to include an additional smaller auditorium on the middle school side?

I welcome exposing "our" children to the best schools in one central location.

I believe the middle school should have its own building. Adding it the high school does not prepare us for the growth that is occurring in the east. New constructions are continually being built to prepare for the growth coming on 26 East. Do we want those people to enroll their children or pass us by and go to Dorchester or Summerville? The schools should be all on the same road but not attached. Will carpet be removed from Lake Marion? Will it too be a state of the art facility?

I think this is a great plan, however how would transportation be affected? The schools are pretty widespread.

Great Plan

Dr. Foster, this is a great plan! This plan would support the shortage of staff, while providing a safe place for all.

We need to build a new elementary here in Holly Hill instead of putting those kids at Lake Marion. Too much going on now at Lake Marion

Perfect solution!!!

Another consideration could be to build a PreK -8 facility in the Holly Hill area and make repairs at Ellore and combine Ellore and VPE. Ellore was listed as needing moderate repairs.

These are some points that I would like to note and I hope that they are shared at the next presentation:

-We have only heard of ONE plan. What are the other options for building or consolidating schools?

-Will people lose jobs? There will not be enough attrition to create enough vacancies for all of the Food Service, Custodians, Media Specialists, Secretaries, Counselors, etc... to have a job. Students need come first but the majority of staff members that work in the schools in the East live in the East and jobs are important to the staff members.

- I would be interested in a survey that shows the projected number of persons expected to retire in the next two years compared to the number of staff members that will need to be placed due to schools possibly closing in the East.

Dr. Foster, First, I'd like to thank you for sharing the proposed plan for our district and for the opportunity to provide feedback. Your passion for our children and this project came through loud and clear. I take this moment to offer my concerns.

Compromising with your Constituents: My first concern is what appears to be a lack of compromise with your constituents. Tonight Rev. Damon's suggestion about building a state of the arts school in the Holly Hill or renovating the middle school was put on the back burner. I know that you mentioned that one should not mention eight plans because that opens it up too wide to make a decision. I suggest considering options A, B, or C. You are only presenting option A. And from where I sat, it appeared that option A was the only option or remain as we are.

The second reason for my concern about you listening to your constituents was due to the response you gave the mayor of Holly Hill. The mayor of Holly Hill shared information that should be considered in this "proposed" plan. There are businesses coming to the eastern part of the district. One thing that will attract residents is high quality, competitive schools staffed with highly effective teachers. How is the district going to compete with the private schools that are going to attract some of these families? What about school choice? And finally, as I mentioned, yes, the state of the arts buildings are all well and good, but more essential, in my opinion, are the personnel in those spaces that will educate our students to compete globally. What is the plan for recruitment and curriculum design?

Closing Schools in Targeted Black Communities: My second has to do with the neighborhoods targeted. It concerns me that the targeted communities are poor Black communities with little or no economic and political power. Tonight, at the Lovely Hill Church meeting, I did not hear anything regarding schools in the former Orangeburg District 4 where most of the constituents are white and have some economic stability closing or consolidating under one roof. I am sure they, just like the schools in the eastern part of the district, has lower enrollment. Did I miss that in the proposed plan? Probably not.

Lack of Political Power to Sway the Decision: The third concern that I have is due to the lack of political power the citizens in the eastern part of the county believe they have. Many of the constituents already believe that this is a done deal and there is nothing they can do about it. I know there is little that you can do about those sentiments, but what I charge you to consider are those voices that have expressed grave concerns tonight about school closure. Too often our voices and concerns are not taken as seriously as the voices of those in white, middle-class areas with political connections. These schools are a vital hub for most communities. Closing them all should be reconsidered.

Busing Students to Santee: My fourth concern has to do with the impact that this decision will have on our students in the long run. The length of the entire district is about 80-90 miles from one end to the other. Busing children from the farthest end of the county to Santee, roughly 25 miles, seems like a simple thing, but it is not. There are numerous factors to consider (the number of buses, the quality of the buses, having enough drivers, the shortest routes, etc.) Then there is the element of time that we must consider. Children will have to leave home extremely early and arrive back home extremely late. That will certainly impact their social and emotional health. When will they have time just to be kids, if they are doing schooling? No no no every community wants to retain their school. What does a community have if you take out their school it leaves the community with nothing. Fix our schools don't close them!!!

I support this proposal. A new campus will benefit the students in the area.

I feel as if schools on the Eastern end of the county should not be closed and consolidated in Santee. We have students in the East that live on the County Line road and transporting them to Santee daily is unreasonable. Moreover, the district does not stop in Santee and research tells us that community schools are needed and healthy for small towns. If you eliminated the five schools on the Eastern end of the county, you're basically eliminating the East.

I am in favor of this plan.

Schools need to be renovated not combined

First, let me say that I am not against anything for the betterment of your children. I am not against a new school for them, I am against the location. I attended the community meeting Tuesday in Holly Hill and left there wondering "what is plan B?" Everything must have a Plan B. To close schools in the eastern part of the country will hurt these smaller towns revenue tremendously. Ellore is not an old school, so why can't renovations be done to Ellore? I agree to combine Holly Hill Elementary, Holly Hill-Roberts Middle, St. James-Gilliard, and Vance-Providence and make it a K-8 school. Everything that Dr. Foster referred to Tuesday night was about the cost. In so many words, the cheapest way to go. I used one pack of cheap toilet tissue for one month and it ended up costing me \$300 with septic problems...my point: Cheaper is not always best. Sometimes you have to spend a little more for the best results. So we may have to spend a little more to do what's best for our towns. I also heard "land" as being an issue. If land is an issue, tear down one of the elementary schools, split the kids up for that school year until it's built. Lastly, it also sounds like things are being done for the convenience of you and the board (i.e. graduation locations). Remember we are concerned about our children, but also our small towns! I don't think someone would want to move in the area if there 6 yo has to travel 25 minutes to get to an elementary school.

I just move to this area in Orangeburg County. At first, I questioned these potential school closings. After coming to the meeting last night, seeing and understanding the breakdown of the proposal, I think it's a great idea to combine the schools and give the students a state-of-the-art learning institution where parents wouldn't have to go out of zone nor county to continue and expose their scholars to new and higher academic success. Not to add with five scholars at three different campuses, it was hard to suppose them for programs that's all normally the same or close in time. My elementary scholars needed the same support as from my middle and high scholars. Being on the same campus, I may be able to attend most if not all the programs, activities and even volunteer more. I also feel the buses need to be rerouted. On my road, not even 100 feet apart, one bus makes four stops. On the first stop, there are two students. The next stop might be 75 feet, there's one student. Third, my stop, I have 5. The fourth stop, about 65 feet, only one student. And there probably would have been a fifth stop between the third and fourth. But because my neighbor two students are small, mom ask me if they could catch the bus from my stop. On cold morning, I drive to the second stop, my SUV so the students warm from the cold, on a dark curb. That's how a community come and stays together! That's what this community needs to stay united. But some aren't willing to change. But I think it's great to have in this area. Why can't we have what schools like Cane Bay...their own community connected? Great proposal Dr. Foster and you couldn't have explained it any clearer.

The proposal presented to us from Dr. Foster doesn't offer a fair option for eastern Orangeburg as it does for the city of Orangeburg. Due to the merging of schools to accommodate all students, and the building of a new high school in Orangeburg is not the same as him removing students from all five schools in Holly Hill, Ellore, Eutawville, and Vance, and only offering accommodations at the existing Lake Marion High School campus. For the option to be fair for eastern Orangeburg, as it is for the city of Orangeburg, we propose merging into two schools-one in the existing building in Ellore and building a new K-8 school in Holly Hill and leaving the Lake Marion High School campus as it is.

No addition of a Middle School Wing at Lake Marion. I believe the solution is to move some Vance students to Ellore, per their location. Build a new school centrally located between Eutawville, Holly Hill and the remaining Vance area for the students.

The capacity for LMHS according to your documents presented is 2520. With the high school population currently at 688 according to the current school report card and with the projected decline in enrollment, there is no need to build an additional wing on the campus for middle schools students. This site currently has the capacity to house all middle and high school students. Since Vance Elementary is the only school on the major repair list, it should be closed allow those students to attend either St. James Elementary or Holly Hill Elementary. Both of these schools are approximately 6.8 miles away from Vance Elementary.

If Ellore and Holly Hill Middle schools are closed, the middle school students could attend LMHS. The Elementary students at Ellore could attend St. James Gaillard Elem. or LMHS could also house a Pre-k-5 program just for Ellore which would reduce the travel time to St. James Gaillard.

Another option would be to make HHE and Pre-K - 8 school with the students at HHRM moving to HHE.

These options would allow only three schools to be closed, Vance, HHRM, and Ellore. There wouldn't be a need to build a new Elementary School.

I agree with the building of a new school, however the location should NOT be on the campus of Lake Marion. The new school should be a K-8 school closer to the Holly Hill, Vance and Eutawville area.

Dr. Foster shared in the meeting in Lake Marion that the distance from the county line in Eutawville is 23 miles to Lake Marion; this means about a 30 minute drive time for buses after they have completed their route in this area.

Though we are to look at the needs of students first, the loss of jobs is a concern for staff members. Consolidating schools in the East will mean a loss of jobs for custodial staff, food service staff, media specialists, guidance counselors, secretaries, related arts teachers and administrators. This is their livelihood and think that these decisions should not be made so quickly and taken lightly.

I think that funds can be used to renovate Ellore Elementary and it can continue as a K-8 school in the East and build a new elementary school closer to the towns of Holly Hill, Vance and Eutawville.

I would be interested in seeing the survey results from across the county...especially the EAST.

In conclusion...Let's slow this process down and go back to the drawing board with more community input from a public forum and not an internet survey.

I sincerely worried children 6,7,7 etc. traveling more than ten miles per trip is a healthy educational process.

If this proposal is supported, do you have any input to share on what should be done with the existing Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School facility?

(Please note that should a decision be made to v...

Repurpose for something useful in the community

If some areas can be used it would be great to do a recreation center for church leagues or tutoring centers.

Community Center

Apartment renovations

If it cost to much tear it down .

Training/ meeting location for staff

Recreation area

Private- Movie theater

Additional forms for college students

If community it's in isn't interested, sight should be sold to help with finances on new facility.

Could the OW campus be preserved because of its historical importance?

Community use.

Create advance schools to support students in areas such as technology, arts, science, etc.

NA

Same as other buildings

Community center

Support

Torn down and create sports fields for the community?

Because of the extensive repairs needed, I think it should be demolished to a smaller size and then used as a community building.

sell it, are use it for other extra curricular activies

Maybe it could be used as an Art center or public facility to host events.

N/A

None

A community green-space of some sort would be good.

Even though, the school has history. I think building residential homes for the community would be an excellent idea for the area.

Community Center would be beneficial.

Rental

Teacher housing, homeless shelter for our students families, community center

I feel that the vacated facilities be used as resource centers for the community. For example: Housing for our homeless families, Teacher housing, Food bank, Community Closet, After school and summer programs, Adult Ed. Classes, etc.

Sell it.

Extended Learning Facilities when students can learn more about potential career choices i.e. meterologist, dental, pharmacy tech, etc.

Great location for the Arts (dance, drama, band, art...) and to house the Summer Consortium Program as well as extended STEAM with its close proximity to the Technology Center

It can be used as a community center, reading, math, and science camp. It can also be used as an adult literacy center for all ages, family reunions, class reunions, and other community events.
The existing facility can turn into affordable housing.
Maybe a community center
I hope they will reuse the facility.
If it's too damaged to house students, demolish it. What would it be used for if it was still in the same campus? It would be an eyesore.
Community reuse
Tear down the school and sell the land to pay for improvements.
N/A
Depending on the cost of renovating, it may be better to demolish. Unless the newer parts of the school could be used for adult education.
My question is if you try to do a community reuse, who funds it?
I think it would be better to demo the buildings and sale the land to help pay for the bond ref.
The old OW High school should either be sold as is or torn down so the land can be sold. That building is too much of a liability to keep and continue to pay utilities for. If you don't want to pay for the repairs to make it usable, which is why you are proposing a brand new school, it needs to be sold so the money can be used to pay the district debt.
Community and recreation center.
No ideas for this area
N/A
Perhaps you could meet with the churches in the community to partner with each other and form a family life center.
Renovate for DO location or facility and operation site
The vacant facility should be donated back to the community for after\summer school programs or homeless shelters. Another good use would be a natural disaster shelter-donated to Red Cross.
Community use or housing
Tear it down and build the new OW on or near the same site. With that said, what about the students? Doubt if it can be done over the summer.
Put money back in school sell it
Demolition.
Make OW the new district office building as it can house everyone as Founders Court cannot.
No input at this time.
No it will probably sit for awhile we have a lot of empty buildings in our community now

I like that idea of possible housing for teachers and perhaps student teachers. With the community college and universities, retaining those graduates will have an impact for growth years to come. These teachers and/or student teachers may marry, start a family. Some teachers may have children or grandchildren attending these schools. Having an option for housing may attract them to stay instead of moving out of the county/state. I impose fewer position for teachers with a housing complex just for that purpose. I am a grandmother of nine with the eldest only 16 who plans to attend SC State. She even plans to teach secondary education. But also don't want to return home with grandparents. Having that housing complex may spark others to stay local and be potential teachers from this community. Going to college in this community also diversifies even more attraction. Our universities have contract with other countries that have graduated and teaching while in grad school. So it's idealistic to have this as an option.

No.

Use as a recreational center and combine Senior Center

If this proposal is supported, do you have any input to share on what should be done with vacated school facilities (Elloree ES, St. James-Gaillard ES, Holly Hill ES, Vance-Providence ES, Holly Hi...

The vacated schools would benefit Orangeburg County for possible tutoring centers, daycare programs since some portions on the facilities are feasible for those services.

Community center

Community Learning Centers

Apartments

Make good use of all empty facility.

Recreation and after school location for students

If the communities that these building are located in are not interested in them, the sites should be sold in order to help with the finances of the "new" ones.

Turning 1 or more buildings into a community center or after school program location.

Create advance schools to support students in areas such as technology, arts, science, etc.

Sounds Great.

Sold to put money back into maintenance fund or to offset cost of new facilities

Support.

None

Please do not put open media centers in new schools. Things walk all the time because we have no doors.

No, but I will support the wishes of the communities in which those buildings stand.

Community Centers for senior citizens.

Sell them to the city, towns or county to use as a community center.

It appears that the merging and extension to Lake Marion Campus is uprooting the educational history and foundation of the communities of Holly Hill and Eutawville. These two communities have been the foundation of learning for these rural areas for over 80 plus years. All of that history will be lost.

Use school as museum, attraction or educational centers that can benefit the students and generate revenues.

I think the vacant buildings should be used as an outreach buildings for the communities. However, if buildings require a lot of repair, it should be demolished.

Lease the building or parts of the building.

Learning Centers, Afternoon Programs, Night-School for Parents to go back and get their high school diploma .

This, also, sounds like a solid plan.

I think community reuse of the facilities would be great for the improvement of the community (learning centers for children as well as adults, venues and recreation centers.

I think community based programs would be beneficial

Community Center

I feel that the vacated facilities be used as resource centers for the community. For example: Housing for our homeless families, Teacher housing, Food bank, Community Closet, After school and summer programs, Adult Ed. Classes, etc.

If it is that dilapidated, just demolish it.

Housing and Afterschool Facilities

They can be used for after-school programs, reading, math and science camps, computer centers for all ages, and adult literacy programs.

I believe that the vacated school facilities can be turned in to After school Programs or Homeless Shelters.

Sell the property/land to offset the building cost.

Demolition for the majority- vacant schools are a huge eyesore for the community.

Turn them into community centers or keep all schools open.
Great idea
I am retiring
Demolition!
Why would we use the buildings for something else if we can't use the buildings as a school. How can you afford to keep the building up to used two - three times a year by the community?
Tear them down and sell the land to pay for the improvements.
Some of the buildings should be demolished while others can be used as community centers.
Use for PD location or adult education.
My question is if you try to do a community reuse, who funds it?
I think it would be better to demo the buildings and sale the land to help pay for the bond ref.
These schools should be torn down or sold to pay for some of the current debt or school upgrades. The playground equipment can be sold to local churches or daycares.
How will bus transportation of students look?
Ideas:
Luxury Residential Area (but affordable living) for educators/workers to relocate to in the area
Repurpose one of the buildings as a Medical Center/Urgent Care
Learning Center/Tutoring for the community
Demolish Vance-Providence Elementary.

They could be used for parent activities like dinners, bingo or other activities to increase parental involvement. They could be used as nutrition/fitness centers with the high rates of type 2 diabetes in our county. They could also be used youth centers where mentors meet with children.

Great Plan

The vacant facilities should be donated back to the communities for after\summer school programs or homeless shelters. Another good use would be a natural disaster shelter-donated to Red Cross.

Close Vance and Holly Hill elementary
Community projects or housing

These schools should be repaired.
We will cross that bridge when we get there.

Don't close these schools

They should be torn down. Dilapidated buildings are an eye sore.

No

Community activity centers, rental space for events, meeting space for non-profit organizations such as Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, etc.

No

I agree with Dr. Foster's proposal for the vacant facilities. They are already in the communities, keep all or part of them for an outlet for boys and girls club, weddings, family reunions, even city basketball, softball, baseball games that our students may want to play. They also could be used for class reunion meetings.

NO, absolutely not!

Elloree could be used a district training facility for technology and meetings, HHRM could be used as a recreational center for the community to include services for adults as well.

Vacating five buildings in the East will be disaster. Will the county or the local towns have funds to renovate the buildings to repurpose them for other use.....No.

I truly understand deferred maintenance and lack of space being used.

Please share any input on the proposal of constructing a new Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School.

It is about time , they needed a new school for years

I think financially it is a good proposal to construct a new sit for OW. It will also encourage individuals to look at Orangeburg county schools with a new facility.

Awesome

Good

I think a new Orangeburg- Wilkinson would be great. I feel it will give the children something to look forward to

Think this is a great idea.

Awesome

I'm undecided about this proposal, at just 57% occupancy why is there a need for a new school. It was said that the occupancy would probably grow once a new building and new site was constructed, where are the extra children going to come from?

It is definitely needed.

I support this proposal.

NA

I've been inside OW and I don't see where it's the worst school in the district... It's Gym is nicer than several of our other high schools. Also I don't understand why when we are consolidating other schools because of low enrollment and projection of even lower enrollments in the future why we would need to build a bigger OW high school.

What about adding a new technology center on that new site?

It would be a great for Orangeburg Wilkinson High School to get a newly upgraded school!

Great idea

A great idea. Will it be in the same location??

Interesting. I am please to know the plans will allow cost savings and offer more advanced opportunities to students.

This is a wonderful idea for our community!

Great idea!

I agree that we do need a new Orangeburg wilkinson HS
I think it is a great idea and it should be somewhere closer to a main road or highway.
Up-grade to top notch facility.
Sounds great
Have potential locations been identified?
I see that it more efficient to build a new facility that you can get more time in than to continue to repair indefinite problems.
I agree another location for Orangeburg Wilkinson is needed.
Agreed
Although the new school will be state of the art. Please be sure to include facilities that are as safe as possible given the climate that we live in and the problems we have had with guns in our community.
I wonder why there is a need to reduce the size of the proposed construction? Shouldn't we at least build back to the same size?
This is great proposal! A State of the Art high school is what our students need in the city of Orangeburg.
I believe that if the construction is going to benefit student learning experience it is a good idea.
I think this is a good plan.
Hopefully security will be addressed too
How will we ensure a newer school, such as OWHS, doesn't continuously need extensive repair and upkeep because of neglect?
This is really needed for the county. I know Aiken High School has one of the top high schools in Aiken and the science department is definitely state of the art. This is what OCSD needs.
Once again, just making sure the facilities are taken care of and holding students, faculty, and parents responsible to take pride in the campus.
There needs to be a plan in place to ensure that this facility will be maintained properly so that it can be used for many years to come.

Great idea
No opinion
Not in my part of the county.
NA
None, the Eutawville community needs a school. No input on the proposal for Orangeburg-Wilkinson High.
N/A
All buildings should have a room for Speech Therapists and a room for OT/PT.
Great idea. This is definitely needed.
We are many times focused on the gifted student and athletics, please do not forget about opportunities for our SPED population. A life skills room would be great to simulate some real-world scenarios (laundry room, kitchen, bedroom, grocery store, CAFE, etc.) to better prepare SPED students for life after school and functioning in society.
OW does need a new school because the old one is falling down. It would be nice to have input from Sped personnel to develop life skills classrooms for the Sped population. These student's need a place to practice making a bed, cleaning house, cooking, grocery shopping or stocking shelves. Make sure to include this population in your considerations and designs.
Great news for OWHS. I would love to see this happen.
I like the idea of a new OW-HS. Be sure to include a state of the arts Fine Arts Facility and Functional Performance Classrooms for the Fine Arts.
Why?
It is almost 40 years old. It's overdue. I was in the first class to complete 4 years in that building.
Great Plan, hope there are some suitable site locations.
Orangeburg-Wilkinson needs for the Career Center to be a part of their campus. Feeders schools can still come to the school. The Career Center(Technology Center) water is rust, mold is in the school. Cosmetology Lab doesn't have enough ventilation and also the Lab to need not be in the middle of the building but can be access from outside. Access for internet is bad.

Dr. Foster, this is a project that is long over due. Thank you for all that you do for our youth and staff.

Perfect plan well overdue

Yes, a new OW can be built without closing schools.

Good idea, but it needs to be built on or near the same site.

Don't agree with it

I just want to know where the new school will be located.

I feel like a new OW should be located somewhere off of 601.

No input at this time.

Renovate the current school and build a new school. Make one a magnet school

OW needs a new school. That school is old and delapidated. This proposal is not going to affect the residents of the central part of the county like it would affect the residents of the eastern part.

Great proposal. Even though the school is not that old, the cost for repairs and upgrades is probably more than a new facility if not about the same. Like Dr. Foster stated, our scholars will have advanced technology for higher learning, warranties on new HVAC instead of excessive spending on repairs, and a great attraction for certified teachers and students teachers from our community college and universities.

They need a new high school built to accommodate all students but not at the expense of sacrificing elementary schools in eastern Orangeburg County.

A new OW school is needed and at a different location, but first share details on a location. We are putting the cart before the horse.

We truly can't give you a answer because we don't have enough information given. We don't know where where's going to be located

Please share any input on the proposal of transitioning Rivelon students to Edisto Primary.

Why not Mellichamp?

I wish they would be able to fix Rivelon and keep the school in the community. I wish they would just be honest and tell people that everybody will not go to Edisto and just be straight up because they will not have multiple people in the same position because that is just not realistic. It just seems like they are pushing out the older workers. You also said that when you had the meeting last year that you were not closing any schools, so what happened?

Since Rivelon needs some many improvements and the cost is great and enrollment is low. I think transitioning faculty and students to a Edisto Primary would be overall beneficial for our district and county. Since Edisto Primary is a newer school - I feel the students and staff will feel more encouraged to learn and teach in an updated facility.

Good

N/A

Sounds like a great idea.... Will save money and serve our students

Awesome

This proposal would be in the best interest of the faculty, staff, and students if we are going to provide our students with quality learning experiences and quality instruction in updated facilities. Facilities that are conducive to learning and equipped with resources that will ensure that ALL students are college and career ready and able to compete in a global society.

N/a

Think it is a wonderful idea. With only a few miles separating each other and the shape of Rivelon school would work really out really well.

Sounds like a good first step.

I support this proposal.

Sounds Great.

Great idea!

Great idea. Alternative- combine Rivelon and Mellichamp.

Good move.

Again, the consolidation would help but what would happen to the 3rd-5th graders? Would Mellichamp close or remain open?

Rivelon is old and is need of vast improvements. This proposal sounds good.

Great idea!

I agree with this proposal

Great idea since it doesn't have that many students.

Good Idea

None

The plan sounds good, I will ponder additional input.

Combining the schools would be a good idea. It would help with staff shortage and cost saving.

Great move. The more combining of schools the better.

Okay

This is a good solution

I think it is a great plan that would save the district money.

Great idea!

I agree with the proposal if its benefiting the students.

I am fine with Rivelon students being transferred over, but my concern is staffing. With the increase in students, what does that do with related arts teachers. They do not need double sized classes. Also, will all renovations be completed during the summer or will EPS be working in a construction zone for a year? Will the meeting in February break down exactly what renovations will be done at EPS?

Is class size being considered?

Class size should be considered before this transition is made. Primary school is where the foundation is laid. If students are in classes so large that the teacher can not meet their needs, their academic growth may be effected.

Fully support Rivelon moving to EPS
Not in my part of the county.
Great idea and it saves money!
This is a good solution to give these students the opportunity to thrive.
I support the transitioning of Rivelon students to Edisto Primary.
It would be great for our SPED students that are not able to move around outside unassisted to have a place to play. There needs to be swings, etc. outside that are wheelchair accessible.
All buildings should have a room for Speech Therapists and a room for OT/PT.
If students need to be transitioned, I think Edisto primary would make the most sense. However there is a question about students from Mellichamp transitioning to Howard Middle School. Will the current Rivelon pre-K through second grade students who were former Mellichamp students (before it was split into a primary and elementary school) go back to being together with Mellichamp at Howard? In other words instead of Rivelon students who are normally zoned for Mellichamp going to Edisto primary, would they instead go with Mellichamp students to Howard?
#1: Would you transition Rivelon zoned student 4K-5 grade to Edisto? Please remember currently Rivelon and Mellichamp students have been split due to grade level. How will this look going into the renovations?
#2: Also, currently, Rivelon houses the preschool SPED classes for the CENTRAL area. Will these classrooms also be moved to edisto or will they be transitioned to the new Howard elementary?
The Rivelon school is currently a combination of Mellichamp and Rivelon zoned students. Will the students go back to their zoned areas? If so, this will also affect Edisto Elementary as the 3-5 graders will have to go somewhere. Also, the central Orangeburg preschool special education students are all at Rivelon. Will these students be moved to Edisto as well or will there be preschool classes at the new Howard Elementary? There needs to be a handicap (wheelchair) accessible playground at all elementary schools. It would also be nice to have input from Sped teachers, staff, OT/PT for the design of these classrooms to make them more functional.
Please consider the distance between Rivelon and Edisto. Will students have the option to transfer to Howard ES after completion of the 2nd grade?
What I've heard sounds good.

Great idea
Schools need to be build in Orangeburg to accomodate those students by merging them in the area.
Dr. Foster, these schools are less than five miles apart. Rivelon has approximately 200 students on the campus and occupying under half the space. Yes, I agree with this plan as well. It also supports the teacher\staff shortage.
Perfect plan. Makes sense to utilize space with students
No comments.
Don't agree with it why Edisto primary that to far out and when you have schools in town parents work in town Edisto is to far out to have kids go from rivelon to Edisto how if it's a emergency how can parents get to the child .
It is a good idea.
I support Rivelon transitioning to Edisto Elem.,
No input at this time.
Rivelon students should not transition to Edisto Primary the children should stay in their zone not move outside their area. Have you gone into the community and apartment complexes to speak with families instead of just making a decision.You expect parents to come to you but when have the district gone into their neighborhood.
Combine them, it makes no sense having 2 primary schools, 2 miles apart.
I would agree with that transition since Rivelon is closer to Edisto. This transition, I think, may increase revenue for capitalization or debt. Meaning, if this school unites with the other, monies are save from day to day operation, repairs, upgrades, etc.
No comment.
Traveling issues

If this proposal is supported, do you have any input to share on what should be done with the existing Rivelon Elementary?

(Please note that should a decision be made to vacate a facility, the D...

Charter

It is a historic school it should be left alone.

Same as stated before

Community Center

Use all facility wisely

Housing

If community it is located in isn't interested in building or site, it should be sold to help out with financing on building expenses.

Not sure

Create advance schools to support students in areas such as technology, arts, science, etc.

Same

Support

No, but I will support what the community wants.

Community center for students or after school tutoring.

The vacant center should be used as a community area. If there are areas that badly need repairs, it should be demolished.

no comments

Church might purchase for events,
None
What grants are available for such initiatives?
A suggestion would be community reuse (venue, learning center, community center, etc.)
A child care facility such as a daycare center or afterschool program
Demolition
Community center or afterschool facility.
Community/Computer Center
It can be utilized as a community center, after-school programs, reading, math, and science camps, adult literacy center, computer labs, and an emergency food bank.
The elementary school can be used as a Teacher Training Center
I think it would be great for students who have severe behavior problems. Instead of sending them home, have the school as an in school suspension
Sell to offset cost
No
Demolition!
Tear it down and sell the land.
It should be demolished.
My question is if you try to do a community reuse, who funds it? I think it would be better to demo the buildings and sale the land to help pay for the bond ref.

The school building should be either sold as is or torn down so the land can be sold to pay for other improvements throughout the district or pay the district debt.
Homework Center in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club which has always been very active in that neighborhood. The former principal, Thomas B. Eklund was supportive of the collaboration between the school and that organization.
The vacant facility should be donated back to the community for a larger boy and girls center.
Community
Keep it remodel it Keep the kids close
Demolition.
No leave the school alone
Same as the others, community recreation facility that maybe used class or family reunions, weddings, girls and boys clubs, etc
Recreational center and senior center

Please share any input on the proposal of transitioning Howard students to Clark and repurposing Howard for elementary learning.

Good

I think this is great due to enrollment being down and facilities needed updating this makes the most logical sense.

Good idea

I think this will be a great idea. We need to remember to have the right amount of space for our children.

Great idea

Awesome

Unsure on how well it will work out for the middle school transitions, though it may work out well. Transitioning the elementary school to Howard should work out well

This seems to be a great solution for occupancy issues and costs.

I support this proposal.

Math and Science Elementary School

What about the size of the classrooms at Clark that are already busting with 30 plus students in the classroom? How is class sizes going to be affected? Are you going to create more classrooms for students to be put in? Trying to teach with 33 students and help all students be college and career ready is not happening right now.

Interesting idea...please plan to address the issues of rival gangs and be proactive about bringing them together in one building.

I don't think that will be a good idea based upon crime, gangs, etc.

I agree with that plan.

Same as previously written

Sounds good, however, has any thought been given to the dethroning of territorial rivalries that may exist between the territories. Please keep this mind.
Great idea!
good idea
Traffic is already bad at Clark during dismissal time. How would the traffic situation be handled with additional students attending the school.
Great idea , after school programs.
None
Yes, I believe this is an innovative idea!
Excellent idea! This helps with cost saving and shortage of staff.
I agree this would be a good location for an elementary school. SCSU students could work closely with this new school.
Great, all middle school students should attend the same school.
It could work, what's going to happen with all the teachers???
The middle school classrooms are much smaller than the rooms in an elementary school. Please make every effort to make accommodations for this when remodeling the schools.
Since Whittaker is more than 50 years old and in need of so many repairs, I believe this plan offers the best solution.
Great proposal! Our students are our future! They need the best that can be offered.
I'm in agreement, as long as it benefits the students.
Sounds like a good plan
It may be impossible, but I think it should strictly be for upper elementary and a primary school developed which would encompass First Steps.

Once again I feel for the younger students, class sizes need to be considered.
No this change
Unfamiliar with this part of county
Great Idea! I really like this plan!
Make sure to include improvements to Clark to make the entire campus entirely handicap accessible. The older portion is not ADA compliant. It would also be nice to get the input of the Sped teachers, Speech, PT and OT for therapy spaces and classroom set up for optimal learning.
It would be great for our SPED students that are not able to move around outside unassisted to have a place to play. There needs to be swings, etc. outside that are wheelchair accessible.
All buildings should have a room for Speech Therapists and a room for OT/PT.
Good idea.
Will the old portion of Clark be brought up to code and be handicap accessible? Currently, you have SPED students in the upstairs portion of the old building who need an elevator and do not have one to use.
The transition and renovations at Clark need to include improvements to the older portion of Clark Middle School to make it handicap accessible. This should be a priority. Currently there is a student, who is stuck upstairs at Clark because stairs are a safety issue and that is where the classroom is with no elevator access. As for turning Howard into an elementary school, make sure to think about handicap accessibility for the classes. It would be nice to get the input from Sped staff (OT/PT) for therapy spaces and classroom set up for optimal learning.
Consideration for building a new school for the central area.

Great idea. I believe a larger school gymnasium should be built as well as a state of the Art Fine Arts Wing and/or Performance Auditorium.
I concur with existing proposals.
Practical and logical
Great
No one Middle School need to be built. Both schools are old and don't need to add new to old and will still have a problem especially with Technology. These children needs to have the same opportunity as their neighboring schools.
Again, an excellent proposal! This plan will support faculty\staff shortages.
Perfect plan
No comments.
Transitioning Howard Middle School into a elementary school is an excellent idea. But, instead of transitioning our young minds into a 1951 building I recommend building a new Howard. A new facility will compliment the progress of both Orangeburg City and County development plans and the excellent work of President Conyers and Womack. The community will be enhanced along with the visibility of the thousands of individuals who traveling the bypass everyday.
Why not just build a new middle school period both schools old
I do not feel as if you need to close all three Elem schools and house all students at Howard. I'm Unclear as to why Whittaker is being considered for closure! Students from Mellichamp could be either split btw Brookdale and Whittaker or sent to Whittaker.
No input at this time.
We should have two middle schools not one.

Once again, combine them, they will not have an effect like the eastern part of the county.
I love that ideal. I always wondered why that many schools close together. When it came to zoning, I lived two miles from Brookdale and my students had to attend Marshall, miles away because I lived on the opposite side of Belleville Rd. Change has got to come.
No
This area is already congested, adding more students will only make the situation worse.
The current Howard Elementary is old and does not look like an elementary school. This will require lots of renovations.
The foundation is more than 70 years old. I love Old Wilkinson High/Howard but it's too old and we will be back here in this same situation two or three years later because of the foundation. We need new/brand new schools not retooled schools.

If this proposal is supported, do you have any input to share on what should be done with vacated school facilities (Whittaker ES, Brookdale ES, Mellichamp ES)?

(Please note that should a decisi...

Good

None

Same as stated

Community Center

I think that we could have community centers

Close if not used

If community in which they are located in are not interested, the sites should be sold to help out with building expenses.

Community use or sell the property and put the money back into the district

Create advance schools to support students in areas such as technology, arts, science, etc.

NA

Same

No, but I will support what the community wants.

Demolish Whittaker

Let interested parties buy the property and if not then get rid of them.

Learning Centers

None

Could any of these soon-to-be vacated buildings be repurposed for apprenticeship spaces for our high school students?

Due to the aging of the school, demolition or community reuse of Whittaker and Mellichamp. Due to the size of Brookdale, a good suggestion would be community center. Maybe the universities may want to annex off campus sites.

Turn these buildings into afterschool programs

Rental
I feel that the vacated facilities be used as resource centers for the community. For example: Housing for our homeless families, Teacher housing, Food bank, Community Closet, After school and summer programs, Adult Ed. Classes, etc.
Please consider starting a Junior Tennis League for the children in the Orangeburg Community. This be a great opportunity to help the children in this community.
Tear it down.
AfterSchool/Summer School Facility. Brookdale a community center
Community centers, reading, math, and science camps, adult literacy centers, computer learning, family reunions, class reunions, and other community events.
Sell to offset cost
Life Center to help parents.
Please consider to repurpose Whittaker Elementary school due to its historical significance in the black community, just as Howard. Feel free to talk to community members (from Orangeburg) that live or have lived in the Wilkinson Heights community (which Robert E. Howard, Wilkinson's High former principal lived) or have a historian tell you the story of the Whittaker Community and its historical significance before demolition is an option.
Tear them down and sell the land to pay down the district debt. Less liability.
My question is if you try to do a community reuse, who funds it? I think it would be better to demo the buildings and sale the land to help pay for the bond ref.
The vacated schools should either be sold as is or torn down to sell the land. The profits can be used to pay for debt or upgrades. This way there are no taxes, up keep or utilities that have to be paid.
Church, community center, sub district offices
Demolition for most, construct a modern playground.
Sell them to SCSU.
Brookdale vacate can be utilize by the Transportation Department

Each school should be donated to the community to support other programs that are desperately needed such as Boys and Girl Club, Larger homeless shelter and/or Red Cross Disaster Center.
Community or local university use
Prepare these property's for future growth and development by working with our city and county leaders.
Sell them to someone who will open up for a majority school
Demolition.
Leave our schools alone fix them up
Again, a facility for different functions in these communities.
Three buildings in the heart of Orangeburg will be vacated. Will the town or county have funds to renovate and repurpose these buildings for another use. I doubt it.
I can see Brookdale closing or Whittaker but we need to keep a school on that side of town

Please share any input on proposed upgrades to Athletic Facilities, Playgrounds, and Fine Arts across the county.

Great Idea!

None

I love this idea of new upgrades to athelitic facilities, playground and fine arts across the county.

That sounds great

There are great ideas

Awesome

Yes! This is needed!

I support this proposal.

NA

Edisto's track and football field is embarrassing... schools don't even want to compete there bc it is so bad.... Definitely needs some major updates.

Support

Great idea

Marshall needs a multipurpose room (gym).

Elementary schools without gyms should get one, if possible. They are great for athletics and school assemblies.

All need an upgrade.

None

Marshall Elementary needs a new gym to accommodate the students we have!

I think newer playgrounds and Fine Arts facilities would be great!

I support all upgrades if it saves the district money.

Marshall Elementary School needs a much bigger gym room.

N/AI

Marshall is in great need of enlargement to the gym. There is limited room for implementation of curriculum . The a/c ducts tower the ceiling and the roof is sloped taking up much needed space. The equipment room is also very small. There is also currently a steel ladder stationed to the wall leading to a door inside the gym which could be foreseeable as a possible injury waiting to happen. Please consider these needs for our students deserve the best experiences. Thanks in advance!!

Our playgrounds are in pitiful shape, even with our new equipment at Marshall. We need playground equipment that encourages swinging, twirling, balancing, etc.
Suggestions for adding an auditorium, enclosing the outside classrooms and enlarging the cafeteria at Marshall Elementary would be excellent upgrades..
Upgrade athletic facilities are definitely needed in this district. Additional playground equipment are needed for schools. Fine Arts upgrades are needed as well to keep students engaged.
Definitely
Great idea! Most of the schools in this county have not had funds to replace equipment in years.
Much needed if the proposed plan is approved.
Pre-K level students should have their own private playgrounds with appropriate sized materials.
This proposal will be welcomed at any school. Clean equipment and up-to-date facilities, playgrounds, and fine arts around the county will attract families to our schools.
I think the upgrades will not only beautify the schools, but bring joy to the children.
EPS needs updated playgrounds and more playground equipment with the increased number of students coming.
I think this is a good plan. The music room at LES is always hot so it will be great to have an updated unit. Also, LES needs risers for performances.
Just really hope what's truly best for the students are considered.
How will it be determined what the schools in the peripheral areas will receive? Resurfacing playgrounds, an auditorium for fine arts performances would be a great addition to all of these schools.
No
How will you make this fair across the district? For instance, if OW will have a state of the art campus, will all other high schools be in comparison to it?
This should be done fairly throughout the district. Smaller school should get the same upgrades as the larger schools.
I have no input.
Athletic facility would be a plus since we are definitely grooming a lot of students that are becoming Pros. They actually give back to the community

Upgrade the playgrounds at the school in Eutawville.
Make sure that when you do this, everyone is treated equally. The outlying schools tend to get the raw end of the deal and they deserve just as much.
It would be great for our SPED students that are not able to move around outside unassisted to have a place to play. There needs to be swings, etc. outside that are wheelchair accessible.
Great idea.
Please remember SPED in the upgrades. It would be great to have a wheelchair accessible play area for our students. It should also be considered to keep things equal across the district! Most of the times, the outlying schools do not always get the "fancy" things the larger school receive.
Make sure to be fair and equal across the district. Often times, the outlying schools don't get the same things as the larger schools. If we are truly one, it should be that way across the ENTIRE district. Also, for playground modifications, make sure to think about the Sped population and accessible playground equipment for these students as well. Having options with no stairs, no barrier to climb over and equipment at all levels of play. Involve the Sped team in your decisions so that these students get the same opportunity as well as equal treatment.
All are needed and great additions.
Please bring the Fine Arts Classrooms and Auditoriums up to modern day standards of function and appeal. Take a visit to some of the newer schools here in the state and you'd be surprised!
Be fair.
Outstanding arts and sports programs attract progressive parents who want their children to have amazing opportunities without having to pay for it privately outside of school, but our scheduling would also need to be more modern and flexible in order to have dynamic offerings.
I think our students deserve better facilities
Excellent plan! Children need safer playgrounds, athletic facilities and the promotion of the arts.
We need this. The football field at Lake Marion is horrible

Perfect plan long time needed we need a feeder system for arts bands etc
Yes the upgrades are needed.
I agree that this is needed in every community.
Don't agree
Make all facilities & playgrounds state of the art.
None
I am in favor of this proposal.
Upgrade them all, within the budget, to assure Orangeburg County students have greatness to continue soaring for excellence!
All upgrades to these facilities are needed; however, I feel that the students should also have access to swimming pools and tennis courts in all of the high schools. Why haven't these ever been options? Our children need to have the best the district has to offer. Every student is not interested in basketball, baseball, football, or track, for that reason they should have the option to choose swimming or tennis.
Yes, the Athletic, Playground and Fine Arts upgrades throughout the county should be done.
More updated, child friendly playgrounds are needed for the elementary schools.
Athletic facilities do need upgrade. We need fine arts center in our schools.

Please share any input on a bond referendum to fund these projects. The proposed bond referendum would not increase taxes.

If this works and is enough money for the updates that's great. If not, increases taxes so our students and teachers can have great facilities.

I think taxpayers will support if they don't see an increase in taxes

Awesome

They may not increase for homes, but the ones that pay land taxes separate from their home tax's and their vehicle taxes will increase. In which will hurt some of our tax payers.

Great plan and community doesn't need to worry about tax increases.

I support this proposal.

Bonds will fine

Neutral

If taxes are not raised will be happy.

Great choices for the bond referendum!

Go with the bond referendum

None at this time

I was wondering if the waterline for the 600 wing could be repaired at Marshall Elementary School.

I think a bond referendum would be great as long as it doesn't increase taxes.

I live in the city of Orangeburg ,I do hope these projects save us tax dollars

Let everyone vote on it but make sure the community knows it would not increase taxes

NA

Sounds great

Yes, I would support such a referendum.

Without raising the taxes of tax payers would be excellent. Therefore using the funding from a bond referendum would be favored.

I think voters would vote to authorize the district to get \$190 million dollars for school improvements without raising taxes. I am looking forward to seeing all of the improvements for all schools to be done by 2025. Praying for the best and thanks for sharing this information

As long as my taxes don't go up

If it can be done without raising taxes, then I am all for it.

Yes, I agree with this proposal.

I think that a bond referendum is a good idea because it is money that has a direct goal of the overall improvement of schools which directly benefits both students and staff.

I am concerned that the amount is so large. What if the loan is not met by the end of the 20 years?

I'm not sure

Yes, whatever it takes to make our faculty, staff and students comfortable.

Do not want an increase on taxes.

If you propose to sell the land to pay off the debt, more people might be in favor.

If it doesn't raise taxes, where does the money come from and how will it be paid back?

If the district sales the buildings &/or land after they are evacuated, that would be money to put towards the referendum.

This is going to be a hard sell to the community. The consolidation was supposed to save money but there seem to be way too many jobs created over the past few years at the district office level that aren't needed when we don't even have teachers in the classrooms. Parents and community members are not going to sign off on this until they see some real change in favor of the students. The student population will not increase in our area until we start to truly take care of those who live here by providing a decent education. That is not currently happening throughout the district and people take note.

Great recommendation.. overdue

This seems logical.

Awesome

Great plan overall

Bond referendum can increase or stay the same. We need new schools. I am willing to pay a tax hike if the children is going to get what they need. Orangeburg County has too much revenue hear to not use it on the children.

I will definitely vote to use these funds to support our community.
Go with it it's going pass. Best thing for our future.
I have questions about taxes not increasing. Enough taxes were not collected after consolidation, Will this happen again to be added later.
Get money to fix these schools never close them
Not sure about it
Presently due to the limited number of options being presented and the vast number of school closures in the Eastern end of the County, I couldn't in good conscience support this referendum. More viable options are needed with less school closures in the East.,
Is there a proposed plan for Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Schools, Dover Elementary and North Middle/High School?
I am in favor and in support of this proposed referendum.
I read about bonds and it will increase property taxes if we vote yes so stop misleading people.
We have heard that before about no tax increase, but we know how that plays out.
Great. Get it done without increasing taxes!
The proposed bond referendum will benefit the city of Orangeburg at the sacrifice of eastern Orangeburg. The building of the new high school in Orangeburg like it is proposed will not leave enough money to accommodate the building of a new school in Holly Hill for our elementary children.
Not to support closing all the schools on the list.
Not needed for building new facilities. Upgrades are needed and more economical.

This plan is presented as all or nothing. The last round of community forums is the type of feedback that is needed before moving forward with a bond referendum. Taking this decision to the board in March or April is too quick of a decision. The Eastern part of the county has concerns as well as the central. Board members should not vote to move forward with this until the input from the second round of community meetings has been reviewed and considered.

Be transparent about school closures so that parents and community members know what these meeting are about. Facilities Study does not mean building closures to most parents.

Another suggestion would be to have community meetings at the schools that are being considered for closure.

I understand the taxes structure but all the important information still is missing.