

Q1: What facility projects should the district consider investing in to manage its growth?

To effectively manage the district's growth, several key facility projects should be considered and prioritized:

- Firstly, addressing the urgent need to fix South Elementary is paramount.
- For Horace High and Heritage Middle School, completing their construction is essential to meet the demands of the growing student population.
- Additionally, a new elementary school on the south side is necessary to accommodate the increasing number of students in that area.
- Rather than adding a preschool to an elementary school, it's advisable to build a central location for preschool, streamlining access for families. Repurposing South Elementary/Osgood as a Pre-K facility could also optimize existing resources. Expansion of Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services should also be prioritized to meet the needs of young learners.
- Exploring land purchase options on the north side of town is advisable, especially considering the potential for future growth and development. This could involve acquiring land for school expansion or new construction projects.
- Consideration should also be given to specialized sub-populations, such as special education students and unique educational programs like Fargo's Explorer Academy. Adequate resources and space must be allocated to meet their needs effectively.

Transparent communication with stakeholders is essential throughout the process, ensuring they understand the rationale behind each decision. This includes detailing the benefits and impacts of each project, such as the expansion of facilities and services.

Furthermore, strategic planning should account for the potential impact of the diversion and development on the north side of town. Proactive measures can help mitigate challenges and ensure the district remains adaptable to future changes.

Exploring options to maximize existing infrastructure, whether through vertical expansion or utilizing private funding sources, can help optimize resources and minimize the impact on taxpayers. Ultimately, a comprehensive approach that considers both current needs and future growth projections is essential for effective facility management in the district.

Q2: What facility projects should the district consider investing in to ensure all learners have access to consistent facilities?

To ensure all learners have access to consistent facilities, the district should prioritize a comprehensive approach to facility projects. This entails addressing existing disparities between older and newer facilities, focusing on retrofitting spaces to meet current needs versus purpose-built designs. Key considerations include:

- Equity vs. Consistency: Engage in dialogue to distinguish between inequitable and inconsistent facilities. Prioritize equity in educational experiences across all schools, ensuring a real consensus on this priority.
- Community Engagement: Use a variety of methods to raise awareness of accessibility issues and gaps in facilities. Invite specific sub-populations to public forums to ensure diverse perspectives are heard.
- Private Partnerships: Explore partnerships with private entities for facility operations, potentially alleviating strain on district resources while maintaining control over educational programs.
- Safety and Security: Prioritize safety upgrades and renovations, including the installation of sprinkler systems and improvements to restroom facilities.
- Inclusive Environments: Invest in adaptive and inclusive environments, including flexible seating options and accessible playgrounds, to support diverse learner needs.
- Infrastructure Prioritization: Utilize a rubric or defined metrics to prioritize facility upgrades based on needs and consistency goals. Focus on essential renovations and expansions, such as those addressing special education requirements and ensuring all facilities meet safety standards.

By addressing these priorities, the district can work towards ensuring all learners have access to safe, consistent, and inclusive facilities that support their educational needs.

Q3: What facility projects should the district consider investing in to better plan for the future?

To better plan for the future, the district should consider a range of facility projects that address both immediate needs and long-term goals. Here are some key suggestions synthesized from the responses:

- Specialized Programming: Implement specialized programming at every location or feeder system, balancing the commitment to neighborhood schools with the need to support learners with specialized needs.
- Revenue-Generating Facilities: Explore opportunities for revenue generation through facilities like community centers, leveraging available district-owned land to build additional spaces that support school operations while also generating revenue. Foster community partnerships to maximize these opportunities.
- Communication: Ensure clear communication about facility plans, including what, why, how, and how much, to engage stakeholders and build support.
- Transportation: Address transportation needs, including bussing, to ensure equitable access to education and support for families. Explore innovative models, such as district-funded transportation or partnerships with developers.
- Hybrid Learning: Evaluate the potential for hybrid learning models, considering industry partnerships to enhance social aspects of learning in hybrid or remote environments.

- **Academic Calendar Adjustments:** Consider adjustments to the academic calendar, such as year-round schooling, to maximize learning opportunities and address community needs, while also considering regional readiness and sustained impacts.
- **Land Acquisition:** Strategically purchase land, especially in growing areas like the north side, to accommodate future expansions and developments. Consider potential impacts of the diversion project on land availability and growth projections.
- **Central Pre-K Facility:** Establish a central facility for Pre-K education, with the possibility of expanding Pre-K offerings in each school building in the future.
- **Creative Learning Opportunities:** Explore innovative learning opportunities, such as work-based learning and partnerships with local colleges and universities, to enhance educational experiences for students.
- **AP Class Locations:** Investigate options for locating AP classes in different locations, potentially providing greater access and opportunities for students.

The summaries above were created using Chat GPT. The notes taken by each small group were entered, with a request to summarize the key points.