

Elementary Facility Plan Citizen Task Force

Meeting #1: June 12, 2024



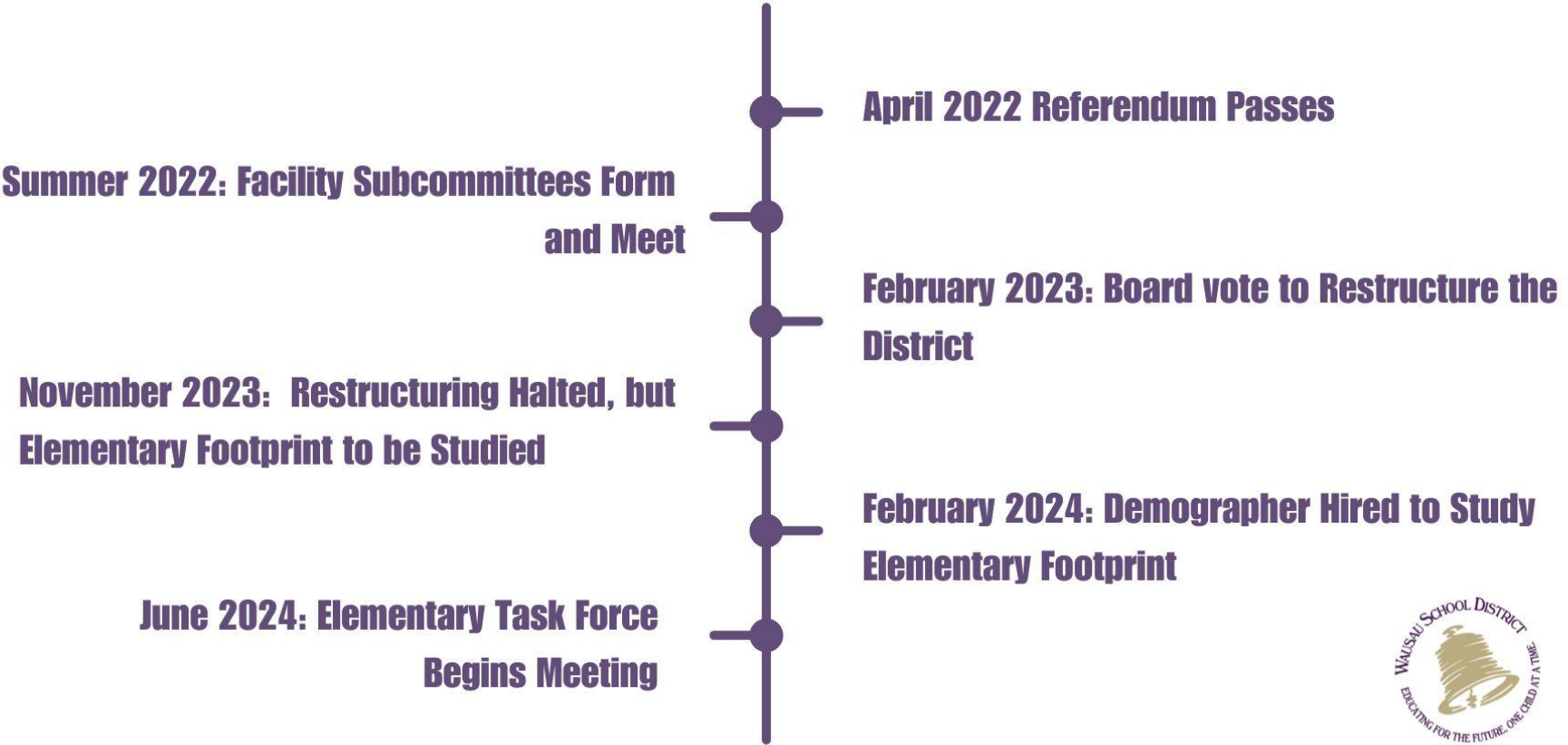
Welcome!

- Thank you for your participation!
- This is the first of nine potential Task Force meetings, aimed to recommend an elementary facility direction
- Introductions
 - Administrative team
 - Consultants
 - Board members in attendance
- Task Force member introductions to come later



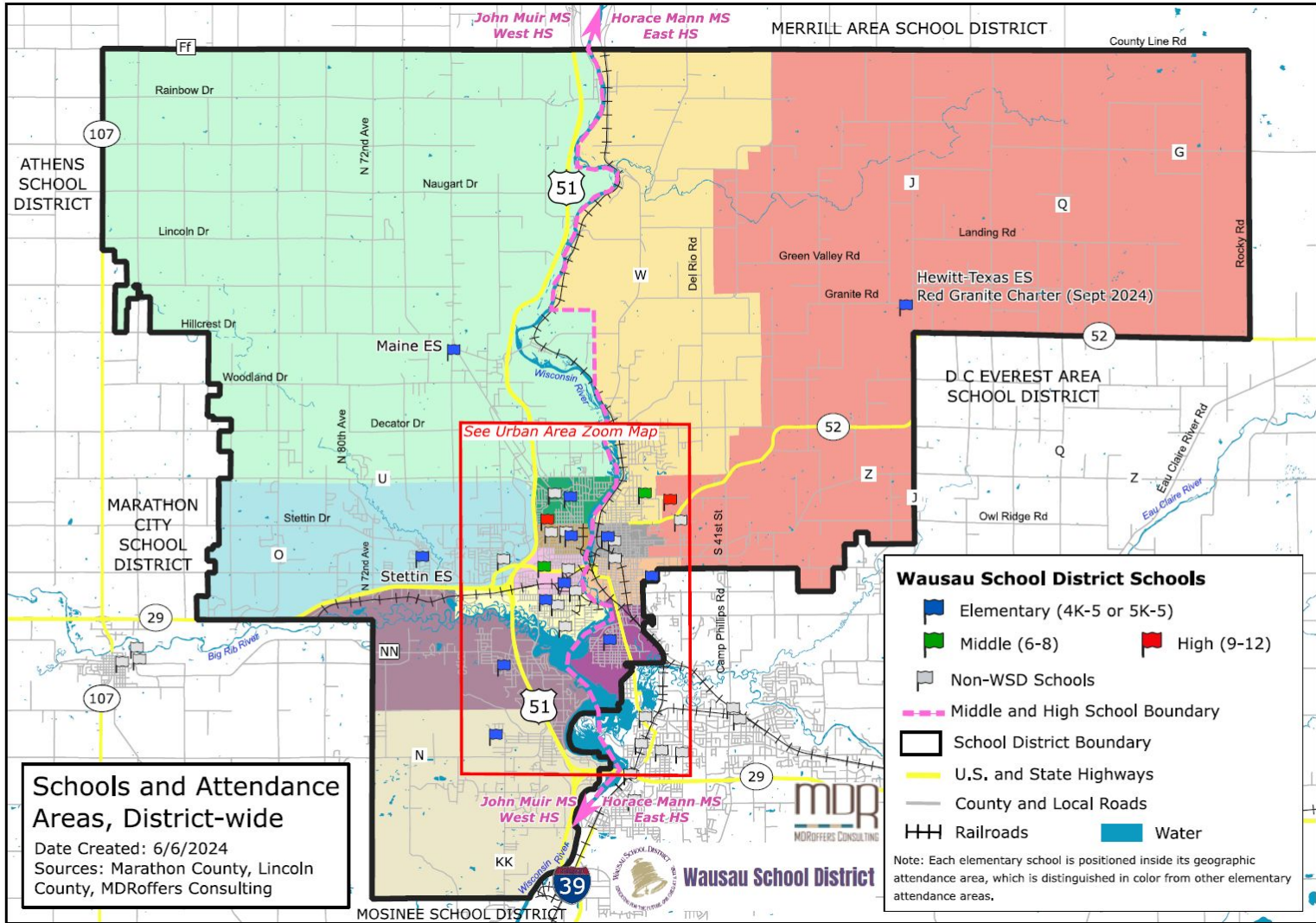
How did we get here?

Timeline



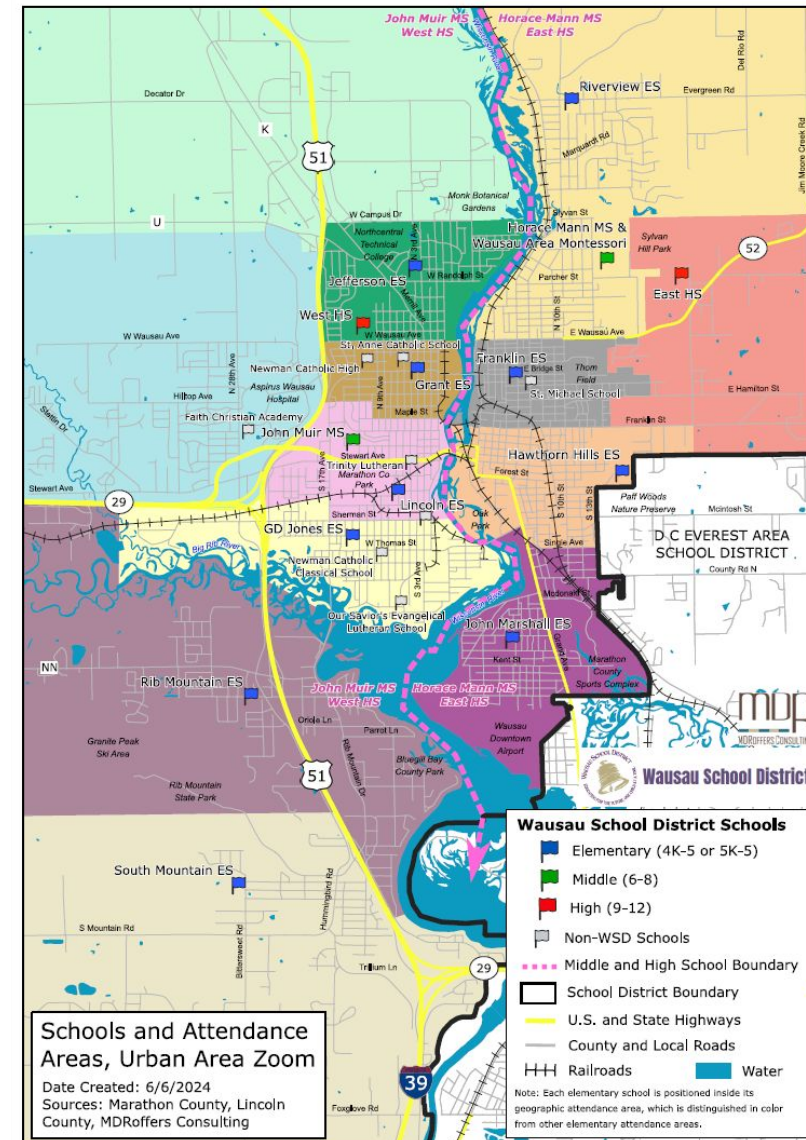
What is the Task Force's charge?

- Develop, evaluate, and recommend one or two preferred elementary school facility options by the end of 2024
- Advise whether the number of elementary schools in the District should be reduced and if so, then how, where, and when



What is the Task Force's charge?

- Consider student enrollment projections, whether four-year-old kindergarten (4K) should be included in all elementary schools, conditions and locations of school buildings, and other option evaluation criteria approved by School Board following Task Force advice



What is the Task Force's charge?

- Serve as factual “key communicators” to and from the District community throughout the process
- Prepare and present a report summarizing findings and advisory recommendations to the School Board, with consultant and administrative support



Who are the Task Force members?

- You applied and were selected—thank you!
- Consultant advised a maximum Task Force size of 45 members to allow range of people and interests, but also workable meetings with meaningful interaction
- Members include a mix of parents with children in Wausau School District schools, residents without children in WSD schools, and elementary educators and support staff
- All community members invited to follow the process!
- Web page will be maintained with all shared information



How will Task Force meetings play out?

6/12 - Welcome, introductions, orientation, procedures, norms, initial input and questions

7/10 - Student enrollment projections; school building capacities, conditions, & attendance areas; educational policy & programming overview (including 4K)

8/28 - Financial & transportation overview; review of facility option evaluation criteria; nominations for facility options to explore in fall

9/11 to 10/9 - Presentation and evaluation of different elementary school facility options

10/30 to 11/13 - Refinement and narrowing of facility options

12/4 - Recommendation to Board of preferred facility option(s)



Let's get to know each other better!

- First, any questions so far?
- Please take up to 10 minutes in your small group to introduce yourselves to each other:
 - Who are you?
 - How long have you lived in or been involved with the Wausau School District?
 - Do you have kids in WSD schools? Did you?
 - What brought you here to participate? ("A car" is not an acceptable answer.)
- A word about breaks: Take one when you need one. No formal breaks built into meeting agendas.



How will we communicate with each other?

- All meeting materials and outcomes posted on Wausau School District website (under designated [project page](#))
- We will communicate progress with all elementary school parents and staff through regular communication channels
- We encourage you to complete meeting evaluation forms
- What is the “parking lot”?
- We can do between-meeting written questions & responses as necessary
- Please direct all between-meeting communications to Diana



Preview tonight's main interactive opportunity

Within your small group, please answer the following questions:

1. Do you have any “norm and commitment” refinements?
2. What are your suggestions and prioritization for criteria to be used to prepare, evaluate, and recommend different facility options?
3. What information do you feel you and the Task Force will need to assist in fulfilling its charge? (In other words, what do you think you will need to learn?)



Suggested norms and commitments

- Meetings will begin and end on time (or early).
- Regular attendance is expected. Please let Diana know when you cannot attend a meeting.
- Be fully attentive during each meeting.
- Everyone's voice is important.
- Listen actively and be patient—let people finish and seek to understand before responding.



Suggested norms and commitments

- Be positive and genuine
- Assume positive intentions—avoid speculating on each other's intent.
- Be civil—when necessary, disagree respectfully and explain why.
- Keep a District-wide versus individual focus—represent all students' and residents' best interests to the extent possible.
- Offer ideas and options with a long-term mindset.



Suggested norms and commitments

- Offer recommendations and make decisions as a whole Task Force—using consensus where possible and voting where necessary—and respect recommendations once made.



Example Option Evaluation Criteria

Provides good “Day 1” fit between enrollment & building capacities	Minimizes number of students affected
Provides good long-term fit between projected enrollment & building capacities	Where students change schools, moves are in appropriate groups
Facilitates educational programming, (including 4K solution)	Achieves demographic mix across schools
Achieves logical—ideally contiguous—attendance areas	Addresses barriers to student & family engagement
Maintains neighborhood unity	Achieves transportation efficiency, including bussing and walking
Facilitates fiscal responsibility and funding	Keeps students close to schools
Minimizes facility maintenance & upgrade costs	Facilitates logical transitions to middle and high schools



Small group discussion instructions

- Each group selects facilitator, recorder, and reporter.
- Next, please answer the following questions:
 1. Do you have any “norm and commitment” refinements?
 2. What are your suggestions and prioritization for criteria to be used to prepare, evaluate, and recommend different facility options?
 3. What information do you feel you and the Task Force will need to assist in fulfilling its charge? (In other words, what do you think you will need to learn?)
- Round-robin on each question, aided by facilitator with recorder writing down responses on flip charts



Small group reporting instructions

Reporter from each small group shares:

- 1 norm and commitment refinement (if any)
- 1-2 suggestions on option evaluation criteria and priorities (ideally not repeated across groups)
- 1-2 pieces of information requested at or for future meetings (ideally not repeated across groups)



Meeting wrap-up and next meeting

- Please complete evaluation forms
- Next meeting:
 - Wednesday, July 10, 5:30-8:00 pm
 - Location to be determined and announced
 - Purpose to learn about enrollment projections, capacity and conditions of existing elementary schools, and educational policy and programming overview (including 4K)
- Any final questions or comments?

