



Elementary Facility Plan Citizen Task Force Between-Meeting Questions and Responses

#	TASK FORCE MEMBER QUESTION	DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION/CONSULTANT RESPONSE	DATE ASKED	WHAT FORUM?
1	Why do we need to restructure?	<p>The motivation for restructuring includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued long-term financial challenges, which the Task Force will learn more about in August. • Roughly 1,000 empty seats across the District’s existing elementary schools today • Decreasing elementary enrollment, with more decreases projected (more information shared at July Task Force meeting) 	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting
2	What didn’t work with the restructuring last time? We do not want to repeat mistakes so we have community buy-in.	In general, community concerns led to the Board ceasing discussion of the prior restructuring plan in late 2023. The high number of “moving parts” in the past plan, the proposed high school merger, and challenges delivering accurate information appear to have been factors.	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting
3	How much is the Board of Education informed of our meetings?	<p>The School Board will regularly receive Task Force updates including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting information, such as presentations, handouts, and notes/outcomes • All communications that are sent out to Wausau School District staff and families related to the work of the Task Force • Reports at Board meetings at key stages in the process 	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting
4	Does the Board or Administration have any preconceived parameters/criteria? Finances?	The Administration advises a Task Force recommendation that is well-considered and resource-efficient. At its August meeting, the Task Force will learn about the District’s financial resources and constraints. The Board will be asked to endorse criteria for evaluating different options before the Task Force’s September meetings, which will likely	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting



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		include consideration of the District's financial condition.																																									
5	What is the best way to build community trust around this process?	The Task Force approach allows for open, in-depth consideration of different facility options. Transparency during every step of the process is also key. The District will use its project Web page as the repository for all Task Force- and other District-generated information on the process and materials, including the outcomes of all Task Force meetings. The District also intends to use periodic Board check-ins, mass emails, and news releases that highlight the work of the Task Force. The hope is that all Task Force members, Administrative personnel, and Board members are good stewards in accurately communicating the process, options, and eventual recommendations.	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting																																							
6	What are groups, levels, and current attendance at each elementary school, including special education and English as a second language learners?	See MDROffers' Community Growth and Projections Report, which will be posted on the project Web page following the July 10th Task Force meeting for most of this information. Here are the number of English language learners (ELL) and Special Education students (SPED) for each elementary school as of 9/23: <table style="margin-left: 20px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-decoration: underline;">School</th> <th style="text-decoration: underline;">K-5 ELL</th> <th style="text-decoration: underline;">K-5 SPED</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Franklin</td><td>23</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>G.D. Jones</td><td>25</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>Grant</td><td>32</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>Hawthorn Hills</td><td>28</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>Hewitt Texas</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>John Marshall</td><td>21</td><td>46</td></tr> <tr><td>Lincoln</td><td>59</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>Maine</td><td>21</td><td>43</td></tr> <tr><td>Montessori</td><td>1</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Rib Mountain</td><td>29</td><td>33</td></tr> <tr><td>Riverview</td><td>30</td><td>71</td></tr> <tr><td>South Mountain</td><td>7</td><td>30</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	School	K-5 ELL	K-5 SPED	Franklin	23	39	G.D. Jones	25	60	Grant	32	31	Hawthorn Hills	28	52	Hewitt Texas	5	4	John Marshall	21	46	Lincoln	59	58	Maine	21	43	Montessori	1	12	Rib Mountain	29	33	Riverview	30	71	South Mountain	7	30	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting
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7	Can the Task Force suggest building a new bigger school (to replace 2+ others)?	Yes, the Task Force may consider this among the facility options it considers. Any significant new capital expenditure such as construction of a new/replacement school, or expansion or substantial remodeling of an existing school, would require voter support of a referendum question to enable the District to borrow funds for such a project.	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting
8	Can Task Force advise that 5th grade shift to middle schools, which was part of the last reconstructing plan? Is Board open to looking at an option of combining schools if there is room at middle schools to move 5 th graders up to middle school?	The Wausau School Board's direction is to look at the District's elementary footprint only – leaving our middle and high schools as they are now. Practically speaking, were 5th graders moved to the two middle schools, the two middle schools would be operating slightly above their functional building capacities. At the same time, there would be even greater excess capacity in what would become K-4 elementary school buildings.	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting
9	What is research behind community safety (e.g., reduction of juvenile crime) and robust educational programs/schools with family engagement/communit y services to support communities with diversity and need to have demographic mix?	We do not have and are not immediately aware of any research or studies on this topic. The time to respond to this question would be significant. If more focus to this question were provided, we may be able to respond better.	6/12/24	Task Force Meeting