



Bond Task Force Meeting #3
March 24, 2025
10:45 AM – 1:00 PM
Puyallup River Conference Room

Attendees: Brandiwyn Bendt, Lovey Fischer, Kristina Linkem, Amanda Nelson, Darla Winters, John Winters

Members Absent: Aaron Brown, Kevin Collins, Bernadette Egan, Jaime Jones, Kathy Madigan, Travis Miller, Joe Towers

Facilitated by: Carrie Thibodeaux (thibodeauxc@orting.wednet.edu), and Ed Hatzenbeler (hatzenbelere@orting.wednet.edu)

Minutes:

Attendees toured Orting Elementary School and Orting High School to see the facilities and talk with students and staff to hear their experiences taking notes to think through priorities and needs. Following the tours, attendees debriefed to share what they heard and saw which was facilitated by Carrie Thibodeaux.

Debrief Observations:

- Facility musical chairs is a challenge. Facilities are not designed for current use.
- Facilities are worse than I thought.
- There is a general lack of security as everything is out in the open and spread out.
- Most learning is in portables which is not conducive for students and teachers.
- The facilities are not conducive to the types of learning that we desire.
- School staff are going above and beyond to meet student needs. It is amazing what is being done to support students given the conditions.

- Staff are paying additionally to support learning as they attempt to fill the gaps.
- We are surrounded by inadequate and outdated systems. Those provisions are out there in other districts which means we are not able to compete similarly.
- We have inadequate facilities, and others may not realize how limiting this is for our students and staff. We lose competitiveness for our students. We need to elevate this information. We need to connect the community with student stories.
- We cannot just say the need; we have to show it. We need to better translate the desperation and critical nature.
- Why do we pay more for current poor conditions than for new buildings?
- How much does ongoing maintenance cost for these facilities that have such poor condition?
- The conditions the kids are in are hard to convey to the community (wet, smells, not enough restrooms, mud pit, drier that needs to vent outside instead of inside, porta potties, as example)
- We need to show how our kids are suffering.
- We do not have large enough space to serve all of our students.