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Ann Arbor Public Schools Capital Program Spring 2025 Update

May 21, 2025

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Engagement Update

Recognizing the need to develop a robust community engagement strategy

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY & RECOMMENDATIONS

for

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Ann Arbor, Michigan

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Support Guide DRAFT 25.01.15
January 2025

Project consultant:



Identifying internal and external stakeholders including the surrounding school building community

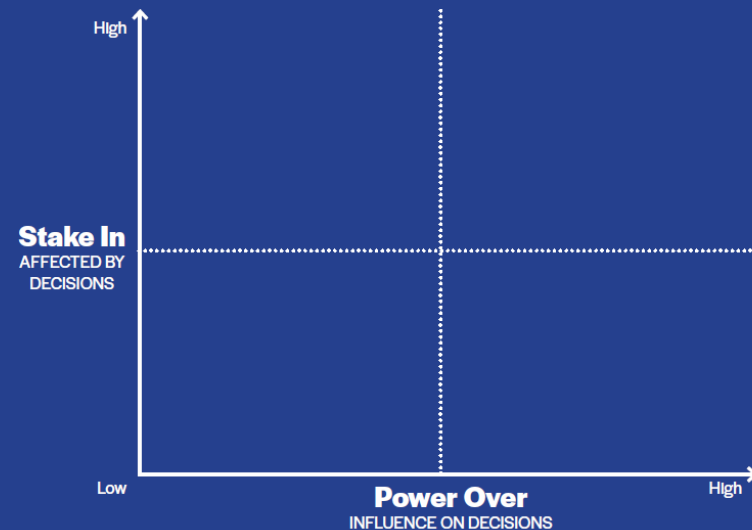
What is Stakeholder Mapping?

Stakeholder mapping is a strategic tool used to identify, analyze, and prioritize stakeholders based on their influence over and interest in a project or decision. It helps consultants and project teams understand who the key players are, how they might impact the project's success, and how best to engage them.

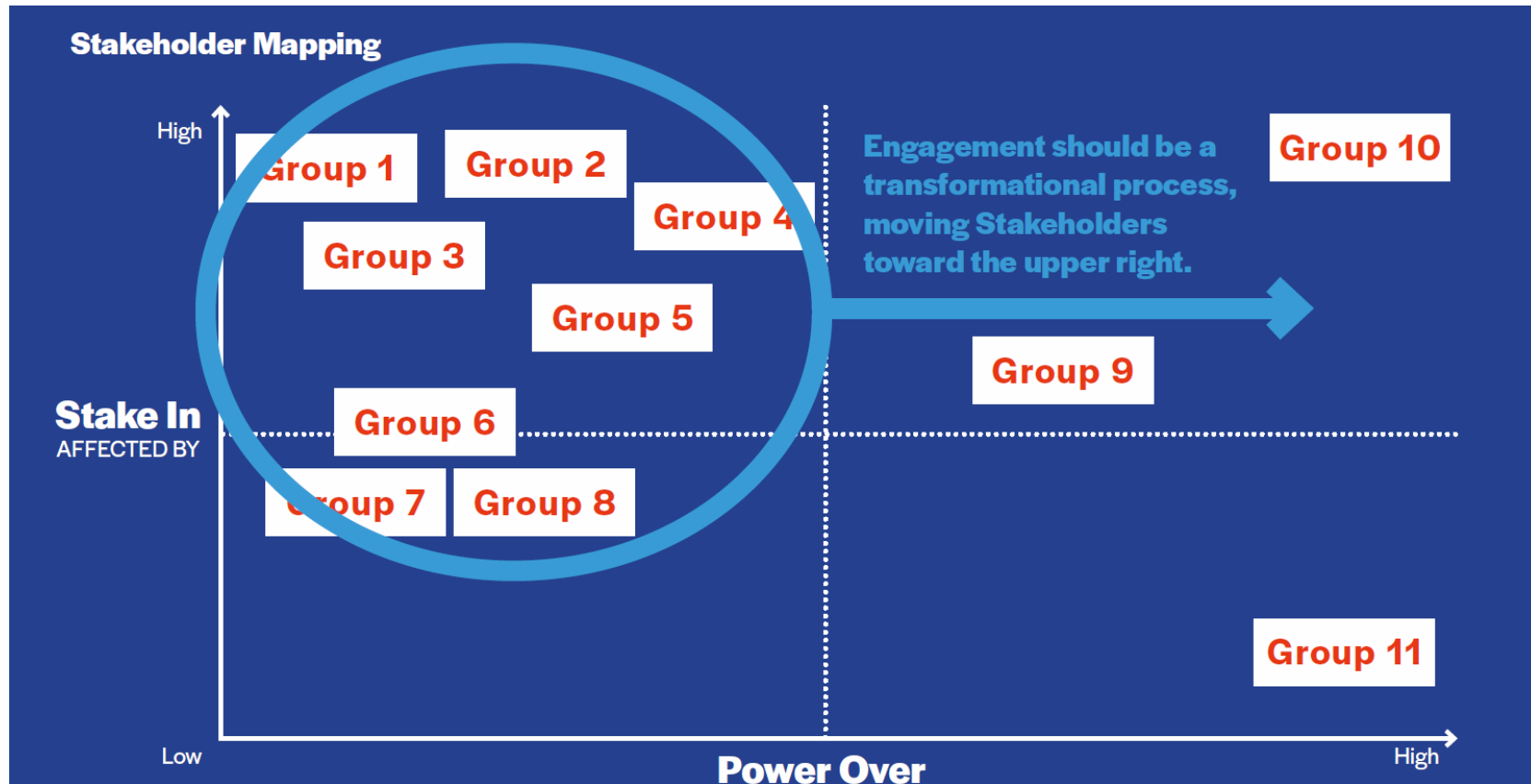
A common way to visualize stakeholder mapping is through a 2x2 framework, with the axes representing:

Influence/Power: The stakeholder's ability to affect the outcome or decision-making process.

Interest/Engagement: The stakeholder's level of concern or investment in the project or issue.

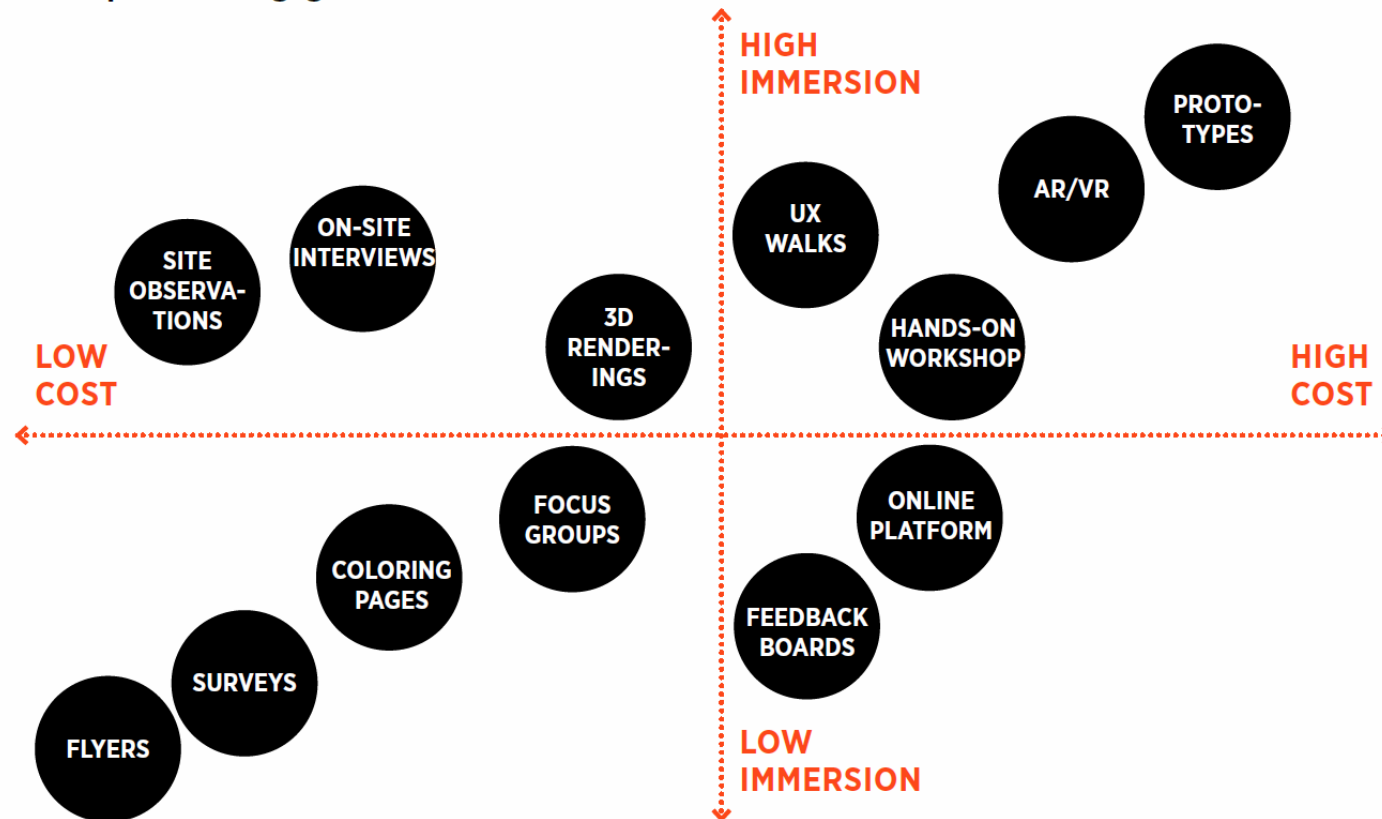


Identifying ways to better engage internal and external stakeholders including the surrounding school building community



Evaluating multiple tools to communicate and engage with internal and external stakeholders including the surrounding school building community

Evaluate potential engagement methods.

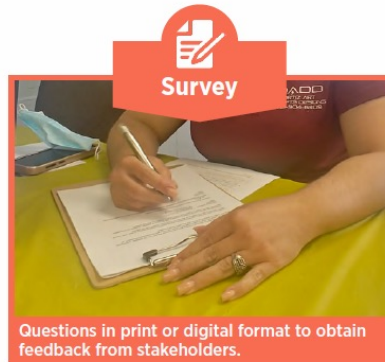


AAPS DRAFT



Utilizing multiple tools to communicate and engage with internal and external stakeholders including the surrounding school building community

Engagement Tools Menu



AAPS DRAFT

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Background

Engagement Recommendations

Appendix

seventh hill p. 21

Capital Program Spring 2025 Update | May 21, 2025

Open House events that provide information, interaction, and opportunities to receive feedback from attendees.



Open House

Public event with multiple engagement stations and allows drop-in participation.

STATION
1

WHAT'S HAPPENED ALREADY?



STATION
2

WHERE SHOULD IT GO?



STATION
4

WHAT SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE?



STATION
5

WHAT'S YOUR VISION?



STATION
6



STATION
7



STATION
3



AAPS DRAFT

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Background

Engagement Recommendations

Appendix

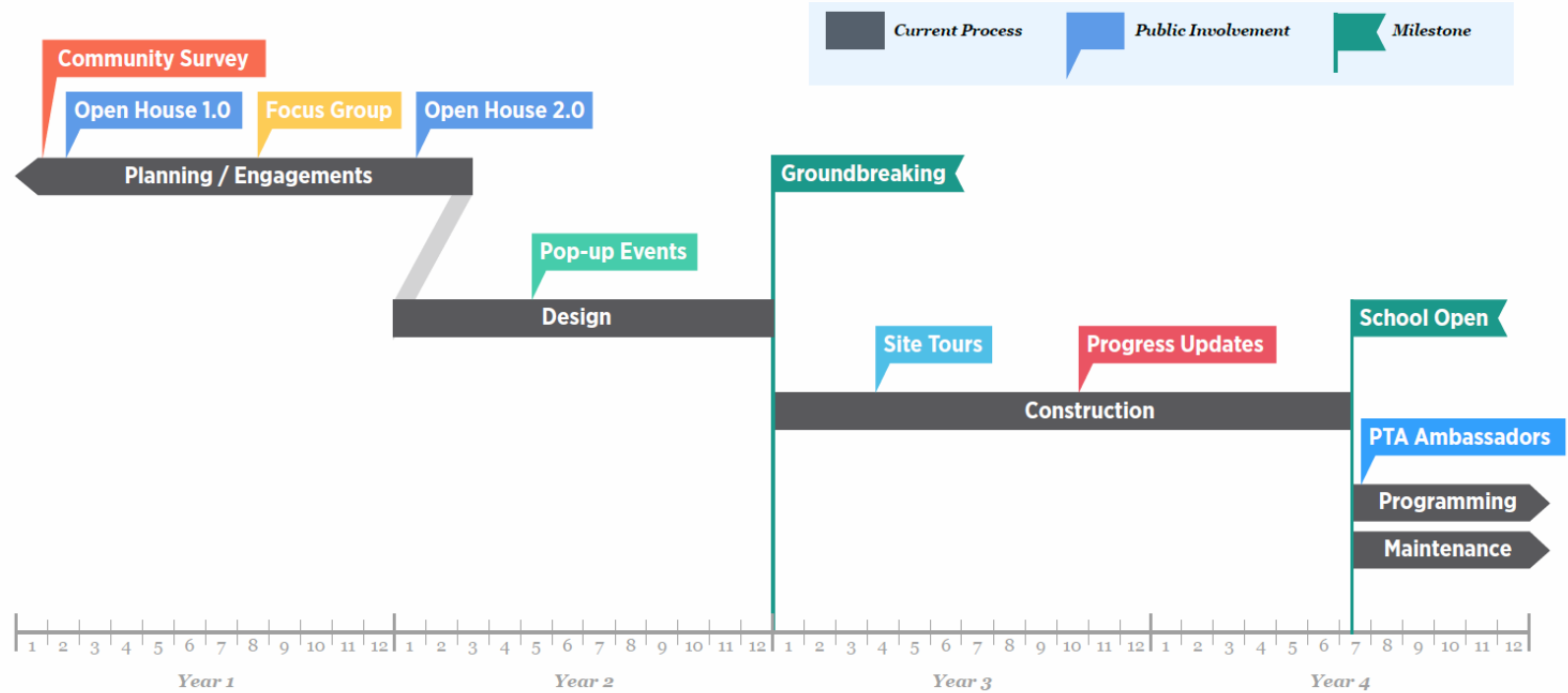
seventh hill p. 25

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Extending engagement opportunities throughout the life of the project

Opportunities for Community Engagement

The actions shown below identify opportunities for public involvement within the current AAPS facilities development process. Multiple points for increased engagement are possible throughout the full development timeline. By enabling community members to contribute their insights, the Engagement Strategy aims to increase the relevance, use, and value of school district investments.



AAPS DRAFT

Expanding communication - regular newsletters, website updates, email notifications, and door hangers for neighbors in close proximity to the school



King Elementary Community Open House

Ann Arbor Public Schools Capital Program team will be hosting an Open House in the King Elementary Media Center. Meet the architects & design experts planning the King Elementary School major construction project for AAPS.

The Open House format will allow visitors to move at their own pace throughout multiple stations of project information with a chance to provide feedback. Feel free to stop by at any time as it will take about 30-45 minutes to see all content!

Please join us Wednesday, April 9, 2025 from 6:30-8pm in the King Elementary Media Center, located at 3800 Waldenwood Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

To learn more about this project, please [click here](#), or go to www.A2SchoolsBond.org.

AAPS Capital Program's objective is to transform the student learning experience with the goal of providing for the health, safety, and well-being of all students in high-quality, equitable, and environmentally sustainable schools.

Newsletters



Door Hangers



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

All are welcome to stop by any time during the interactive Open House event to learn more about the King Elementary major construction and participate in engagement activities.

APRIL 9
6:30 - 8:00 PM
KING ELEMENTARY
3800 WALDENWOOD
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104



Scan QR code to RSVP or visit the website for info.



www.a2schoolsbond.org

Ann Arbor Public Schools Capital Program team will be hosting an Open House in the King Elementary Media Center. Meet the architects & design team planning the King Elementary School major construction project for AAPS. Say "Hi" to community partners!

The Open House format will allow visitors to move at their own pace throughout multiple stations of project information with a chance to provide feedback.

Feel free to stop by at any time during the event as it will take about 30-45 minutes to engage with all the content!



Email Notifications



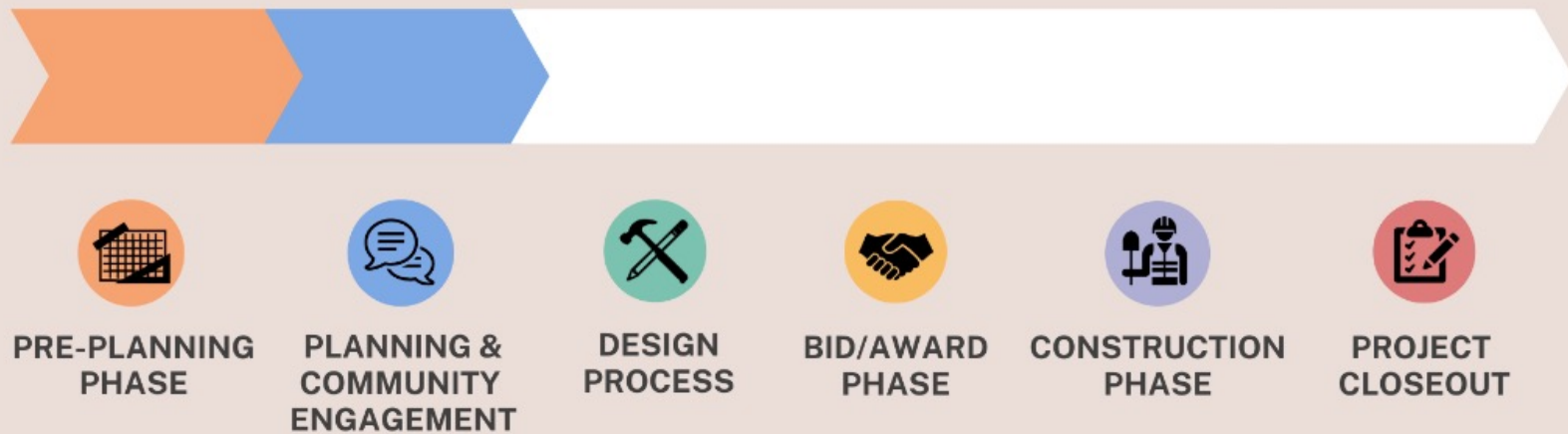
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Spring 2025 School Community Engagement



Current Project Timeline

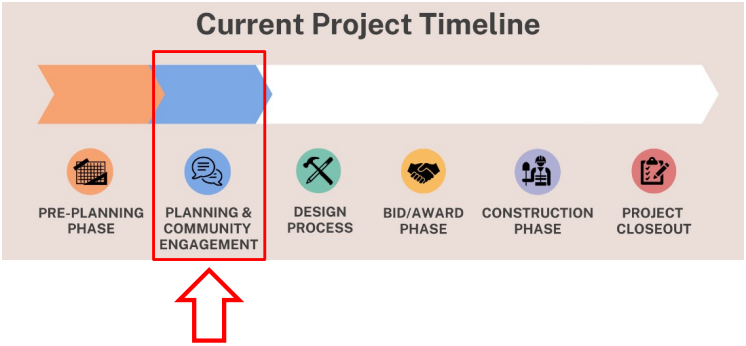


Planning & Community Engagement: No designing occurs during this phase. Meeting with stakeholders (district departments, school staff, students, school neighbors and community members for example). Project planning continues.

Burns Park Elementary Engagement Summary

2025 Engagements to Date

- 2/19/2025 Design Advisory Team Meeting
- 2/19/2025 Staff Meeting
- 2/25/2025 Staff Mapping
- 4/3/2025 Open House
- 4/3/2025 Student AI and Staff
- 4/16/2025 Staff Meeting
- 4/17/2025 Design Advisory Team Meeting
- 5/13/2025 PTO Meeting



Burns Park Elementary Engagement Summary



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

1. Safety, Accessibility, and Inclusion

- Design a unified, welcoming entry with weather-protected areas to reduce crowding and improve safety. Ensure inclusive and accessible bathrooms, safe sensory spaces, and features that support all abilities. Prioritize gradual student independence and dignity in movement throughout the school.

2. Community, Culture, and Continuity

- Preserve the original 1920s architecture, including beloved elements like the bell and cupola, especially in light of the upcoming centennial celebration. Maintain the Burns Park identity and minimize disruption to school operations and traditions during construction. Keep students onsite as much as possible and include them in the process through design participation (e.g., garden input).

3. Sustainability and Long-Term Resilience

- Aim for a net-zero, sustainable building using green roofs, native landscaping, and renewable systems. Incorporate natural, durable materials and systems that minimize long-term maintenance. Design for environmental resilience and ecological learning opportunities.

4. Outdoor Learning and Nature Connection

- Support hands-on learning with outdoor classrooms, reading gardens, and space for a robust school / community garden. Maximize access to natural light, ventilation, outdoor flow, and shade structures. Preserve wooded areas and sledding hills, and design for year-round outdoor engagement.

5. Flexible and Adaptive Learning Environments

- Create agile, adaptable classrooms that support different learning and emotional needs. Provide calming environments with quiet HVAC systems, good acoustics, and muted tones. Expand common spaces like the library, cafeteria, and auditorium to foster collaboration and creativity.

6. Play, Recreation, and Physical Wellness

- Enhance playgrounds with creative, inclusive, and natural play elements. Improve equipment variety, surfaces (avoid red mulch and woodchips), and drainage. Provide a larger gym, rec room, shaded seating areas, and durable outdoor storage for recess gear.

7. Integration with the Neighborhood

- Respect the walkability and character of Burns Park's setting. Protect existing green space, minimize construction impact, and design site circulation to reduce noise and visual disruption to neighbors and other outdoor use (i.e. vegetative buffers). Consider shared resources with the park, such as gardens or shaded structures.

8. Equity and Social-Emotional Development

- Design environments that reflect and support a diverse student body, including multilingual learners and those from varying socioeconomic backgrounds. Embed spaces that promote social-emotional growth, respect, and regulation. Cultivate inclusion in both design and daily experience.

9. Construction and Operational Strategy

- Phase construction thoughtfully to minimize disruption. Avoid premature demolition or extended timelines. Ensure working kitchens, bathrooms, and gathering spaces are available throughout. Prioritize good communication and preparedness during the building process.

10. Future-Proofing and Capacity Planning

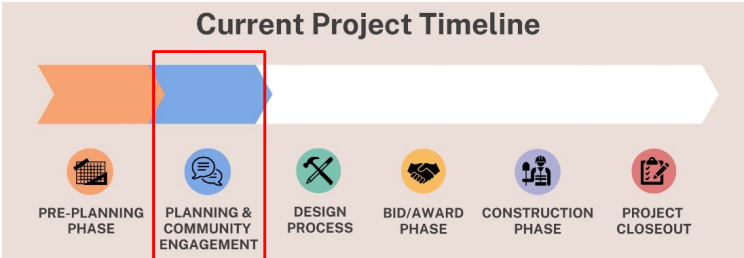
- Plan with growth in mind—build with flexibility and avoid reliance on modular solutions. Explore enrollment shifts or redistricting where needed. Preserve outdoor space while ensuring the facility can evolve with the community's needs over the next century.



King Elementary Engagement Summary

2025 Engagements to Date

- 1/9/2025 Design Advisory Team Meeting
- 1/15/2025 Staff Meeting
- 2/3/2025 Staff Mapping
- 2/27/2025 Design Advisory Team Meeting
- 2/27/2025 Student Spotlight Tours
- 4/9/2025 Open House
- 4/9/2025 Student AI and Staff
- 4/11/2025 Silent Auction Push-In
- 4/16/2025 Staff Meeting
- 5/7/2025 Design Advisory Team Meeting
- 5/13/2025 PTO Meeting



King Elementary Engagement Summary



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

1. Safety and Accessibility

- Focus on improving drop-off/pick-up zones, safe pedestrian and bike access, and making the school more stroller-friendly. Ensure building designs that prioritize accessibility and pedestrian safety.

2. Community Engagement and Ethos

- Foster a culture of kindness, teamwork, and collaboration. Ensure the school remains a welcoming, nurturing community that emphasizes transparency, character-building, and support for students.

3. Sustainability and Health

- Emphasize sustainability through eco-friendly systems like solar panels, water recycling, and air quality management. Promote healthy building materials and design features that support indoor air quality and well-being.

4. Outdoor Learning and Play

- Prioritize usable outdoor spaces for hands-on learning, including gardens, play structures, and natural learning environments. Include dedicated areas for children to explore and connect with nature.

5. Integration with the Neighborhood

- Ensure the school design integrates seamlessly with the surrounding neighborhood, maintaining green space, protecting trees, and preserving walking trails and pedestrian-friendly paths.

6. Flexibility and Classroom Design

- Design classrooms with flexibility for movement, sensory needs, and natural light. Provide direct outdoor access from learning to connect students with nature and the surrounding environment.

7. Green and Open Spaces

- Preserve and enhance green spaces on the school grounds, including tree preservation, garden spaces for nutrition and education, and creating play areas that support all grade levels.

8. School Growth and Future-Proofing

- Plan for future expansion, maintaining flexible spaces, and avoiding modular classrooms. Ensure the facility can grow with the student population while preserving outdoor areas.

9. Connectivity and Mobility

- Improve connections between the school and the wider community through walkable paths, bike routes, and the preservation of existing green spaces and trails. Minimize impervious surfaces and prioritize pedestrian-friendly routes.

10. Building and Design Aesthetic

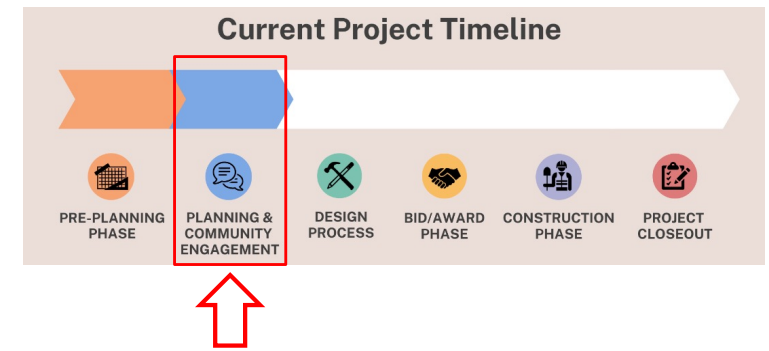
- Blend the new building design with the surrounding neighborhood, using natural materials and calming, sustainable elements. Ensure the school reflects the character of the community and offers a welcoming entry point.



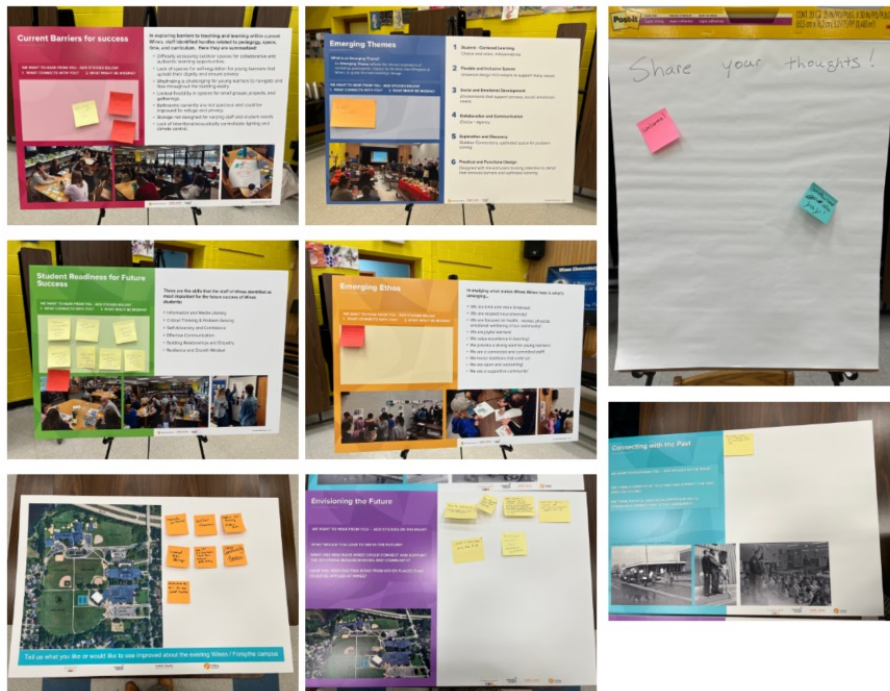
Wines Elementary Engagement Summary

2025 Engagements to Date

1/7/2025 Design Advisory Team Meeting
1/7/2025 Student Spotlight Tours
1/30/2025 Staff Mapping
2/10/2025 Design Advisory Team Meeting
2/10/2025 All-Day NAAPID Engagement
2/12/2025 Student AI
2/26/2025 Design Advisory Team Meeting
3/12/2025 Staff Meeting
4/1/2025 [Open House](#)
4/16/2025 PTO Meeting
5/14/2025 Staff Meeting



Wines Elementary Engagement Summary



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

1. Site and Building Location

- Preference for a location away from the highway to ensure safety and reduce noise, utilizing existing spaces like the old football field for building or play areas.
- Strong community interest in incorporating geothermal systems for sustainability.

2. Ethos and Community Involvement

- Emotional ties to the school inspire ideas like a "Say Goodbye to Wines Day" and reusing elements from the old building in the new design.

3. Outdoor Learning and Play Spaces

- Outdoor classrooms with natural playgrounds and sensory spaces near pick-up/drop-off areas to foster year-round exploration and social connection.

4. Accessibility and Inclusivity

- Ensure ADA-compliant bathrooms, wheelchair-accessible play structures, and inclusive spaces like sensory areas and community gardens.

5. Traffic and Transportation

- Address bus flow challenges and increase bike accommodations, including parking, covered storage, and electric bike charging.

6. Environmental and Design Considerations

- Maximize natural light with operable windows and sustainable features like geothermal systems and thoughtful building placement.

7. Autonomy and Accessibility for Students

- Design storage and materials at varying heights for autonomy, with adequate storage for seasonal needs.

8. Gathering and Social Spaces

- Provide larger gathering spaces and preserve outdoor areas like sledding hills and communal spaces for connection.

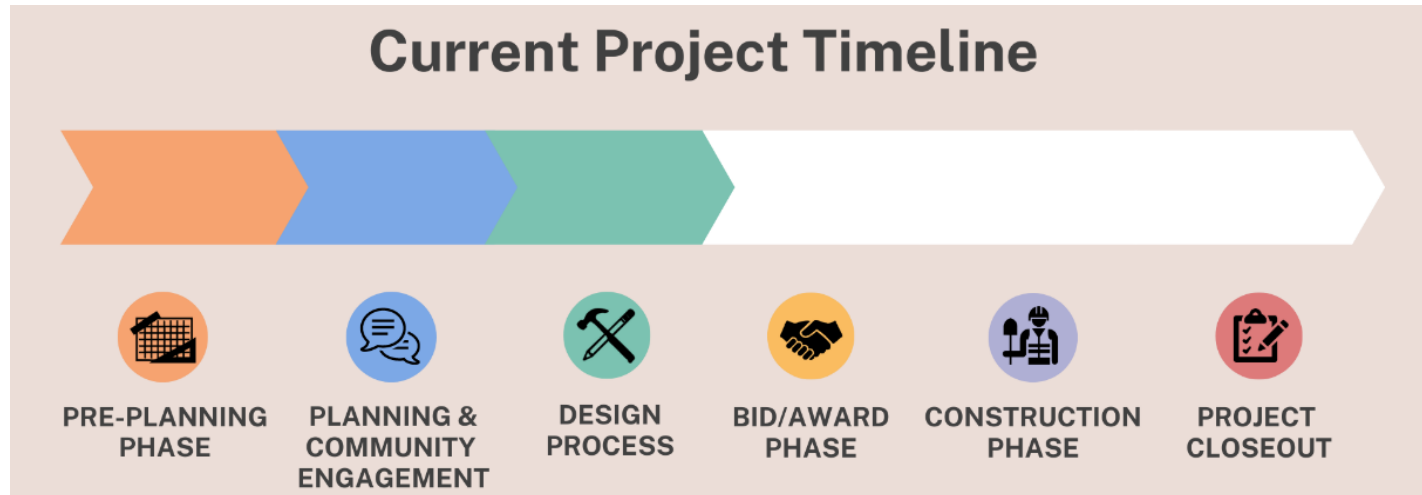
9. Flow and Design Harmony

- Create seamless, accessible flow between spaces while considering natural light, door placement, and views for neighbors.

10. Sustainability and Green Design

- Prioritize sustainable features, year-round outdoor learning areas, and accessible community gardens and play spaces.





Design Process: Design begins and continues with three major milestones in the design phase:

- **Schematic Design Phase:** Basic form of the building with a lot of sketching vs formal drawings. Back-and-forth concepts are shared with team members. Stay in this design phase until basic form and function are developed.
- **Design Development Phase:** Taking a basic idea and beginning to refine it. If the schematic design produces additional ideas, this is where they are narrowed down. This is when we really dig into the details, look at specific building materials, and solidify the plans.
- **Construction Document Phase:** This is when the final details are incorporated into the design like wall colors and floor finishes. The documents are also submitted for plan review approval by State of Michigan. At the end of this phase the documents are released for bidding and trade contractor procurement.

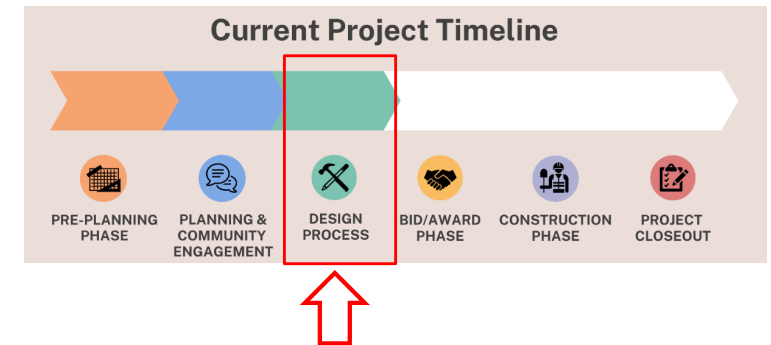
Lakewood Elementary Engagement Summary

2024 Engagements

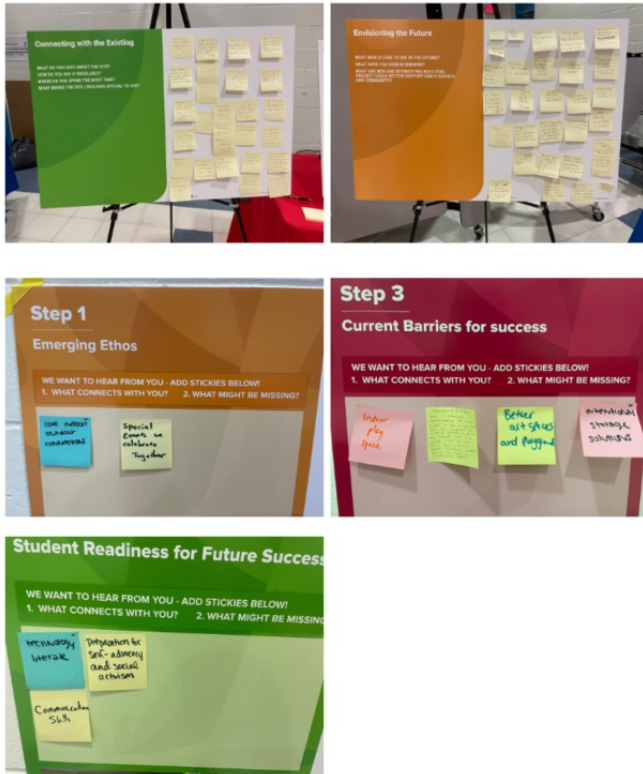
2/6/2024 Visioning & Patterns Meeting
3/13/2024 Staff Workshop Meeting
3/19/2024 Design Advisory Team Meeting
4/15/2024 Parent Engagement
4/15/2024 Staff Engagement
5/1/2024 All Staff Workshop
9/10/2024 Design Advisory Team Meeting
9/10/2024 Staff Gallery Walk-Thru
9/10/2024 Student Engagement
9/10/2024 Neighborhood Engagement

2025 Engagements to Date

3/18/2025 Open House
4/14/2025 PTO Meeting
5/14/2025 Staff Meeting



Lakewood Elementary Engagement Summary



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

1. Community Engagement & Intergenerational Integration

- Design spaces that promote interaction between students, neighbors, and seniors, fostering a sense of community.

2. Outdoor & Green Spaces

- Preserve and incorporate green spaces, gardens, and outdoor learning areas that support creativity, play, and environmental awareness.

3. Sustainability & Environmental Responsibility

- Integrate sustainable building systems and eco-friendly designs, ensuring the school's environment supports both human health and the planet.

4. Flexible & Adaptable Learning Spaces

- Create classrooms and shared spaces that are versatile, fostering collaboration, creativity, and movement for various teaching and community activities.

5. Safety, Accessibility & Walkability

- Ensure safe, accessible routes for students, staff, and neighbors, with proper drop-off zones and pathways for walking and biking.

6. Well-being & Physical Activity

- Design spaces that promote physical activity, including playgrounds, exercise stations, and gardens, while supporting overall well-being.

7. School Identity & Cultural Values

- Reflect the school's core values of collaboration, kindness, and empathy in the design, creating spaces that align with the community's cultural identity.

8. Neighborhood Integration & Connectivity

- Strengthen connections between the school and surrounding community through accessible pathways, bike lanes, and public spaces, making the school a community hub.



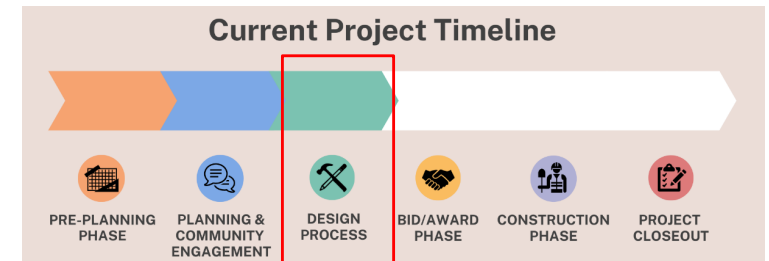
Lawton Elementary Engagement Summary

2024 Engagements

8/19/2024 Lawton Leadership Meeting
 2/6/2024 Visioning and Patterns Meeting
 2/22/2024 Visioning and Patterns Meeting
 2/28/2024 All Staff Workshop Meeting
 4/17/2024 All Staff Workshop
 4/17/2024 Parent Engagement
 4/17/2024 Student Engagement
 5/15/2024 Lawton Staff Mapping
 8/23/2024 Lawton Leadership Meeting
 9/18/2024 Lawton Leadership Meeting
 9/18/2024 Student Engagement
 9/18/2024 Staff Meeting
 9/23/2024 Neighbor Update Engagement
 10/15/2024 Design Advisory Team Meeting

2025 Engagements to Date

1/29/2025 Staff Meeting
 3/20/2025 Open House
 4/15/2025 PTO Meeting
 4/16/2025 Performance Space Review
 5/6/2025 Integrated Design Workshop #2



Lawton Elementary Engagement Summary



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

1. Gathering and Program Needs

- Larger spaces for assemblies, theater, and multipurpose use are needed, along with flexibility to handle enrollment changes and adequate cafeteria space.

2. Barriers and Safety Concerns

- Construction must address safety for students and neighbors, with plans for fire/tornado emergencies and health concerns like dust control.

3. Building and Infrastructure

- Maximize the preservation green space, would be helpful to have further conversations around bathrooms and discussions around full vs renovation of building.

4. Outdoor Learning and Play Spaces

- Preserve and enhance outdoor spaces with covered areas, walking paths, and fields for sports, ensuring greenspaces remain central to the site.

5. Parking, Traffic, and Transportation

- Improve parking flow with separate bus/car loops but minimize pavement to prioritize green space and encourage walking and biking to school.

6. Environmental Sustainability

- Support for sustainability features like native plants, water reuse, solar, geothermal, and retaining as much open field space as possible.

7. Arts, Creative Spaces, and Activities

- A dedicated stage and spaces for theater, band, and creative programs are essential to support the arts and extracurricular activities. The community values the school's identity and arts programs and appreciates the effort in planning, though some feel it would be helpful to have further conversations around arts and extracurriculars.

8. Phasing and Construction Scope

- Phase construction or use temporary portables to minimize disruption and maintain outdoor play and learning areas during the building process.

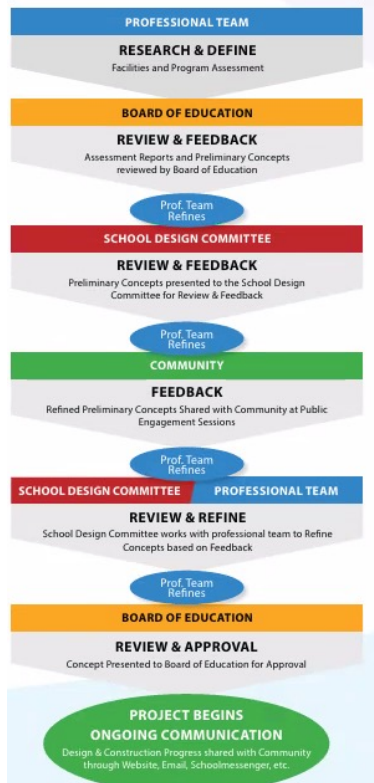
9. Site and Green Space

- The design should prioritize safe, accessible, and functional open spaces for recreation.



Typical Project Engagements During Year 1

As the program commences, the individual school projects will be reviewed and coordinated, on a regular basis, with the Superintendent, Board of Education, and School Design Committee. Typical steps in the engagement process are described below:



- **Engagement #1: Leadership Kick-Off** Early Winter
- **Engagement #2: Design Advisory Team (DAT) Kick-Off** Early Winter
- **Engagement #3: DAT Visioning & Patterns** Winter
- **Engagement #4: All Staff Kick Off** Winter
- **Mapping/Staffing Meeting** Winter
- **Engagement #5: Community Open House** Typically Spring
- **Engagement #6: DAT Discovery and Design Direction** Typically Spring
- **Engagement #7: All Day at the School** Typically Spring
- **Engagement #8: PTO** Typically Spring
- **Engagement #9: All Staff Concept Design Review** Typically Late Spring
- **Campus Impacts Discussion (*Shared Campuses*)** Typically Late Spring
- **Engagement #10: Leadership Design Review** Typically Late Spring
- **Engagement #10: Leadership Design Review** Typically Late Spring
- **Engagement #11: All Staff Design Review** Typically Late Spring
- **Engagement #12: Student Check In** Typically Late Spring or Early Fall
- **Engagement #13: DAT Review and Transition** Typically Early Fall
- **Engagement #14: School: Celebrate the Vision!** Typically Fall
- **Engagement #15: Community: Celebrate!** Typically Late Fall
- **Resource Meetings:** Throughout the first and second years of Planning, as needed





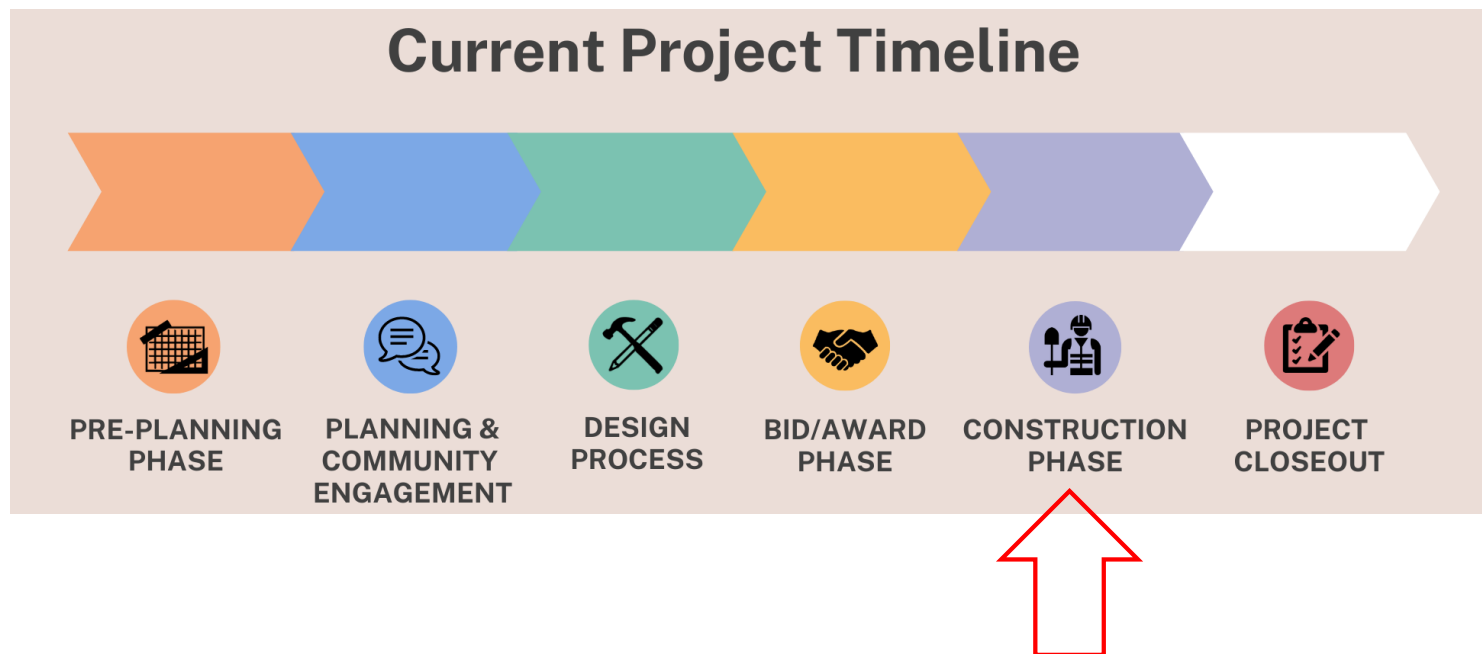
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Summer 2025 Construction Update

Capital Improvement Projects

Projects in Construction Phase



Capital Improvement Projects

Summer 2025

Roofing Improvements

Ann Arbor STEAM
Bach Elementary
Community High School
Forsythe Middle School
Freemen Environmental Center
Skyline High School

Solar Arrays

Clague Middle School
Skyline High School
Freemen Environmental Center
Transportation South Bus Lot

Exterior Window and Door Replacement

Clague Middle School
Community High School (Partial Door Replacement)

Auxiliary Field Turf Replacement

Huron High School
Pioneer High School
Skyline High School

Pool Score/Timing Board Replacement

Huron High School
Pioneer High School
Skyline High School

Pool Locker Replacement

Huron High School
Pioneer High School

Playground Equipment

Abbott Elementary
King Elementary

Loading Dock and Paving Improvements

Clague Middle School
Scarlett Middle School
Forsythe Middle School
Ann Arbor Open
Community High School
Pittsfield Elementary



Capital Improvement Projects

Phase 1 - A/C and Lighting

Abbott Elementary (*Summer 2024 & Summer 2025*)

Haisley Elementary (*Summer 2024 & Summer 2025*)

Bathroom Renovations

Clague Middle School (*Fall 2024 & Summer 2025*)

Scarlett Middle School (*Fall 2024 & Summer 2025*)

Flooring replacement & Painting

Community High School (*Summer 2025 – Winter 2026*)

Scarlett Middle School (*Summer 2025 – Winter 2026*)

Skyline Chiller Improvements (*Spring 2025 – Fall 2025*)

Slauson Pool Building Demolition (*Summer 2025*)

Scarlett Middle School Softball Field Relocation (*Summer 2025*)

Transportation Center EV Charging Stations (*Summer & Fall 2025*)



Major Projects Breaking Ground in 2025:

New Mitchell Elementary (at Mitchell/Scarlett Campus)

New Dicken Elementary

New Logan Elementary (at Clague Campus)

New Thurston Elementary

Slauson Middle School Major Modernization



Photos from M-Live and AAPS News

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Thank You!

For more information, please visit:
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