

# Structure of Schools Update

Dana Bailey, Chief Academic and Student Success Officer

Martin Turney, Chief of Finance and Operations

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# Purpose of Update

The purpose of this presentation is to follow up from the February 13 Board meeting request and the capital projects update from the April 10 Board meeting to share a high-level implementation plan with the Board and community for addressing over-capacity at the high school level with a change in the structure of schools.

# Previously Shared Options

Previous contingency options for addressing high school overcrowding involved significant costs, increased transportation needs, and district-wide impacts on students, staff, fiscal and human resources.

Initial community feedback was not supportive of:

- Reconfigure Structure of Schools
  - Repurpose a current middle school building for a ninth-grade campus for the district or for Issaquah and Skyline
  - Change school levels via a re-boundary process from current model to: K – 6th, 7th – 9th and 10th – 12th
  - Double shift at high schools (stagger start times for different cohorts)

*Community feedback in Feb 13 school board meeting public comment*

# Recommendation

Given that new high school planning is moving forward, we recommend **no immediate next steps** on previously considered contingency options, including:

- Repurpose a current middle school building for a ninth-grade campus for the entire district or for only Issaquah and Skyline 9<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Change school levels via a re-boundary process from current model to:  
K – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
- Double shift at high schools (stagger start times for different cohorts)

These options lacked community support, were costly and had broad impact to the system.

The new high school will provide relief for overcrowding and aligns with long-term capacity and innovation opportunities.

# Structure of Schools Changes are Complex

Proposals and implementation for any changes to a majority of the system related to the structure of schools is complex and takes engagement and time.

Prior to a committee launch, district leaders prepare for between 3-6 months to determine the scope and charter, collect and validate needed information, develop and design the communication plan and the engagement process and to identify key collaborators

As reference, recent engagement committees connected to structure of schools:

- 2018 7 Period Day Committee: 6 months engagement, team of 30+ committee members
- 2021 Boundary Committee (to determine boundary for Cedar Trails and Cougar Mountain Middle School): 3 months engagement, team of 40 community and staff.

# Additional Context

- In 2016, voters approved funding for a new high school
- In 2022, voters approved funding for a new high school

The district is committed to fulfilling this promise to the community to reduce high school overcrowding.

In the April 10<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting, the board accepted the district recommendation to build a scaled down model within available resources.

# New High School Site Building Details

The new high school project is moving forward using existing funds, and includes the following elements:

- ✓ Develops the west section of the original design; additional phases can be added later
- ✓ Designed to accommodate approximately 650-700 students
- ✓ Includes sports field with track and lighting
- ✓ Features a parking garage proportionate to the building's size
- ✓ Provides road improvements along 228th Avenue Southeast and internal roads
- ✓ Preserves existing buffers, utilities and stormwater systems

Utilizes approximately \$146 million in available funds

*Target construction start date: March 2026*

[See April 10th, 2025 board meeting](#)

# New High School Program Details in Development

The new high school project is being designed as a school that can grow into a future ready comprehensive high school that reflects our students' needs and aspirations while preparing them to thrive in a changing world. Below are program details in development and based on Board discussion over the past two years:

- **Opening plans:** Grade levels, enrollment capacity, school choice or boundaries, transfers
- **School identity:** Name, school colors, mascot, extra-curriculars, athletic program
- **School structures:** Schedule, transportation, staffing, technology integration
- **Teaching and learning model:** Curriculum, course offerings, instructional values, assessment practices
- **College and career readiness:** Pathways, industry partnerships, industry recognized credentials, dual credit
- **Student support:** Advisory, mentoring, family engagement, community partners
- **Student leadership and voice:** Clubs, extra-curriculars, advisory boards, core team
- **Future vision:** Growth, future phases, long-term planning for comprehensive high school

*Anticipated community engagement start: Fall 2025*

[See May 9, 2024 board meeting](#)



# Questions and Discussion