

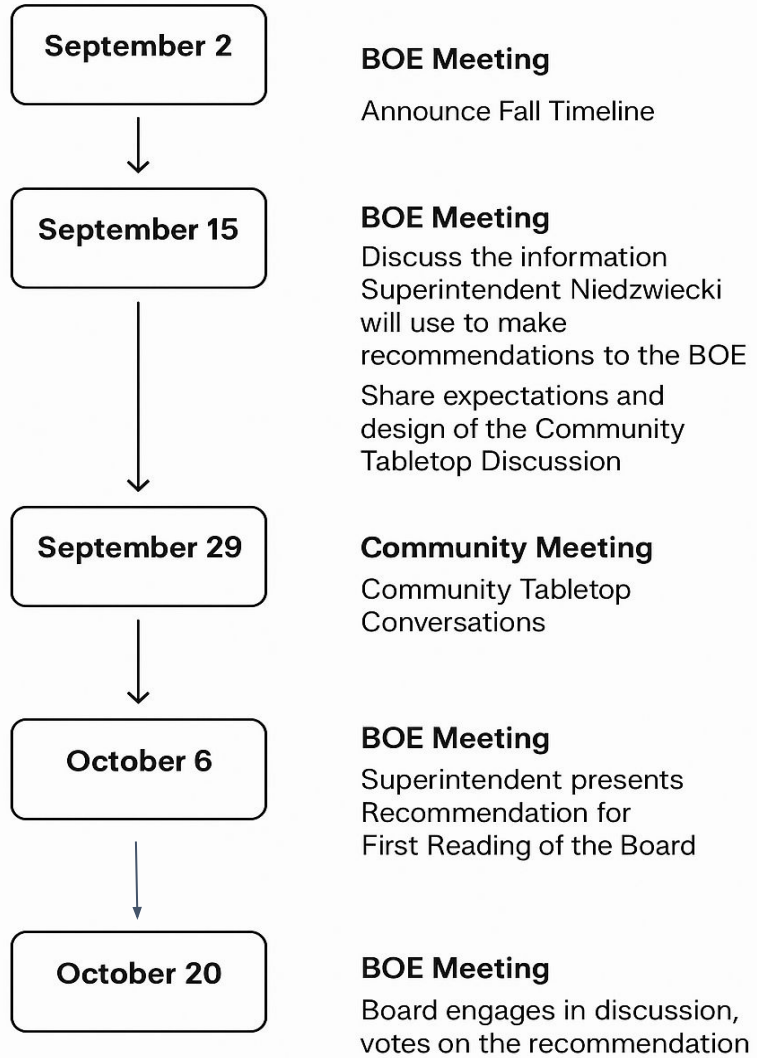


Lakewood City Schools

Lakewood Board of Education Meeting
10-06-2025



Fall 2025 Timeline





Agenda

Key Takeaways from the Community Conversation
Tabletop Activity

Share Superintendent Recommendation for Future
Use of Elementary Facilities



Tabletop Conversation

- Protect walkability and neighborhood identity
- Lead with transparent data (enrollment trends, housing pipeline, costs, and instructional impacts)
- Prefer reversible steps first (redistricting) while monitoring indicators.
- Invest in growth strategies (marketing, programs, childcare) rather than quick cuts.
- If repurposing occurs, over-invest in transition supports to reduce disruption and retain families.



Elementary Facilities

Lakewood City Schools –
Board of Education
Recommendation
*Presented by Superintendent
Niedzwiecki*



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As educational leaders, we have a responsibility to:

- Care for, protect, and maintain our facilities and buildings
- Periodically review the use of our facilities and the role each facility plays in helping us achieve our mission

Ensure decisions are:

- Focused on maximizing student growth and opportunity for the future
- Sustainable
- Financially responsible



FACILITIES STRATEGY

First Facilities Conversation launched Winter 2023

- **Approved Recommendation and Implemented 2025**
 - Franklin School of Opportunity will move to the high school
 - Align the HS Main Office with West Shore
 - 5.7 million dollar grant to build a MEMS and Welding program

Second Facilities Conversations Aug. 2024

- 14+ months of study
- Community/building meetings, tabletops, surveys etc.
- Data review: enrollment, capacity, population trends, walkability, safety and security



Ensure Accessible and Inclusive Learning Environments

- Move CHAMPS classrooms from Horace Mann Elementary to the first floor of Hayes Elementary.
- Move RISE classrooms currently housed at Emerson Elementary to Horace Mann Elementary.
- STARS classrooms will remain at Emerson Elementary.
- Gifted self-contained classrooms will move from Grant Elementary to Hayes Elementary.

Rationale:

All students must be housed in facilities that continue to expand accessibility—removing barriers and ensuring that every child can fully participate in their education regardless of need.



Invest in Playgrounds and Outdoor Learning Spaces

- Reinvest and update the playgrounds at Horace Mann and Emerson Elementary Schools.
- Modify the Hayes Elementary playground to improve accessibility and add new ADA-compliant features.
- Evaluate and create a plan to update the other elementary playgrounds as necessary.

Rationale:

Safe and engaging playgrounds are essential to students' growth and development. Upgraded outdoor spaces foster physical health, social skills, and creativity, while ensuring that all students, including those with disabilities, can fully participate in play and learning activities.



Prioritize Safety, Security, and Maintaining Walkability

- Ensure all students learn in safe, secure environments
- Partner with the City to place crossing guards strategically
- Adjust safety measures annually based on population trends
- Make decisions with the least amount of elementary student impact

Rationale:
Student safety is a top priority. By combining modern safety practices with thoughtful attention to walking routes and population trends, we can provide accessible, secure, and well-supervised paths to school that support families and strengthen community connections.



Optimizing our Facility Usage

- Repurpose Lincoln Elementary as the Lakewood City Schools Early Learning Center
- Redraw boundaries for the remaining six elementary schools to better align with enrollment trends, walkability and program needs.
- The Early Learning Center would provide before- and after-school care, as well as summer daycare options, while ensuring efficient use of space and resources and maintaining equitable access for all students.

Rationale:

Thoughtful facility management ensures that taxpayer resources are used wisely and sustainably. Repurposing Lincoln Elementary for early learning allows the district to focus specialized programs in one location, while boundary adjustments help balance enrollment across schools. Together, these steps create enriched learning environments, maximize opportunities for student growth, provide additional childcare supports for families, and support long-term sustainability of our elementary facilities.



Data Utilized

Enrollment Trend Data

- 2015-2016 K-5 enrollment 2,286 students
- October 3, 2025 K-5 enrollment is 1,792
 - A decline of 494 students

Population Data

- 2024-2029 Total Population Growth and Decline data (Future Think)
- Downtown Progress of 1-2 bedroom units and townhomes being built within Grant's boundary



Building Capacity Data

Building	Current Building Capacity	Recommendation Building Capacity
Emerson	68.8	76.6
Grant	84.5	65.9
Harrison	65.3	63.3
Hayes	60.0	70.5
Horace Mann	53.8	75.2
Lincoln	70.4	Preschool
Roosevelt	61.4	64.3
Capacity Range	53.8 - 84.5	63.2 - 76.6

Underuse of School Buildings

- Even though student numbers are starting to level off, the school buildings are still not being fully used.
- On average, the 7 elementary schools are only filled to **66%** of their full capacity.
- If we repurpose one elementary building and utilize 6, the average would go up to **69.3%** filled and stabilize class size.



Classrooms/Class Size

K-5 Classroom Usage Data

2018 - 2019	106 Classrooms
2025 - 2026	88 Classrooms

Maintaining Reasonable Class Sizes

Class Size Number Students	Repurpose Lincoln	2025-2026 Current
13-17	15 Sections	25 Sections
18-22	62 Sections	56 Sections
23-25	11 Sections	7 Sections

Maintaining reasonably lower class sizes is important. We have established that we would like to keep our K-2 classes between 18 and 22 students in a class.

This chart shows that with the repurposing of Lincoln, we can have 62 sections that fall within the K-5 range, and fewer sections fall within the 13-17 student range in a classroom.



Walkability

District of Residence	Average Walking Distance Difference b/w Existing and Scenario
Emerson	0.07
Grant	0.01
Harrison	0.04
Hayes	-0.02
Horace Mann	0.2
Lincoln	N/A
Roosevelt	-0.05

Lincoln's draft scenario had a less significant impact on overall community walking distances compared to Grant's.

The **average walking distance difference** between the existing boundaries and the proposed Lincoln scenario was minimal, ranging from **-0.05 to 0.20 miles**, with most changes close to zero.

This indicates that repurposing Lincoln would have a smaller community-wide effect on walkability than the changes modeled for Grant.



Why Repurpose

- **Enrollment declined:** K–5 enrollment has dropped from 2,286 in 2015–2016 to 1,792 in 2025–2026—a decrease of 494 students.
- **Underutilized Space:** The district’s seven elementary schools are currently operating at only 66% of capacity on average. (Average increase to 69.3%)
- **Stabilizes Class Size:** Repurposing helps balance student numbers across remaining schools, keeping class sizes consistent. (Utilize 18 less classrooms today than we did in 2018-2019)
- **Expanded Program Opportunities:** Allows for before- and after-school programs as well as summer day care.



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Why Repurpose Lincoln

- **Prioritizing students safety and well being district wide:**
 - Supports neighborhood walkability with shortest travel distances for students
 - Enhances student safety by minimizing the need to cross major roads
 - Promotes stability with fewest number of students changing buildings.
- **Population Trends:**
 - City construction is concentrated near the center of town, within Grant Elementary boundary
 - Aligns school facilities with projected growth



Timeline and Implementation

2027–2028 School Year:

- New boundaries for the six elementary schools go into effect
- Relocation of specialized classrooms takes effect
- Lincoln School is repurposed - Lakewood City Schools Early Learning Center opens
- Upgrade Emerson playground

Spring 2026 - Fall 2026:

- Create transition teams and build a rollout strategy
- Finalize boundaries for six elementary schools
- Upgrade Horace Mann & Hayes playgrounds



“Our facilities must evolve to meet the needs of all students. These recommendations reflect our commitment to sustainability, access, and opportunity.”







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