Lake Orion Community Schools

# BUILDING OUR FUTURE WORKSHOP

# *TODAY'S OBJECTIVE*

Collaborate, as a community, to prioritize school improvements to meet the needs of students, staff, and our greater community.

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Introductions

Who’s in the room?

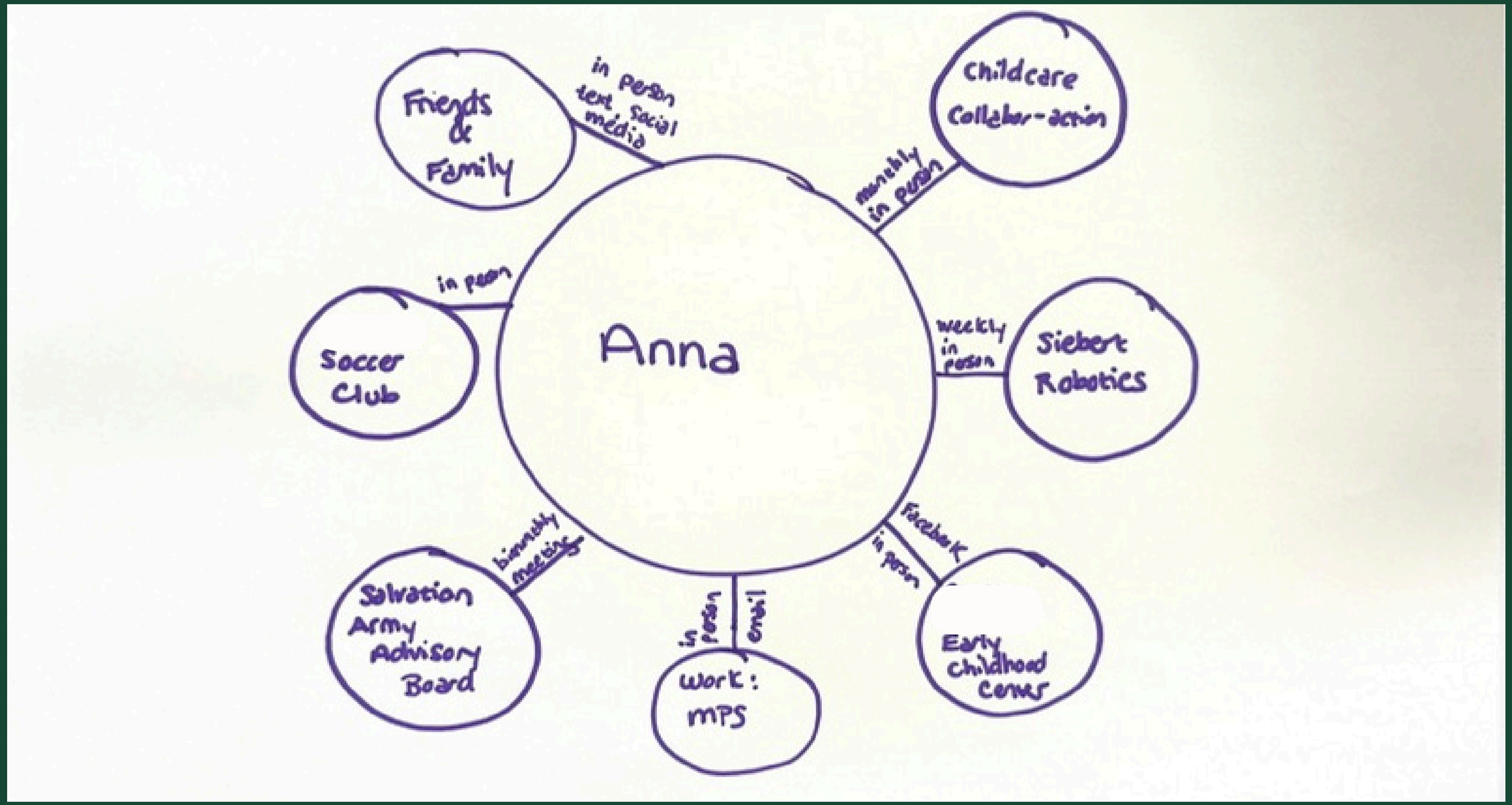
***At your table....***

1. Share your name, connection to LOCS, and why you said **YES** to come today!

2. Community mapping:
   - Draw a circle in the center of your paper write your name in it
   - Create a web of local groups that you are a part of (ex. Rotary, Church, Work Colleagues, Book Club, etc.)

3. Count how many groups you've written down as a table. See how many you can get!

# *Example Community Map*



# AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Looking Back
4. Community Feedback Survey
5. School Funding
6. Master Plan Overview
7. Moving Forward – Prioritizing together
8. Next Steps

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Looking Back

A review of our current facilities

# Age of Our Facilities

| | |
|---|---|
| 71 | Carpenter (1955) |
| 71 | Webber (1955) |
| 69 | CERC (1957) |
| 61 | Scripps (1965) |
| 54 | Stadium Drive (1972) |
| 54 | Waldon (1972) |
| 30 | Orion Oaks (1996) |
| 29 | LOHS (1997) |
| 26 | Paint Creek (2000) |
| 24 | Transportation (2002) |
| 24 | Oakview (2002) |

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Our Process

- **Master Plan continuation**
  - Research in 2017 set the course for the next LOCS generation, updated in 2025
- **2018 Bond**
  - Identified $320 million of needs, proposal was $160 million to maintain tax rate without increase
- **2025 Bond Proposal**
  - Updated Master Plan, identified $658 million of needs, proposal was for $272 million with a tax rate decrease
- **Future Bond**
  - Planning for the future of our school facilities

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Community Feedback

## Reflection on the 2025 Proposal and Election Results

Lake Orion Community Schools

# November 2025 Bond Proposal Follow-Up Survey

February 11, 2026








Lake Orion Community Schools

# Methodology

Survey was administered from November 24-December 14 via Survey Monkey. Link was shared via LOCS email, posted on LOCS social media and website and postcard mailed to all households of registered voters.

# Demographics

Total Customers Surveyed

**1,681**

District residents

**96.5%**

- Current parents 56%
- Community 37%
- Past parents 21%
- LOCS staff 10%

Voted in November 2025 election

**70%**

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Reasons for support



Staff/Parent who will benefit directly



See a need for projects; improve student opportunity



Strong schools = Strong home values

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Reasons for opposition



Total bond amount was too high



Concerns regarding taxes



Didn’t agree with one or more specific projects

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Most supported projects



**Career-ready lab spaces at LOHS**



**Continuing security and infrastructure updates**



**Special Education improvements district-wide**



**Replacing aging buses**

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Most opposed projects



**Athletic improvements**



**Adding early childhood classrooms**



**Gymnasium renovations at Carpenter and Stadium Drive**



**Transforming the CERC**

*Discuss with your Table Group....*

# What did you take away from the feedback from the November proposal?

Lake Orion Community Schools

# School Funding Information

How schools are funded
and why bonds are important

# Our Community Asked:

*“Perhaps more information needs to be shared on how schools are funded for those that don't understand”*

***“Presentation format that explains how the bonds work“***

*“I do think it is important for parents and district residents to understand that funds from certain sources must be spent in specific things.”*

***“Do bonds provide 100% of school finances?”***

*“Will funding for staff now be used to pay for items listed in the bond?”*

***“I have no idea how the budgets work “***

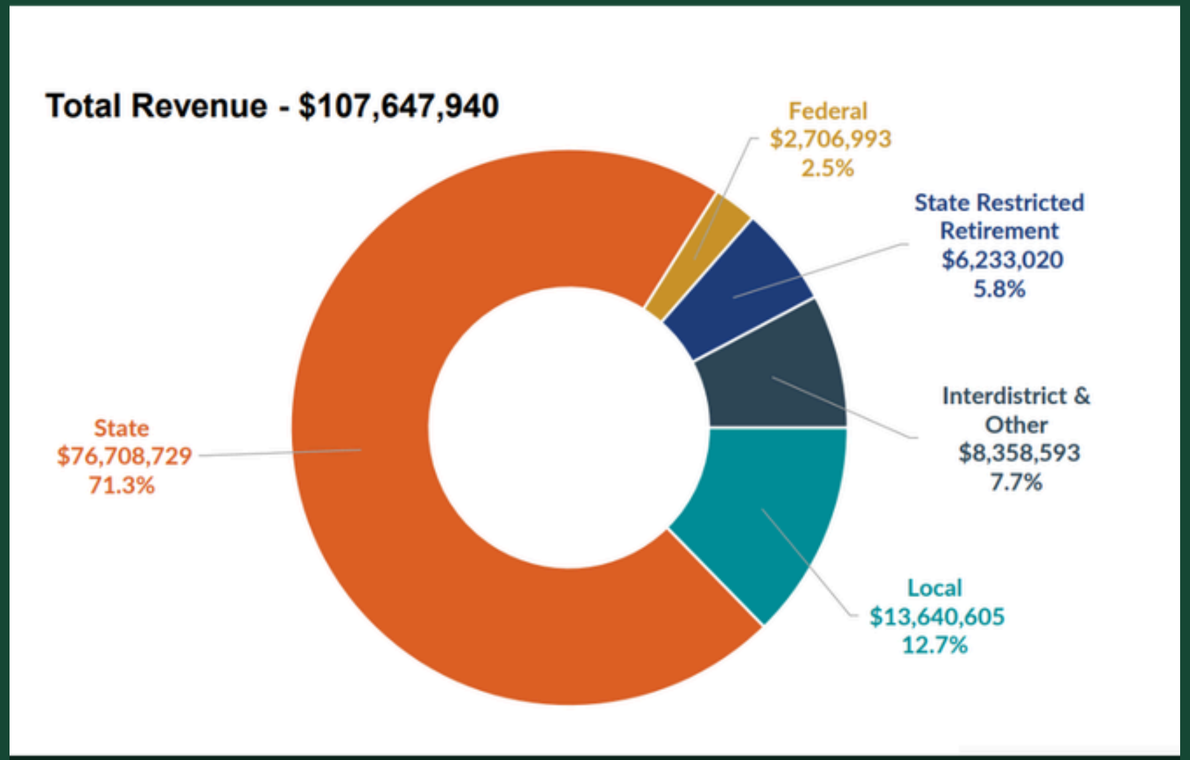
Lake Orion Community Schools

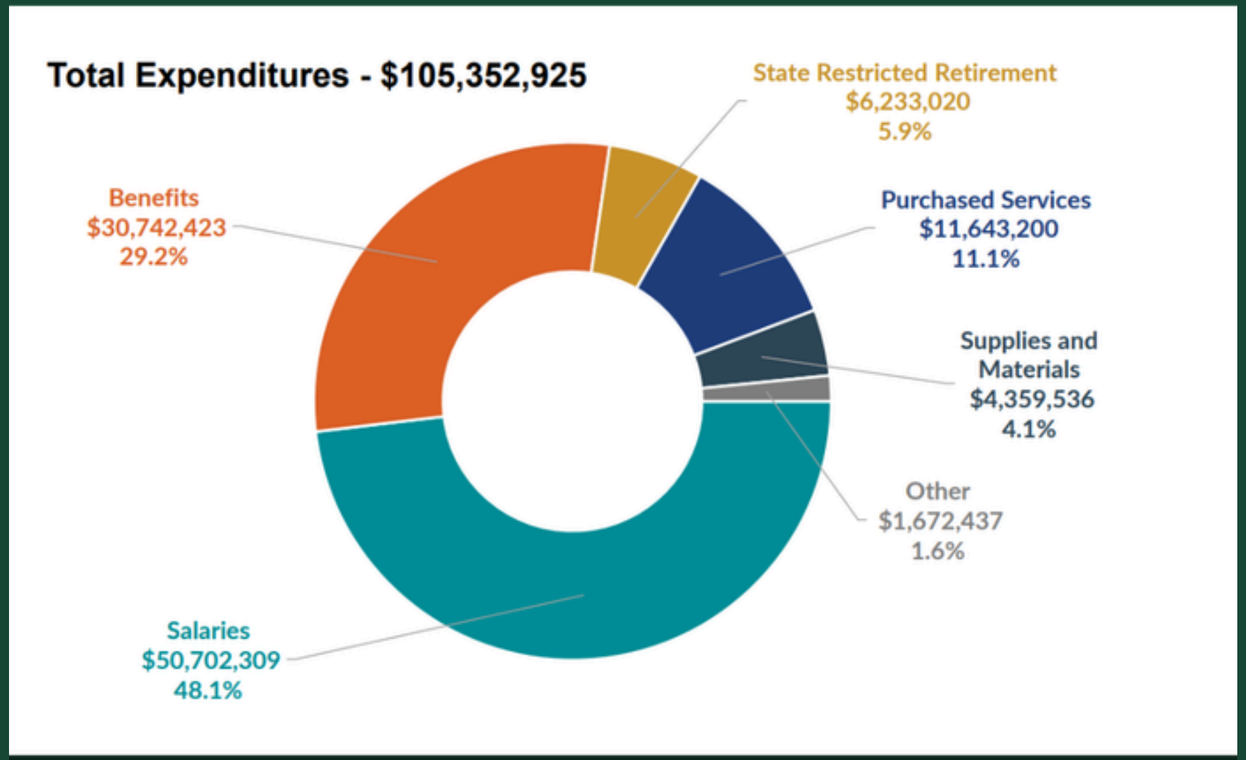
# Funding

# How schools are funded

| Type | General Fund | Bond Fund | Sinking Fund |
|---|---|---|---|
| Use | Classes/Programs | Planned renovations | Patchwork repairs |
| Source | Per-Pupil Funding, Non-homestead millage and state funding | Voted by Community | Voted by Community |

# General Fund Revenue and Expenditures



# Bond vs. Sinking Fund

- **Bond**
  - **Mortgage: Funds for big, one-time construction projects**
- **Sinking fund**
  - **Pay-as-you-go: Funds covering everyday needs**

| Project | Bond | Sinking Fund |
|---|---|---|
| Roofs | Permanently replace for 20-year life cycle | Patchwork repairs |
| Driveways | Renovate site for improved traffic flow, 20-year life | Repair and replace curbs, potholes |

# 26 of 28

## Districts in Oakland County utilize bond funding

*In the State's funding model, school districts rely on school bond funding to make major facility improvements.*

# Bond Spending/Projects

- Can be used for:
  - Technology
  - Facility improvement projects
  - New construction
  - Transportation
  - Furniture





- Cannot be used for:
  - Teacher, administrator or employee salaries
  - Repair or maintenance costs
  - Other operating expenses

***Discuss with your Table Group....***

# What is one thing your neighbor needs to know about school finance?

More community-wide information on school funding coming soon...

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Stretch Break!

Please write any lingering questions on a notecard on the table

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Master Plan Overview

An assessment of long-term school facility needs


STEM teachers
Copy link
Career-ready Lab Spaces at LOHS
Watch on YouTube

# Career-ready Lab Spaces at LOHS



Current setup:
Limited docks and space for working



Ideal lab: Spacious, full-service auto shop



Current setup: Traditional classroom with one hospital bed



Ideal lab: Series of lab stations with medical equipment for real-world learning

# Career-ready Lab Spaces at LOHS

## Challenges we're facing

- Classrooms are not large enough for the equipment needed in these programs. These programs require students to have hands-on learning.
- Class layout with multiple screens
- Safety concerns in spaces
- Equipment part of the plan

## Proposed solutions

Adding a STEM wing for improved hands-on opportunities in:

- Architecture
- Engineering
- Robotics
- Health Sciences
- Cyber Security
- Auto Shop renovations

# Robotics Comparison



Current robotics space at CERC:



Example middle school robotics space from another district:

# Performing Arts Improvements at LOHS









# Performing Arts Improvements at LOHS

## Challenges we're facing

- Aging auditorium wear and tear (almost 30 years old): sound equipment, microphones, lighting, pit
- Used 7 days a week by community and school
- Band and choir rooms require instrument storage in the classroom, shrinking the classroom space.
- Instrument replacement on a rotation but cost/number limits

## Proposed solutions

- Renovating aging elements of the auditorium: audio, stage, pit, etc.
- Expanding band and choir rooms
- Adding instrument storage
- Replacing aging instruments

# Athletics Improvements at LOHS









# Athletics Improvements at LOHS

## Challenges we're facing

**Baseball/Softball Fields**

- Dugouts need significant upgrades
- No drainage  (can't practice prior to season; must move games off-site after weather)

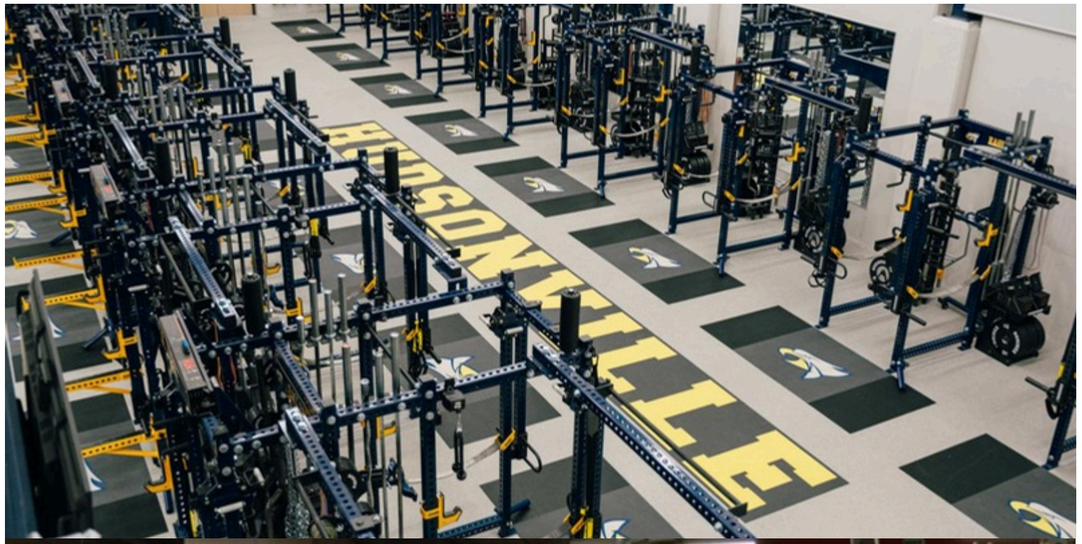
**Weight room**

- Small for a school with over 2,000 students
- Used by classes and athletes
- Improvements for safety, to prevent injury
- Lacking modern technology
- More classes and teams use than built for

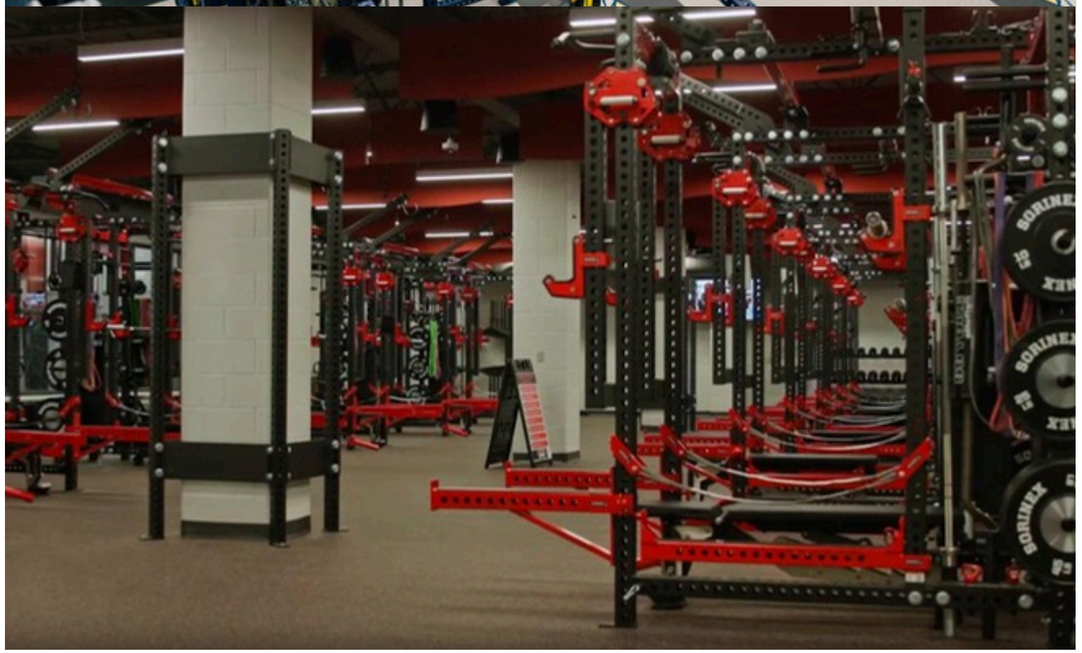
## Proposed solutions

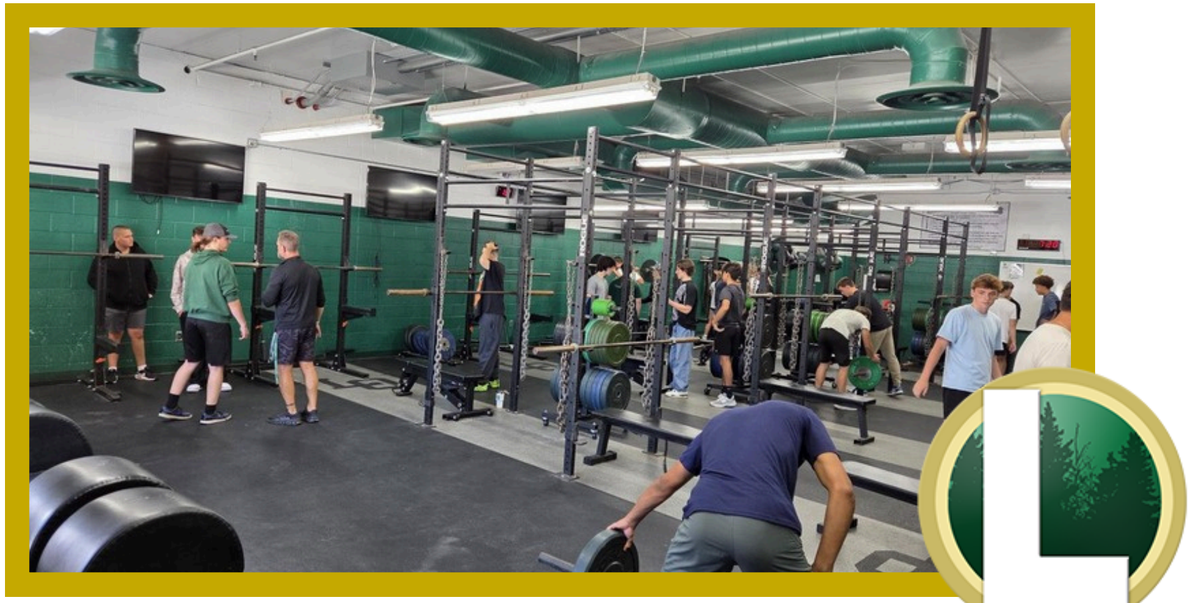
- Improving the baseball fields (dugouts, fencing, drainage, scoreboard)
- Improving the softball fields (dugouts, fencing, drainage, scoreboard)
- Updating the weight room (larger with new, safer equipment)

# Weight Room Comparisons










# Transforming spaces for PHASES and Learning Options at the CERC





# Transforming the CERC

## Challenges we're facing

- Never part of the plan to demolish all of CERC
- Unique needs for two populations; aged building doesn't meet specific needs
- Developmentally appropriate for special needs adults
- Learning Options students want separate building from LOHS

## Proposed solutions

- Significantly renovating the Community Education Resource Center (CERC)* to support:
  - Alternative High School
  - Special Education Adult Transition Program
- Building infrastructure, mechanical, plumbing, and lighting systems, and learning environments

*The CERC has received recent minor improvements and right-sizing for district needs, but the aging building has not received significant improvements




# Continuing to modernize learning spaces




# Continuing to modernize classrooms

# Continuing to Modernize Classrooms

## Challenges we're facing

- Classroom technology has a useful life cycle of ~5 years
- Furniture needs regular refreshes with changing practices and wear and tear
- Classroom interiors constantly aging and undergoing wear and tear

## Proposed solutions

- Updating technology,
- Refreshing furniture,
- Updating interiors (classroom cabinetry, carpet, etc.)






# Middle School Enhancements





# Middle School Enhancements

## Challenges we're facing

- Robotics currently in former classrooms at CERC or at student homes
- Outdoor movement spaces limited to bus loops or roadside lawns
- 80% of middle school students go outdoors during lunch
- Waldon locker room down four half-flights of stairs
- Outdated/small lockers, toilet/shower facilities

## Proposed solutions

- Making locker rooms ADA accessible at Waldon
- Installing spaces and equipment for growing robotics programming
- Creating outdoor activity spaces for students to use during lunchtime



# Special Education Improvements

# Special Education Improvements

## Challenges we're facing

- Lack of dedicated space for both general ed. and special ed. dysregulation
- Needs to be intentional access in design with space and equipment

## Proposed solutions

- Updating these classrooms district-wide
- Adding sensory rooms






# Gymnasium Expansion at Stadium Drive





# Gym Expansion at Stadium Drive

## Challenges we're facing

- Smallest gym in the district · Stage unnecessary and occupies significant space (primary stage is in cafeteria)
- Walls contain drop-down tables

## Proposed solutions

- Expanding the gymnasium to match the standard of other buildings and maximize space to support needs of students and staff




# Cafeteria Expansion and Gym Relocation at Carpenter

# Carpenter Gym and Cafeteria Expansion

## Challenges we're facing

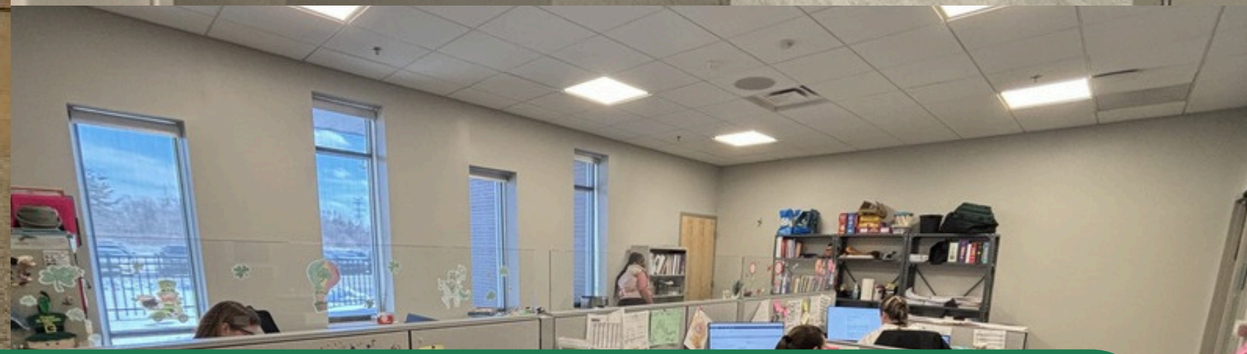
- Cafeteria and kitchen area too small, especially given the increase in student meals served under the free meals offered by the state of Michigan
- Some kitchen equipment stored in the cafeteria

## Proposed solutions

- Moving cafeteria to gym, build full-size gym on Joslyn side to maximize space for student and staff needs





# Adding Early Childhood Classrooms

# Early Childhood Center Expansion

## Challenges we're facing

- Changes in state rules forced building changes from 2019 design
- Early On numbers increased; Free preschool imposed by the State
- Special ed activity area/classrooms removed for offices
- Plan for four extra classrooms never built due to cost
- More than a decade old by the planned time
- Youngest students enter with LOCS curriculum age
- Waitlist since it opened

## Proposed solutions

- Adding classrooms to support with increased needs, regaining space lost to offices




# Replacing Aging Buses

# Replacing Aging Buses

## Challenges we're facing

- Buses constantly aging
- Need updated camera system on older buses

## Proposed solutions

- Select bus purchases to keep our fleet safe and modern, more efficient



# Security & Infrastructure Updates





# Security & Infrastructure Updates

## Challenges we're facing

- **Updating safety best practices:**
  - Walkie-talkies
  - Compartmentalize lockdown spaces
  - Elementary playground cameras
  - Generators (phones, internet loss, critical at Oakview)
- **Infrastructure needs:**
  - Repaving parking lots (LOHS flooding) and redesign for flow with more cars than 1998
  - Building systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing, etc.
  - LOHS bathrooms
  - Many more miscellaneous projects

## Proposed solutions

- Improving HVAC, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, parking lots, LOHS bathrooms
- Installing emergency lockdown doors in buildings, emergency notification systems etc.



# Upgrading Playgrounds

# Upgrading Playgrounds

## Challenges we're facing

- Lacking opportunities for differently-abled students
- Lack of fencing due to proximity to roads
- Playgrounds constantly aging

## Proposed solutions

- Improving Special Education and ADA Accessibility
- Fencing due to proximity to road
- Life expectancy rotation replacement

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Moving Forward Together

Prioritizing the needs!

*As you prioritize, consider:*

How would the broader community prioritize? What would those in your circles say?

***Share with the room:***

Your group's top 5 priorities

What your group wrestled with

How community perspectives shaped your ranking

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Next Steps

The road ahead...

Lake Orion Community Schools

# Thank you!