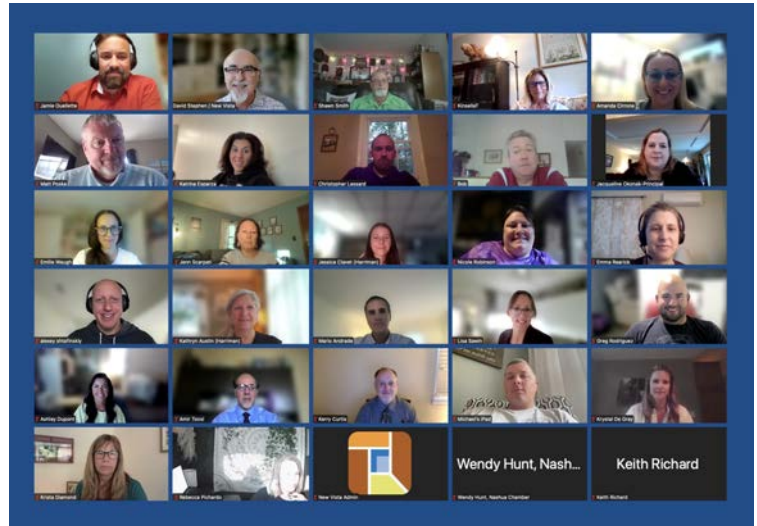


The Nashua School District (NSD) Facilities Master Planning Group (FMPG) met virtually for the second of three Educational Visioning Workshops from 6:00 – 8:45 PM on August 27, 2025. The FMPG is a group of approximately 30 participants that includes NSD district and school leadership, as well as NSD teachers, parents, and community members. Visioning Workshops are being facilitated by Harriman Architects and New Vista Design, with the goal of leading participants through a step-by-step visioning process aimed at capturing their best thinking about NSD’s current and future educational goals and priorities and connecting them to best practices and possibilities in future-thinking school facility design. If you have questions about the workshops or would like to add additional priorities to the list below, please email them to NSD Superintendent Mario Andrade at andradem@nashua.edu.



Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities, and Goals

The following list of Strengths and Challenges with regard to NSD’s current K-12 programming and facilities was brainstormed by members of the Educational Visioning Group (EVG) during Workshop Two. Participant responses have been grouped thematically.



NSD EDUCATIONAL STRENGTHS

Academic and Program Variety

- Number of opportunities
- Variety of offerings for all learners, especially at the HS level
- Variety of opportunities for clubs

Student-Centered Approach

- Tailoring to students needs
- Access for all students
- Staffing and support for our students and their ever changing needs
- Everyone pulling in same direction

Diversity and Inclusion

- The diverse group of students. We don't have a homogeneous student population
- It is great for kids to be exposed to diversity

Quality of Educators

- Excellent teachers

Career and Technical Education

- Excellent career and technical educational opportunities for students
- Technical programs at high school

Advanced and Enriched Learning

- Advanced classes at high school
- We have established Reading Proficiency as a priority



NSD EDUCATIONAL STRENGTHS *Continued*

Technology Integration

- One-to-one devices at secondary level
- Cleartouch screens at McCarthy
- Technology for all teachers

Extracurricular and Sports

- Strong sports teams

Community and Environment

- Recent influx of people and proximity to good schools/work (including MA)
- Lots of options for school, preschool, camps etc. around south Nashua
- Relatively high median income



NSD EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

Staffing and Teacher Retention

- Staffing and time for continuous professional learning for staff
- Attracting and keeping truly outstanding teachers and educators
- Lack of classroom support

Curriculum and Instructional Challenges

- Shifting curriculum
- Meeting all the various needs of different types of learners
- Not enough materials to support curriculum

Financial Constraints

- Overall cost and financial impact
- Long term financial impact to meet the needs of all students

Diversity and Inclusion

- Diverse needs
- Making sure the most intensive students are supported in an environment that is both safe and encouraging

Student Equity and Access

- Equity of what each school offers
- Inequity among schools - tight scheduling that limits abilities to spend time with students
- Getting more students involved from diverse backgrounds to take advantage of the varied opportunities
- Lack of accountability/ social promotion at K-8 level

Extracurricular and Enrichment Opportunities

- Extra-curricular opportunities at the elementary level

Learning Environments and Facilities

- Deferred maintenance for some buildings and facilities
- Indoor spaces to accommodate a variety of approaches and activities
- Not enough outdoor classrooms

Professional Development and Training

- Professional development for technology. We have a lot of technology, but not a lot of PD to go around
- Not enough time to learn new curriculum before implementing

Middle and High School Concerns

- Challenges with middle and high schools' quality

Parent and Community Engagement

- Parent involvement (over or under)

Geographic and Logistical Barriers

- Location and distance



NSD K-12 FACILITIES STRENGTHS

Community and Culture

- Neighborhood schools
- The ability to collaborate and create community
- Each building has a unique culture and feel
- Schools do a great job of making a building feel like home
- Wings that allow a sense of community with grade levels while also having larger gathering areas
- When teachers can connect, it is easier for classrooms to collaborate

Cleanliness and Maintenance

- Fresh, clean and inviting
- Clean and open

Design and Layout

- Layouts help with teacher connectivity
- Better educational designs in recent build or renovations
- Collaboration space
- Pods at McCarthy are great for teaming
- New furniture at McCarthy easier to move around the classroom
- The new McCarthy is bright, open, and inviting
- Natural light

Safety and Security

- Each building has invested in tech and security
- Fenced in playground

Outdoor Spaces

- Good outside playgrounds, wooded area plus
- Bicentennial has individual exits from each classroom

Modernization and Renovations

- New spaces, storage, classroom size, updated technology
- More respect from students in renovated or new build
- Funding to renovate older schools, Mt Pleasant, New Searles, Dr Crisp, Bicentennial

Infrastructure and Systems

- Good HVAC and electrical systems, but it is a mixed bag

Community Engagement

- The involvement of the different stakeholders as a part of the strategic plan
- A lot of output of the parent-teacher org for Bicentennial



NSD K-12 FACILITIES CHALLENGES

Equity and Fairness Across Facilities

- Overall equity within buildings with tight budgets
- Fair and equitable spaces for ALL
- We have several older schools that have wonderful strong community but will be difficult to renovate. How do we give those neighborhood schools what their kids deserve
- Lack of space for specialized programs with number of students and staff in one space
- Funding to update buildings or close some down with a declining student population
- Adequate funding for proactive projects

Aging Infrastructure and Maintenance

- Old systems at many elementary schools
- Age of buildings and all systems of Mt. Pleasant and Amherst affect ability to renovate effectively and efficiently
- Do not always have money to keep up with building repairs, resulting in the need to completely redo the building
- Repairs that band aid an issue at the expense of quality
- Older schools have poor HVAC systems
- Need of repairs, and no A/C makes learning difficult



NSD K-12 FACILITIES CHALLENGES *Continued*

Safety and Accessibility Concerns

- No secure front
- Upgrading Mt. Pleasant for a safer entrance
- No ADA outdoor playground or updated playground space. Safety around playgrounds with students who might run
- Lack of bathrooms outside near athletic fields at McCarthy

Space and Capacity Limitations

- Small classrooms, lack of larger meeting spaces other than gym or café
- Spaces are not ratio to size of student population
- Distance makes it difficult for parents and guests to travel
- No collaboration spaces for larger groups over 20 people unless clearing out a media center or library
- Bicentennial has limited capacity for splitting classes in a good way. Some are sharing a hallway and there is a lot of noise
- Sunset has a major challenge with the lack of larger classroom spaces for intensive needs programs, especially for practicing life skills
- Bathrooms only in some classrooms

Outdated Building Design and Layout

- Many of the existing school buildings' designs are not conducive to today's learning
- Classrooms that you have to walk through to get to other classes
- Trying to match classrooms with specialized programs
- The lack of ability to darken classrooms and performance spaces at McCarthy make it challenging for class or school performances
- Lack of any use outside of 8–3 pm

Technology Access and Infrastructure

- Challenging access to technology. Some laptops and limited projectors, but that's mostly it
- Communication issues like cell phone dead space and intercom non-access or not audible

School Traffic and Flow

- High school's backup of lines at late arrivals and students coming back from other schools
- Flow doesn't allow for other visitors to enter easily
- No space for parking and tight traffic structure

Playground and Outdoor Facilities

- Playground needs major updates with adaptive equipment
- Some of the playgrounds are in very rough shape
- Lack of outdoor classroom

Shared or Overcrowded Spaces

- Multiple student service providers share an open classroom which can make it challenging for student learning

Industrial Feel

- Some older buildings have an industrial or bland feel

What do you see as NSD's current facility's greatest architectural challenges?

Overall equity within buildings with tight budgets.	No space for parking and tight traffic structure
Funding to update buildings or close some down with a declining student population	Trying to match classrooms with specialized programs
No secure front.	Many of the existing school buildings designs are not conducive to today's learning.
Need of repairs, and no a/c makes learning difficult	Spaces are not ratio to size of student population

Priority 21st Century Design Patterns 1.0

The following set of priority “21st Century Design Patterns” for the design of renovated and/or new Nashua School District (NSD) facilities was developed by the Educational Visioning Group (EVG) during Workshop Two. Workshop participants were introduced to 36 “Design Patterns” that represent varied architectural design features of and approaches to 21st century school facility design. Individual participants first rated each Design Pattern with a heart, thumbs up, or thumbs down, and were then given the opportunity to rate Design Patterns collectively in order of importance. The resulting list of Design Patterns has been placed in priority order based on the cumulative total of hearts, thumbs up, and priority ratings that each received.

Top 16 Design Patterns 1.0

1. Universal Design and Access (48 Votes)
2. Healthy Building (46 Votes)
3. Gathering and Collaboration Hubs (42 Votes)
4. Secure Entry (41 Votes)
5. Hands-On and Makerspaces (41 Votes)
6. Good Storage (39 Votes)
7. Media Center Learning Commons (38 Votes)
8. Push in Special Education (37 Votes)
9. Fitness and Movement (37 Votes)
10. Agile Classrooms (35 Votes)
11. Welcoming Arrival (35 Votes)
12. Extended Learning Areas (35 Votes)
13. Engaged Outdoor Play (35 Votes)
14. Sustainability (34 Votes)
15. Enrichment Spaces (33 Votes)
16. Outdoor Connections and Learning (33 Votes)



Next 20 Design Patterns 1.0

- | | |
|---|--|
| 17. Breakout and Pullover Spaces (32 Votes) | 29. Distributed Resources (29 Votes) |
| 18. Anywhere, Anytime Learning (32 Votes) | 30. Professional Workspaces (28 Votes) |
| 19. Greeting and Gatekeeping (32 Votes) | 31. Innovation Hubs (27 Votes) |
| 20. Transparency and Connection (32 Votes) | 32. Wayfinding and Streetscapes (25 Votes) |
| 21. Flexible Modular Furniture (31 Votes) | 33. Community Aesthetic (25 Votes) |
| 22. After School Spaces (31 Votes) | 34. Nooks, Caves, and Quiet Spaces (24 Votes) |
| 23. Safe Community Access (31 Votes) | 35. Between Spaces/Hallway Learning (24 Votes) |
| 24. Branding and Identity (31 Votes) | 36. Building as Teacher (22 Votes) |
| 25. Cafetorium Multi-Purpose Space (30 Votes) | |
| 26. Display and Exhibition (30 Votes) | |
| 27. Teacher Teaming (30 Votes) | |
| 28. Classroom Neighborhoods (29 Votes) | |

Priority 21st Century Design Patterns 2.0

The following set of priority “21st Century Design Patterns 2.0” for the design of renovated and/or new Nashua School District (NSD) facilities was developed by the Educational Visioning Group (EVG) during Workshop Two. Working in small groups, participants were given the opportunity to interact further with the Design Patterns that they had been introduced to. Six small groups of 5-6 participants worked to create their own set of 10-15 priority Design Patterns and attributes, which were later grouped by like themes and are listed below in order of the number of “votes” they received, with each pattern given 5 votes for every time that it appeared on a small group’s list. The list below combines the responses of all six small groups. Each group was also asked to select up to four Power Patterns that they thought essential for NSD facilities. These are indicated by asterisks, the number of which indicate how many teams selected that Design Pattern as a Power Pattern.

1. **Safety and Welcome******* (30 votes)

- Safe and welcoming arrival
- Greeting and gatekeeping
- Inclusivity

2. **Agile Classrooms**** (25 votes)

- Wired and wireless connections

3. **Healthy Building*** (25 votes)

4. **Breakout and Pullover Spaces** (25 votes)

- Extended Learning Areas
- Integrated Special Education
- Push-in Special Education
- Nooks, Caves, and Quiet Spaces

5. **Fitness and Movement** (25 votes)

- Inside and outside
- Everyday fitness
- Easily accessible spaces for fitness, breaks, climbing, etc.

6. **Secure Entry***** (20 votes)

- Layers of safety from outside, in
- No blind spots for oversight

7. **Good Storage*** (20 votes)

- Good organization

8. **Safe Community Use and Access***** (20 votes)

- Welcome community
- Community spaces for activities and events
- Keep it safe and separate
- Potential revenue

9. **Universal Design and Access** (20 votes)

10. **Sustainability*** (20 votes)



Priority 21st Century Design Patterns 2.0 *Continued*

11. Classroom Neighborhoods (15 votes)

12. Flexible and Modular Furniture (15 votes)

13. Professional Work Areas* (15 votes)

- Teacher teaming

14. Collaboration and Teaming** (15 votes)

- Gathering and collaboration hubs
- Teacher Teaming

15. Display and Exhibition (15 votes)

- Planned areas and venues for display
- Exhibition spaces
- Clear governance of display spaces

16. Distributed Resources (10 votes)

17. Engaged Outdoor Play (10 votes)

18. Cafetorium/Multi-Purpose Space (10 votes)

19. Media Center Learning Commons (10 votes)

20. Hands-On Makerspaces (10 votes)

21. Equity (5 votes)

- Of programs and space

22. Adequate Space (5 votes)

- Appropriate use of space
- No closets as offices

23. Wayfinding* (5 votes)

24. Innovation Hubs (5 votes)

25. Outdoor Spaces (5 votes)

- How to incorporate financially

26. College Setting (5 votes)

- Exposure to things like lecture hall

27. Technology Access (5 votes)

28. Student Centered Learning* (5 votes)

29. Anywhere, Anytime Learning (5 votes)

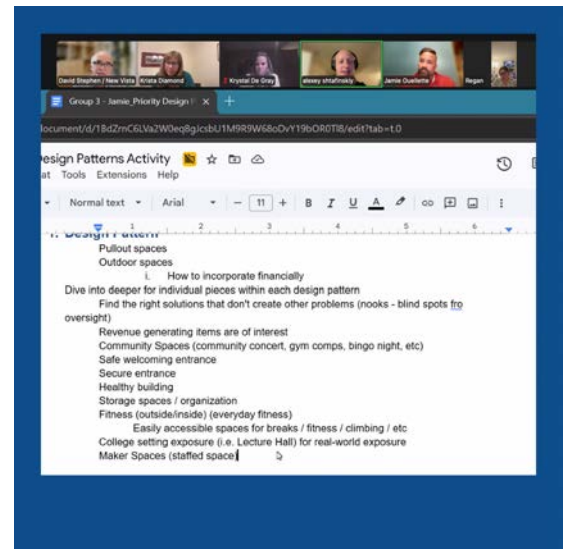
30. Branding and Identity* (5 votes)



Priority “Power Patterns

The following “Power Patterns” were selected by small groups as essential to the design of renovated and/or new NSD K-12 facilities. The number of asterisks indicates how many teams selected each Design Pattern as a Power Pattern.

- **Safety and Welcome*******
- **Safe Community Use and Access*****
- **Agile Classrooms****
- **Collaboration and Teaming****
- **Healthy Building***
- **Sustainability***
- **Professional Work Areas***
- **Wayfinding***
- **Student Centered Learning***
- **Branding and Identity***



Personal Favorite Design Patterns

When asked to share their 4 Personal Favorite Design Patterns for renovated and/or new NSD facilities, workshop participants shared the follow patterns.



- Security (8 mentions)
- Agile Classrooms (8)
- Welcoming Arrival (6)
- Flexible Spaces (6)
- Classroom Neighborhoods (5)
- Secure Entry (4)
- Healthy Building (4)
- Good Storage (3)
- Universal Design (2)
- Inclusivity (2)
- Engaged Outdoor Play (2)
- Multipurpose Spaces (2)
- Safe Community Access (2)
- Safe Entry (2)
- Activity And Athletics (1)
- Collaboration
- Team Resources (1)
- Collaborative Spaces (1)
- Collaborative Workspace (1)
- Community (1)
- Safe and Welcoming (1)
- Outdoor Areas (1)
- Flexible Furniture (1)
- Secure Collaboration (1)
- Bright And Inviting (1)
- Safe Outdoor Play Space (1)
- Distributed Resources (1)
- Display And Exhibition (1)
- Outdoor Connections (1)
- Breakout Spaces (1)
- Innovation Hubs (1)
- Extended Learning Areas (1)
- Gatekeeping (1)
- Wayfinding (1)