



HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Long Range Facilities Planning Committee

Meeting # 11

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

LRFPC members present: Abigail Elder, Abe Rieke, Adam McCarthy, Claudia Munk-von Flotow, Jennifer Schlosser, Vinny Schlosser, Jon Davies, Kim Yasui, Mari-Beth Guenther, Mark DeMoss, Mark Bauman, Mikka Irusta, Sarah Maddox, Steph Hoppe, Tod Hilstad, Todd Rainwater, Elizabeth Oropeza, Brad Finson, Trent Weseman, Hugo Guzman, Angela Holcomb, Bill Newton

LRFPC members absent: Allison Williams, America Flores, Mayra Lopez, Sean Mailey, Eric Von Lubken, Parker Nelson, Martha Verduzco Ortega

HRCSD Board of Directors present: Chrissy Reitz and Rich Truax

Others present: Cassie Hibbert and Greta Sandoval from Wenaha Group, Steve Nelsen from Opsis Architecture, Jeremy Wright from Wright Public Affairs

The Long Range Facilities Planning Committee (LRFPC) met on May 20, 2026, to continue discussing the future of our school district's buildings and capital assets. The committee's work is guided by core school board goals, which center on long-term resource stewardship, operational efficiency, and creating flexible, resilient learning spaces for our students. During the meeting, the committee reviewed and discussed the underlying intent behind three newly developed key messages designed to share our findings with the community. These core messages emphasize the critical need to respect the history of our facilities while actively preparing for the future, maintain comprehensive fiscal stewardship regarding our infrastructure backlog, and strategically focus on optimizing spaces so community funding goes directly into vibrant, fully utilized campuses.

A major portion of the discussion focused on the long-term capital challenges facing the school district. The committee reviewed data showing that the average age of the buildings is 80 years old (excluding May Street Elementary) and discussed how 20-year building condition deficiencies (the



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total cost of needed repairs and upgrades) now exceed \$219 million. The committee also reviewed a recap of the 2017 Athletic Master Plan, tracking which sports facilities have been completed and discussing the remaining tier-ranked athletic priorities evaluated for future construction.

To address the high operational costs of maintaining under-capacity square footage, the committee discussed several specific ideas for optimizing spaces. These potential paths range from maintaining the status quo across all current facilities to achieving major operational efficiencies by restructuring or consolidating school facilities. The committee specifically discussed how these options might affect Wy'east Middle School, Hood River Middle School, Mid Valley Elementary, Parkdale Elementary, and Cascade Locks Elementary.

Finally, the committee reviewed the school district's current general obligation bond structure, noting that the local bond levy rate sits among the lowest in our regional peer comparison group. HRCSD Chief Financial Officer Mark DeMoss and Wenaha Group Staff Cassie Hibbert presented four distinct long-term financial path options to fund these future capital needs, modeling different bond amounts and state-matching grants. The committee discussed these options using a "Fill the Cup" framework to weigh how different funding levels could cover building upgrades, space optimizations, athletic facilities, and transportation. The conversation concluded with an interest in strategies to efficiently leverage external funding, specifically how the school district might regularly maximize state OSCIM grant opportunities on a recurring cycle to steadily address ongoing maintenance and growth.