



HOOD RIVER COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence. Every student. Every day.

Long Range Facilities Planning Committee

Meeting # 12

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

LRFPC members present: Abigail Elder, Abe Rieke, Claudia Munk-von Flotow, Jennifer Schlosser, Vinny Schlosser, Jon Davies, Kim Yasui, Mari-Beth Guenther, Mark DeMoss, Steph Hoppe, Tod Hilstad, Todd Rainwater, Elizabeth Oropeza, Brad Finson, Hugo Guzman, Angela Holcomb, Allison Williams, Alejandra Olivo, Mayra Lopez, Sean Mailey, Parker Nelson, Bill Newton

LRFPC members absent: Eric Von Lubken, Mikka Irusta, Martha Verdusco Ortega, Sarah Maddox, Mark Bauman, Trent Weseman

HRCSD Board of Directors present: Chrissy Reitz and Rich Truax

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

The Long Range Facilities Planning Committee (LRFPC) met on June 17, 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 the creation of flexible, resilient learning spaces for our students.

The Hood River County School District Long Range Facilities Planning Committee (LRFPC) held its 12th meeting on June 17, 2026, to advance its facility evaluation and capital improvement prioritization. Guided by the core board goals, the committee focuses on demonstrating strong financial stewardship through planned maintenance, exploring operational cost efficiencies, creating flexible and resilient learning spaces, and pursuing mutual investment opportunities with local community and government partners. According to the project timeline, the committee is working through a phase of prioritizing district needs, refining building options, and determining community support thresholds, ahead of an upcoming break with no scheduled meeting in July. Moving into the fall, the committee intends to gather robust public feedback through polling, community listening sessions and open houses, present its draft concepts to the Board, and fulfill the state requirement to



HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Excellence. Every student. Every day.

submit a completed Long Range Facilities Plan report to the Oregon Department of Education by December 1, 2026. Ultimately, this comprehensive process will culminate in early 2027, when the Board makes an official "Go/No-Go" decision ahead of the late-February election filing deadline for a potential May 2027 bond measure.

A major portion of the meeting was dedicated to continuing the "Fill the Cup" exercise, a framework for evaluating four capital improvement funding models that vary in bond size and timeline complexity, with each option incorporating an assumed \$8 million Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) grant. Option 1, analogized as the "Tall" cup, proposes a return to the district's historical bond rate on a traditional 10-year cycle, combining a \$40 million bond with the state match to secure \$48 million for use in 2027. While this model easily addresses essential baseline needs, such as building upgrades and a transportation facility, its smaller size leaves virtually no room for larger "Optimizing Spaces" structural projects, prompting some subgroups within the committee to label it an insufficient or unrealistic long-term solution.

To provide greater financial flexibility, the committee evaluated Option 2, the "Grande" cup, which aligns with the higher funding rates of the district's peers in the Portland metro area over a 10-year cycle. This model projects a \$60 million bond, paired with the \$8 million OSCIM grant, to yield \$68 million in 2027 capital funds, creating enough space to maintain basic building upgrades while successfully integrating a single major space optimization project. The committee reviewed specific architectural opportunities under this model, such as Option 1b, which proposes a \$49.4 million addition and remodel at Wy'east Middle School, or Option 4b, which outlines a brand new \$64.35 million Upper Valley Elementary School on the Wy'east property.

The final two choices offer vastly different structural and timing frameworks for the community to consider. Option 3, the "Venti" cup, also matches Portland metro area peer rates but stretches over a longer 20-year cycle, generating approximately \$108 million for immediate use in 2027 by utilizing a larger \$100 million bond alongside the OSCIM grant, though it carries a projected levy rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Conversely, Option 4, the "Espresso Shot" cup, focuses on aggressively maximizing state assistance by running smaller, targeted bond measures every six years. This model would yield an initial \$16 million in 2027 from a small \$8 million bond and matching grant, allowing the district to preserve its historical investment levels while capturing consecutive infusions of state funding in future cycles. Following these extensive financial reviews, the committee



adjourned and will reconvene at the District Office for its next official meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 6pm.