



New High School Update

Board Meeting | September 24, 2026

Heather Tow-Yick, Superintendent
Jacqueline Downey, Chief of Schools, Leadership & Learning
Julia Bamba, Principal on Special Assignment

Purpose

- Preview the next 90 days
- Review the school's direction and opening pathways
- Introduce how the Core Team's work connects to the Advisory Team
- Share how student, family, and community voice can shape the New High School

The Next 90 Days: From Foundation to Launch

The foundation is set. The next 90 days turn that foundation into a school that students, families, staff, and community can see, understand, and choose.

KEY ENGAGEMENT MOMENT

FOUNDATION SET

SEPTEMBER

- Pathways established
- Grades 9-12
- Full + part-time model
- Who can attend
- Transportation provided*
- Graduation model
- Career-connected direction

We know what we are building.

DESIGN + ENGAGE

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER

Core Team: Ideate → Prototype → Recommend
Advisory Team: Review → React → Strengthen
Community + Students: Experience → Imagine → Shape

Engagement turns the foundation into the student experience.

CRYSTALLIZE

OCTOBER 21 → NOVEMBER

OCTOBER 21 • COMMUNITY DESIGN AND COLLABORATION EVENT

- Daily + weekly experience
- Sample Courses + project-based learning
- Real-world learning
- Student support + belonging
- Spaces + culture

Translate the design into clear program details students and families can understand.

LAUNCH

DECEMBER

DECEMBER • APPLICATIONS OPEN

Tentative Date

Future Students, Families, and Staff will know:

- What will I experience?
- Is this right for me?
- How can I participate?
- How do I apply?

The Founding Classes begin to take shape.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING BUILDS ALONGSIDE THE DESIGN

BUILD AWARENESS → MAKE IT TANGIBLE → BUILD UNDERSTANDING → CHOOSE TO JOIN

Stories + Meet the Core Team + Community Event + Media and Marketing + Clear program details + Target application in December

*Given the distance from the south end of the district, the district will explore a differentiated transportation model for the Liberty feeder pattern.

Pathways & Enrollment

Who Can Attend, Fall 2027

Engineering & Robotics • Grades 9–11 • Full-time or part-time	Entrepreneurship • Grades 9–11 • Full-time or part-time	Health Sciences <i>(pilot pathway)</i> • Grade 11: full-time or part-time • Grade 12: part-time only
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Full-Time vs. Part-Time • Part-time students remain enrolled at, and graduate from, their home high school • Full-time students graduate from the New High School — the first class is the Class of 2029	Clubs, Activities & Athletics • All students participate in clubs, activities, and athletics at their home high school • Some clubs and activities will also form at the New High School once the first school year begins
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Note: Students who are enrolled in their home high school and attend part time running start and part time at the new high school will remain enrolled at their home high school and will graduate from their home high school.

Students who are enrolled full time in the new high school in grades 9 and/or 10 and attend running start in grades 11 or 12 will remain enrolled in the new high school and will graduate from the new high school.



Added 9/24/26

First Graduating Class: Class of 2029 — *students who attend full-time starting in 11th grade in Fall 2027*

Understanding Core Team Design Work

September 2026 – June 2027

Session 1 <i>Vision, Design Process & Principles</i>	Session 2 <i>Designing the Student Journey</i>	Sessions 3–4 <i>Designing Curriculum</i>	Sessions 5–6 <i>Designing for Learning, Growth & Mastery</i>	Session 7 <i>Designing for Belonging & Well-being</i>	Session 8 <i>Designing for Opening</i>
• About us, about the school • Student voice • Design Principles: Created from Student Voices Project • Core Team Design Process using Design Thinking	• Vision and mission • Day in the life • Schedules for students & staff • Week at a glance • Pathway progressions	• Interdisciplinary vs. standalone courses • Dual credit • AI and online learning • Pathway team teaching: CTE, core, electives • Industry partners	• Competencies • Portfolios • Crediting & transfer credits • Portrait of a Graduate	• Mentorship and advisory • MTSS • IEP, MLL, 504, health plans	• Staffing and onboarding • Systems and structures • Family and student welcome
September 24, 2026	September 25, 2026	October 15, 2026 & November 12, 2026	February 9, 2027 & March 15, 2027	April 28, 2027	May 27, 2027

Ongoing design work, meetings, and core team check ins are ongoing when not in sessions.

Understanding the Advisory Team

How student, family, and community voice shapes the design

Purpose

The Advisory Team brings student, family, and community voice directly into the design of the new high school — reviewing the Core Team’s proposals and helping strengthen them before a direction is decided.

How The Team Works

Review → React → Strengthen: the Advisory Team reviews what the Core Team has designed, provides input with student, community, and family perspectives, and helps strengthen the direction before it goes to implementation.

Monthly meetings, plus optional virtual office hours.

Who Participates

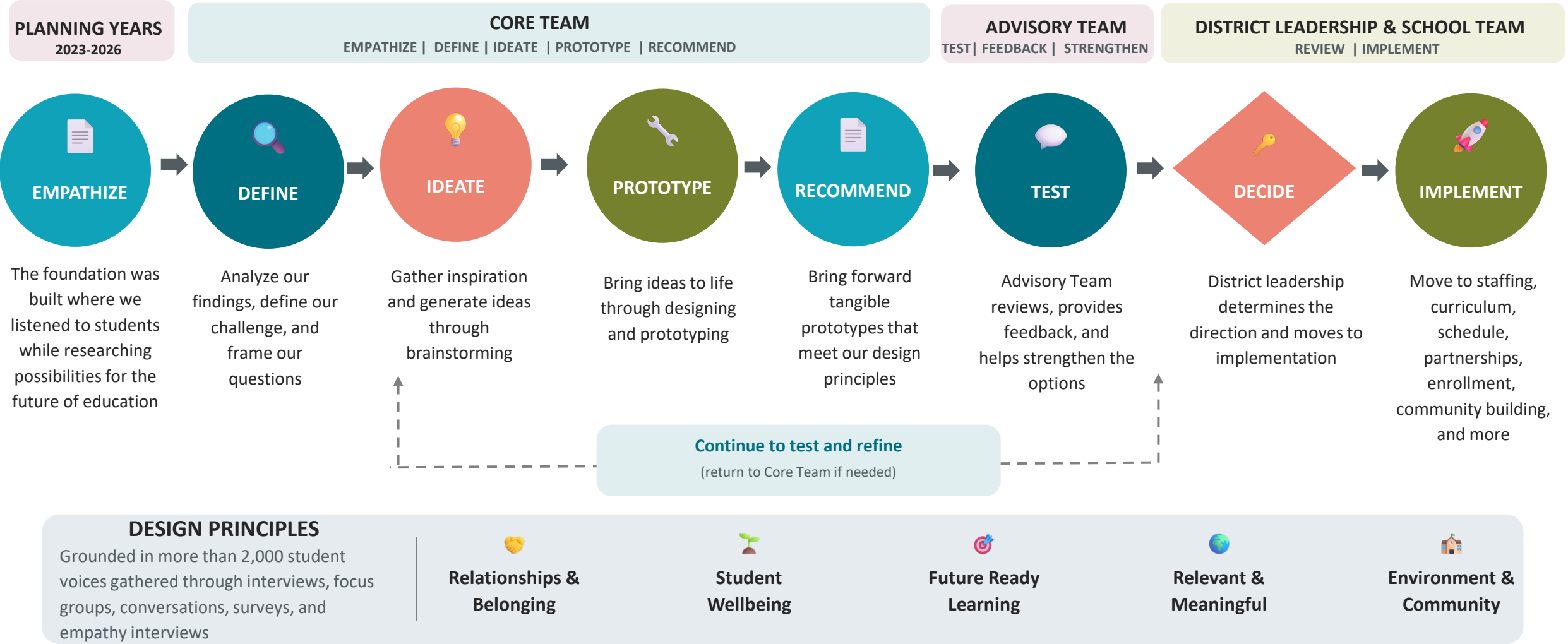
- 12 students
- 7 parents/guardians
- 3 Community members
- 3 Industry partners
- 1 Alumni & family representative
- 1 District Administrator
- Additional District Roles

Key Dates

- Applications: Closed September 11
- Selected Applicants Notified: Week of September 21
- First meeting: October 6, 5:00–7:00 PM
- Ongoing: monthly meetings through June 2027

Design to Implementation

From research to design to implementation



What Is Decided and What Is Being Designed

Where the plan is set — and where design work is underway

✓ Foundational Direction Established

- Choice-school model
- Fall 2027 opening
- College- and career-connected focus
- Engineering & Robotics
- Entrepreneurship
- Health Sciences pilot
- Full- and part-time access
- Connection to home-school activities and athletics
- Transportation provided across the district + midday shuttle

⚙️ Active Design Work Underway

- Vision, mission, culture, branding, traditions
- Student and staff daily schedule (Operational Expectation 10 – Structure of Schools)
- Detailed pathway course progressions
- **Interdisciplinary curriculum, learning experiences and assessment**
- Dual-credit and credential opportunities
- **Mentorship, partnerships, internships, and apprenticeships**
- Student supports, clubs, activities
- Name and mascot (Operational Expectation 13 – Facilities)

Discussion and Input

- Interdisciplinary curriculum, learning experiences and assessment
- Mentorship, partnerships, internships, and apprenticeships

Imagine what's possible. Shape what's next.

Information and Community Collaboration Event • OCTOBER 21 • 5:30–7:30 PM • PICKERING BARN

A hands-on experience to learn from what exists, share what matters, and help shape the student experience at the New High School

LEARN

**See the foundation
we're building from.**

Explore current high school experiences, student voice, pathways, and what is already taking shape.

CURRENT EXPERIENCES

STUDENT VOICE

NEW HS DIRECTION

SHARE

What should makes a great high school experience possible?

How might a week work?

Schedules • Flexibility • Full + Part Time

What should learning feel like?

Projects • Interdisciplinary Learning
Relevant • Engaging

**How does learning connect
to the future?**

Industry • Internships • Mentors • Dual
Credit • Credentials

What helps every student thrive?

Belonging • Advisory • Support • Wellbeing

What spaces inspire learning?

Labs • Studios • Furniture • Collaboration

**What makes a school feel
that it's yours?**

Culture • Traditions • Clubs • Identity

SHAPE

**Turn ideas into
possibilities.**

React. Add ideas.
Strengthen possibilities.

Community input
helps strengthen the
student experience
before key design
decisions are
implemented .

Key Upcoming Dates

Fall 2026 – Winter 2026

- **Week of September 21 — Advisory Team Members Notified**
- **Core Team design work launches, September 24 and 25**
- **October 6— First Advisory Team Meeting 5:00-7:00 PM**
- **September 28 – October 14 — School Name, Mascot & Color Recommendations from community**
Submit recommendations through an online submission process on the new high school website
- **October 21 — Community Engagement Event — Pickering Barn — 5:30-7:30 PM**
Open to the community: students, families, community members, and interested industry partners. Learn from students about each of our high schools and share ideas to shape the student experience at the new high school.
- **November 12 — Board Selects Name & Mascot**
- **November 12 — Admissions and Enrollment details shared at board meeting**
- **December — Pending other enrollment topics: Target for application portal to open for students**

APPENDIX

The ISD High School Experience

Your high school. Your path. Your possibilities.

Comprehensive High Schools

Liberty • Issaquah • Skyline

- Grades 9-12 • Full-time
- Your neighborhood high school – academics, arts, athletics, activities, and career technical programs all in one place

Gibson Ek High School

- Grades 9-12 • Full-time
- Lottery for incoming ninth grade students
- Some 10th grade space may be available
- A project-based, real world, personalized experience

Online Learning Programs

- Grades 9-12 • Full-time or part-time
- Flexible online option
- Students can enroll full-time in online learning; or, take online courses part-time

New High School

- Grades 9-12 • Full-time or part-time
- Grades 9-11 full time for the opening year of 2027-28*
- College and career-connected pathways in Engineering & Robotics, Entrepreneurship, and Health Sciences

Explore. Combine. Personalize. Your high school experience can grow with you.

Introducing the New High School – Opening Fall 2027



THREE CAREER-CONNECTED PATHWAYS:

Engineering & Robotics

Grades 9-11 for the 2027-28 school year
Grades 9-12 for 2028 and beyond
Full-time or part-time

Entrepreneurship

Grades 9-11 for the 2027-28 school year
Grades 9-12 for 2028 and beyond
Full-time or part-time

Health Sciences (pilot program)

Grade 11: full-time or part-time
Grade 12: part-time only for 2027-28 school year



*Learn More &
Join Our Mailing List*

