Reardan Edwall School District Discovery Process Report

- **Overall Assessments**
- **SWOT Analysis**

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Overall Assessment

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A Community in Transition

- Growing district
  - That growth is coming from bedroom community commuters
- Agriculture is dwindling
  - Newer, non ag families and residents coming in
  - Military base influx
- Economics of community changing
  - Renters
  - Lower income moving out to be more affordable in a rural area
  - Businesses are struggling because as Spokane grows it is easier to run into Spokane
- Demographics of community changing
  - Ag/generational families getting older
  - Those moving in are not tied to traditional families or ag values
  - Those moving in are not families with kids in school (some are but not all)

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A District with Serious Facility Needs

- Not enough space
- District is growing, no where to put students
- Students housed in portables
- No dedicated space for middle school
- Athletic facility needs/concerns
  - Track
  - Wrestling
  - Not enough gym or field practice space for all sports
  - Community uses district athletic facilities – adds to space issues

People understand the space and facility needs very clearly, don't think the community can shoulder the increased tax burden of doing anything about it

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A District with Perception Issues: Us vs. Them

- Reardan Elite
- Staff kids / generational family kids
- Old Reardan vs. New Reardan
- Spokane County vs. Lincoln County

"Generational farm families that have been here forever know that they aren't going anywhere, and that everyone else comes and goes. This creates a mindset that their opinions matter more than anyone else's."

"Our stuff doesn't pass because of Spokane county."

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A Community with Grudges

- Mascot Changes
- Edwall School Closing
- NE Property
- Spokane County vs. Lincoln County

"It's generational out here. If the Grandpa is mad, or the dad is mad about an issue, then the entire family won't vote for it."

"Our stuff doesn't pass because of Spokane county."

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A Community that Understands

- They see the need for space
- They see the need for facility improvements
- They see the need for more options

A community that understands the need for solutions, but can't afford the solution

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What is driving the "No"

- Not the district
- Geo-political factors
- Economic factors

There's no smoking gun here

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SWOT Analysis

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STRENGTHS: Positive, Within District Control

- Not a district in crisis
- Teachers, staff
- Perception that students are known, loved, learning
- Current facilities team and facility improvements
- "Doing the best with what they have"
- Students are getting a good education
- Cultural relationships are in good standing / improving
- Healthy School Board
- Good communication
- High graduation rates
- Grant and alternative funding efforts

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WEAKNESSES: Negative, Within District Control

- Perception problems
- Recent facility improvements
- Bus system
  - Length of routes
  - Shortage of drivers
- NE property
- Options Program
- Mascot changes

"They've done such a good job making the facilities look good that people aren't going to see the need to keep improving and updating facilities."

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OPPORTUNITIES: Positive, Outside District Control

- Activity busses
- School facilities as community facilities
- Getting newer people involved
- Cultural Liaisons to School Board

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THREATS: Negative, Outside District Control

- Current economic conditions
- Conservative community
- Grudge-holding community
- Geo-political issues in WA politics and education
- People don't understand how school funding works
- People want to support but don't think they can afford it

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QUESTIONS?

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