Reardan Edwall School District Discovery Process Report

- **Discovery Process Insights**
- **Community Survey Insights**

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Discovery Interview Report
The Process

Discovery Interviews

- **Conducted 17 interviews**
- **Spoke to 34 people**
  - Administrators
  - Principals
  - Teachers
  - Classified Staff
  - Board Members
  - Parents
  - Community Members
    - Reardan
    - NE Area
    - Tribal Representation

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Discovery Interview Report
The Process

Discovery Report

- Aggregated all Discovery Interview answers
- Analyzed and synthesized responses
- Reviewed district communication materials
  - General
  - Campaign related
- Reviewed Community Survey results
  - Reviewed summary report
  - Read full survey report
  - Read every verbatim comment
  - Analyzed and synthesized responses
- Aggregated Discovery and Survey results
- Analyzed for SWOT Report
- Informed strategic recommendations

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Discovery Interview Report
The Process

Questions Asked of all 34 Interviewees

- Affiliation with RESD.
- Affiliation with Reardan community.
- Introduction to Reardan community.
- What is RESD doing well?
- What is not going well in the district? What could RESD do better for students? The community? Your specific group?
- What are the greatest needs facing the district in the next 3 – 5 years?
- What are the greatest needs facing the community in the next 3 – 5 years?
- Involvement in previous ballot measures? Your experience with those measures?
- Do you think the community would support a bond right now? Why or why not?
- Who should be involved in a bond measure? Advocacy Committee?

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Community Survey
The Process

Community Survey

- Administered by Critical Data
- Administered using proprietary AI online chat tool
  - Cell phones
  - Computer / laptop
  - Tablet / notebook
- Completed 300 interviews
  - 197 parents and guardians who reside within the Reardan – Edwall District boundaries
  - 103 community residents
- Interviewed individuals in Spokane and Lincoln Counties
  - 171 Lincoln County
  - 129 Spokane county

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Aggregate Answers

Mentioned in greater than 50% of interviews

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Introduction to Reardan Community

- Traditionally rural, agrarian community
  - Corresponding values
- Close knit community
  - Small town feel
  - Small town values
- Community is growing
  - Bedroom / commuter populations
  - Military base populations
- Conservative population
  - Corresponding values
- Older populations
  - Loyal to tradition
  - Reluctant to change
- Reardan Royalty
  - Reardan Elite
  - The "right" names
  - Favoritism (town and district)
  - Closed off, cliquish, unwelcoming
- Several Communities represented in Reardan (town) and RESD
  - Russian Orthodox
  - Spokane Tribe
  - Agrarian
  - Military
  - High poverty
- Sports / athletics are a very big deal
- Volunteer / contributor fatigue

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Introduction to RESD

- Second largest district in WA
  - Geographically
  - Covers nearly 400 square miles
- 60% of student population comes from NE Area
  - Long student bus rides
  - Large voting population unaffiliated with town of Reardan, community, or district
- Not a high poverty district
  - Some members on the fringe
  - Not as prevalent as other areas
- Not a district in financial crisis
- Not a district in crisis
- Sports / athletics are a big deal

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What is RESD Doing Well?

- Facilities
  - Mentioned in every single interview
  - Pride in the aesthetic appearance of the school facilities
  - Jim and his team doing a fabulous job
- Not a district in crisis
  - Financial / budget
  - Public / community relations
  - Union or staff
- Healthy school board
- Communication
  - Transparency
  - Trust
  - Eric doing a good job
- Options program
  - Double-edged sword
- Teachers and staff
  - Teachers are qualified
  - Teachers teach well
  - Staff genuinely care about kids
  - My kids are known, safe, cared for
- Quality of education
  - My kids are educated well
  - High graduations rates
  - Kids get a good education and are prepared for life after school
- Alternative funding for projects
  - Grants
- Superintendent who lives in town
  - All principals too

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What could RESD be doing better?

- Space
  - Not enough classrooms
  - No dedicated middle school space
  - Not enough space for academics or athletics
  - Parking
- Facilities
  - Outdated, not up to code
  - In dire need of repair
  - Not ADA or access friendly
- Lack of athletic facilities / extra curricular facilities
  - Track
  - Wrestling
  - Band
  - Performing arts
- Bus system
  - Need more drivers
  - Need more routes
  - Kids ride busses for too long – especially littles
    - District is too big and spread out
- Reardan Royalty
  - Favoritism
    - "staff kids"
    - Generational families, kids with the right names
- Student behaviors
  - Mentioned across the board - Discovery and Survey – by teachers, parents, staff, residents
  - Behaviors are increasing, not enough funding or space to address the problems
- Options program
  - Takes resources from other students
  - Choice-in students, family doesn't vote

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What are the greatest needs facing the district in the next 3 – 5 years?

- Space / facilities
  - Dedicated middle school
  - Updated high school
  - More accommodating for ADA
  - Space for extra curriculars
    - Band
    - Choir
    - Performing arts
  - Space for athletics
    - Track
    - Wrestling
    - More practice fields
- Transportation
  - More drivers
  - More routes
  - Activity busses
- Cultural liaison
  - Liaison to the board / admin
    - Russian Orthodox
    - Tribal
    - Homeschool families

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What are the greatest needs facing the community in the next 3 – 5 years?

- Space / facilities
  - More practice fields
    - All sports
  - Youth sports
    - Practice facilities
    - Game facilities
  - Park
  - Community center
- Childcare
  - Before and after school care
  - No daycares or childcare in area
- Relationships
  - Connectedness between Reardan and other areas of district, specifically NE area
- Combat volunteer fatigue
  - Get newcomers involved
  - Create a more welcoming environment for newcomers to get involved

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What was your involvement in previous ballot measures?

- Community said we asked for too much
- Ask wasn't clear
- Ask was too opulent

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Do you think the community would support a bond right now? Why or why not?

"I would love to say an emphatic yes, but I can't. I don't know that it could pass. The economy is bad. People are thinking about every penny."

"No, because they just jacked up property tax again. People just cannot absorb the cost right now."

"It will pass in Lincoln County but not in Spokane County. I've watched Spokane County fail us and our issues my whole life."

"Reardan would support. I don't think the NE district will. Edwall is starting to vote favorably again, so maybe get out there to them."

"WA state just passed almost $3,000 in new taxes on people. I don't think people can afford it."

"Given the economic and political climate right now, I don't think it would pass."

"A high percentage of the voting area is very financially conservative and from a world view standpoint they don't trust public schools."

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If the district ran a bond, who should be involved in supporting it? In the advocacy campaign?

- Vocal farm families
- Stan and Jill
- Jack and Karen
- Generational families with grandkids in the schools
- Rich and Sandy Moose
- Go to the booster wall, and pick
- Nicole collier – out in NE she may know people who could join from that area
- Tommy and Anna Bocooks
- Josh Cobbs
- Craigs
- Jenny Wagner
- Virginia Henderson
- Vern and Denise bennet – don't have kids in the school but very supportive
- Teachers
- Staff
- Principals
- Lions club
- Athletic boosters
- Band boosters
- School board
- Students
  - **"It benefits them. We should use their voice to sell it."**

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Survey Insights

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Survey Insights

- People understand the need for more space
- People understand the current facility difficulties
- People understand the district is growing and changing
- People understand the current economic difficulties
  - WA State
  - Reardan
  - Education

"Improve the athletic facilities, specifically the track, update the high school building, make the entire campus more accessible for students and parents with mobility issues, build an auditorium with stage."

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Survey Insights

"High school modernization. Middle school addition. Build out of performing arts classrooms and spaces."

- People understand the increase in behavior problems and needed space / options to support students who are struggling, and those affected by the struggles
- People see the need for better / more / dedicated space for extracurriculars
  - Athletics
  - Performing arts
- People want more options for extracurriculars
  - Athletics
  - Extra curriculars

"Lack of extracurriculars. Currently, kids choose from choir or band. I'd like to see it increase to drama, STEM, art, and debate club, ASB."

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Survey Insights

The Good News
- Very few overtly negative comments
- No "gotcha" problems

- People aren't mad about the NE Property
  - Want the district to sell it
  - Aren't hoping for a school facility in that area
- People are largely unaware of how school funding works
- People want transparency in how bond and levy funds are used
- People thought the last ask was too much
  - Confusing
  - Opulent

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QUESTIONS?

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