PSD Middle School Consolidation Committee Update

Student Service Committee

November 2, 2026

Proud

Principled

Prepared

Current Status

SEPTEMBER 30

Full committee convened

Organizational meeting and working-group launch

OCTOBER

Community input collected

Survey launched; committee membership, assignments and initial FAQ shared

NOW

Working-group review

Six groups examine educational and operational questions

AHEAD

Findings and recommendations

Full committee review followed by Board consideration

Proud

Principled

Prepared

Community Survey - Who responded?

The survey received 317 responses.

RESPONDENT TYPE	Count	Share
Parents / guardians (including mixed and future-parent descriptions)	236	74%
Community members, alumni, grandparents, and other	41	13%
Teachers (including retired and substitute)	26	8%
Support or transportation staff	10	3%
Students	4	1%

CLOSEST SCHOOL CONNECTION	Count	Share
Multiple Pennridge schools	80	25%
South Middle School	76	24%
Pennridge elementary school(s)	74	23%
Central Middle School	30	9%
North Middle School	24	7%
Pennridge High School	23	7%
No direct school connection	10	3%

Ratings - Factors that the district should consider.

Educational quality is the leading priority.

Factor	Mean (1-5)	Rated 4–5
High-quality academic programs	4.85	95.9%
Appropriate class sizes	4.81	94.6%
School culture / sense of belonging	4.69	92.2%
Consistent access to programs	4.68	91.7%
Special education and student supports	4.60	88.4%
Classrooms and common-area capacity	4.59	89.6%
Student transitions	4.36	82.7%
Enrollment sustainability	4.30	78.4%
Staff transitions and transfers	4.23	78.8%
Balanced attendance boundaries	4.19	76.6%
Transportation times and logistics	4.15	76.1%
Short- and long-term finances	4.09	73.7%

Ratings - Areas of greatest concern.

Class size and functional capacity dominate concerns.

Potential Impact	Mean (1-5)	Rated 4–5
Potential class-size changes	4.58	87.0%
Classroom and common-space capacity	4.54	86.3%
Increased enrollment at remaining schools	4.46	84.0%
Academic programs and course offerings	4.33	81.9%
Special education / support services	4.18	75.9%
Student adjustment and belonging	4.04	72.7%
Long-term District financial impact	4.01	67.9%
Renovation / implementation costs	3.96	67.9%
Staff transfers / staffing changes	3.87	65.4%
School identity and traditions	3.71	61.1%
Attendance boundaries	3.69	58.6%
Transportation time changes	3.55	53.5%

Ratings – Variation between groups.

Parents and community were less concerned about staffing changes and more concerned with academic quality. Community members were more concerned that others about long-term finances.

Selected 1–5 rating	Parents	Teachers	Community
Importance: academic quality	4.90	4.77	4.83
Importance: class sizes	4.84	4.88	4.67
Importance: school belonging	4.75	4.85	4.44
Concern: classroom capacity	4.54	4.96	4.22
Concern: staffing changes	3.75	4.85	3.83
Concern: school identity	3.57	4.50	3.85
Concern: long-term finances	3.99	3.65	4.18

Ratings – Potential opportunities.

Consistency of academic programs and expanded opportunities dominate.

Potential opportunity	Selections	% of 273
More consistent academic programs	148	54.2%
Expanded extracurricular activities	109	39.9%
Expanded or improved electives	105	38.5%
More efficient staffing / resources	97	35.5%
More consistent student supports	92	33.7%
Potential operating-cost reductions	79	28.9%
Improved middle school schedules	77	28.2%
Improved intervention / enrichment / MTSS	73	26.7%
More efficient use of facilities	59	21.6%

Ratings – Student Transitions

Regular and timely communication rated highest.

Transition support	Mean (1-5)	Rated 4–5
Regular District communication	4.55	89.2%
Student visits to new school	4.41	83.1%
Orientation before school year	4.41	83.7%
Early boundary-change notification	4.41	84.2%
Meet teachers and staff	4.34	83.0%
Parent / guardian information sessions	4.25	78.7%
Early transportation information	4.21	77.1%
Meet students from other schools	4.09	72.2%
Student input in transition	4.07	71.1%
Shared school identity activities	4.03	72.6%
Counseling / transition supports	3.92	67.3%

Themes from written responses.

Spaces & daily operations

Classrooms, cafeterias, hallways, scheduling and activity participation

Enrollment & finances

Housing growth, updated projections, costs, savings and alternatives

Student experience

Belonging, friendships, previous redistricting and school identity

Programs & staffing

Course access, student services, workload and instructional supports

Communication & process

Questions, public information, transparency and feedback

Working Group Activities

Academic Programs & Scheduling

STATUS TO DATE

Reviewed previous scheduling work and completed a SWOT covering instruction, MTSS, electives, special education, ELD and staffing.

NEXT FOCUS

Collect staff input; review course needs and project additional class sections at Central and North. Next meeting on November 5th.

Facilities, Operations & Logistics

STATUS TO DATE

Reviewed deliverables and potential ICS and PEL support. Toured North Middle School on October 23rd. Central Middle School tour October 30th.

NEXT FOCUS

Assess potential projects, costs, technology and safety.
Waiting on PEL review of updated enrollment numbers.

Staffing & Human Resources

STATUS TO DATE

Initial leadership team has met to review a tentative timeline for establishing staffing plan including review of certifications.

NEXT FOCUS

Examine staffing allocations based on sectioning analysis, instructional support requirements and personnel transition needs.

Working Group Activities

Transportation & Boundaries

STATUS TO DATE

Meeting held with group leaders to develop timeline and planning needs.

- Reviewed Timeline for implementation
- Reviewed potential impact on bussing

NEXT FOCUS

Confirm initial route, attendance-boundary and transportation analysis priorities.
Review Transfinder boundary proposals.

Student Transition & Culture

STATUS TO DATE

Meeting will be held on November 10 to review several items.

- Transition activities from rezoning
- Timeline for planning
- Additional ideas for middle school

NEXT FOCUS

Convene the group; establish priorities for student belonging, orientation and transition supports.

Communications & Engagement

STATUS TO DATE

Established a shared reporting tracker and requested updates and communication contacts from all six working groups.

NEXT FOCUS

Consolidate verified summaries for public updates, the committee webpage and FAQs.

Next Steps

Working Groups Continue — **November-December**

Full Committee Meeting — **November 16, 2026**

Community Engagement — **Ongoing**

- Updated FAQs and a new online form for questions, suggestions, and information for the committee.