



Long Range Planning Committee Contemplates High Schools and Future Bond Projects

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) discussed potential capital projects during their regular meeting on November 28 in the event that the School Board decides the time is right for a Capital Bond. Most notably, the Long Range Planning Committee discussed possible high school learning spaces to address growing enrollment at West Linn and Wilsonville High Schools.

In preparation for a potential Capital Bond, the School Board commissioned a 10-year enrollment forecast last spring, giving the district and LRPC student growth projections across the West Linn-Wilsonville School District. The Long Range Planning Committee also completed capacity analyses of all of the district's schools this fall to account for changes to school buildings and schedules.

During the meeting, members of the LRPC addressed those two recent reports, noting a clear need for future learning space at the primary level in Wilsonville and at the high school level in both West Linn and Wilsonville. In the School Board's adoption of Board Goal No. 4, the Long Range Planning Committee's purpose is to monitor school and community growth as well as project district facility needs.

LRPC members noted that the need for additional high school learning spaces has been known for a number of years as they have watched enrollment numbers climb across the district and at the two comprehensive high schools. Those factors, in addition to direction from the School Board, caused the LRPC to begin discussing the future of high school in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District.

Possible High School Options

Currently, the district has three high schools — West Linn High School, Wilsonville High School, and a smaller option high school, Arts and Technology High School, that typically has enrollment around 100 students. Enrollment projections show that West Linn High School could eclipse 2,000 students while Wilsonville High School will approach 1,700 students by 2028. Concurrently, the lease for Arts and Technology High School is set to expire in 2022 and a new location will be needed.

Superintendent Dr. Kathy Ludwig laid out two possible options for future high school learning spaces during the November 28 Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) meeting, adding that there could be other possibilities if the LRPC, School Board, and community have ideas or suggestions.

One possibility: Expand the district's two comprehensive high schools

The district could expand both West Linn and Wilsonville high schools to accommodate for growth. This option includes adding classrooms as an annex or a new floor at either high school. While additional classrooms can be added, LRPC members noted that extra classrooms impact core facilities. At what point would there be a need for another gym, cafeteria, additional parking or more common spaces?

Another possibility: Expand the district's Arts & Technology High School

Another option would involve expanding the enrollment of Arts and Technology High School from its current 100 students to approximately 500 students. The new size would still maintain a smaller feel than the other high schools; and, the increased enrollment could allow for expanded courses and programs to be offered at the school.

New Facility needed for Arts & Technology High School

The current building lease for Arts & Technology High School expires in 2022. Whether the school stays at an enrollment size of 100 students or expands, the Long Range Planning Committee explored three options for a future location:

- **Lease/Purchase.** Lease or purchase a commercial space large enough to house a high school program (100-500 students) and flexible enough to accommodate a variety of learning options.
- **Build.** Find a centrally located 20-40 acre piece of property where the district can build a high school (100-500 students) that would accommodate a variety of learning options and expand for future growth.
- **Relocate.** Relocate Arts & Technology High School into an existing school building facility and build a new school for the one that would be moved. This would only be considered by LRPC and the School Board if clear benefits could be identified for both schools. Such a location may be Athey Creek Middle School. Using its central location for a new and expanded third high school would make more programs available to high school students from across the school district. A new facility for Athey Creek Middle School could be built on the 21-acre lot that the district owns on Dollar Street in West Linn. The Dollar Street site for Athey Creek Middle School allows it to become a neighborhood school, where students could walk or bike to school. A new Athey Creek Middle School could also be built with a larger capacity to accommodate future projected growth at the middle school level.

No Boundary Changes for Middle School or High School with these options

Each of the future high school possibilities and location options for Arts & Technology High School that the Long Range Planning Committee discussed did not involve a boundary change for middle or high school.

Other Potential Capital Projects Under a Future Capital Bond

The Long Range Planning Committee also discussed other major projects that could appear on a Capital Bond. These projects are listed in no prioritized order.

New Performing Arts Center at Wilsonville High School — Wilsonville High School is outgrowing its current performing arts facility. A new theater was considered in past capital improvement project lists. A new performing arts center would also allow for additional classroom space to take over where the current theater resides in the building, increasing enrollment capacity at Wilsonville High School.

Safety and Security Upgrades — Safety and security is the district’s top priority. The School Board’s community-appointed Safety Advisory Committees recently provided a report regarding potential safety upgrades across the district in addition to a number of projects district staff has planned.

Expanded Parking at West Linn High School — Parking at West Linn High School has been discussed in the community for a number of years. There is space for adding parking at the south student lot of the campus.

Primary School in Wilsonville — The recent enrollment data shows a need for another primary school in Wilsonville to accommodate growth in the Frog Pond area. This school would be built on the district’s 10-acre property on Boeckman Road where the CREST Farm was previously located.

Expanded Stadium at West Linn High School — WLHS attendance at athletic events and student activities has outgrown the current stadium’s capacity. An expanded stadium would allow for more seating for the community and students during school events.

Technology Upgrades — The district has a history of using school bonds to keep technology and student learning up-to-date. Money from a future bond would be used to upgrade current district systems and both increase and update existing technology resources for students.

Districtwide Improvements — Districtwide improvements include accessible playgrounds, air conditioning and other upgrades across West Linn-Wilsonville schools.

NEXT STEPS: UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUMS FOR POSSIBLE HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING SPACES

The community is invited to take part in a “focus group” forum to hear and provide feedback on the possible high school learning spaces including a new facility location for Arts & Technology High School.

The Board will consider all community feedback, including direction from the Long Range Planning Committee, as it continues its exploration of a Capital Bond and potential projects.

December 4 — The first forum will be held Tuesday, Dec. 4 starting at 6 p.m. at Rosemont Ridge Middle School. This forum is expected to end at 7:30 p.m.

December 5 — The second forum will be held Wednesday, Dec. 5 starting at 6 p.m. at Meridian Creek Middle School. This forum is expected to end at 7:30 p.m.