



WCA Educational Focus Groups - North Elementary

Date: September 23, 2024

Executive Summary

This report summarizes insights gathered from focus groups involving various stakeholders at North Elementary, highlighting critical needs and desired improvements in the school environment.

Key Issues Identified:

1. Safety and Security

- Security measures need enhancement, particularly at vulnerable access points like classroom doors, windows and the placement of the main office. Building currently has an excessive amount of daily used access points. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of a secure entry point to improve safety for students and staff.

2. Ventilation and Comfort

- Significant issues with classroom ventilation and temperature control were reported, impacting student health and learning conditions. Stakeholders expressed a strong need for indoor air quality and controls.

3. Restroom Facility Upgrades

- Restroom facilities are not ADA compliant and require updates. The need for cleanable flooring, adequate fixture counts, and individual restrooms was highlighted across various groups.
- Plumbing is outdated. Concerns over odor in the building around bathroom areas. Toilets do not flush properly.

4. Playground and Outdoor Areas

- The current playground lacks appropriate surfacing and safety measures. Stakeholders advocated for more age-appropriate equipment and enclosed spaces for indoor play during inclement weather.

5. Space Utilization

- While many classrooms are well-sized and functional, there is a desire for better storage solutions and mixed flooring to accommodate different activities. The library is underutilized and needs enhancements to become a more inviting space. Underutilized spaces like the STEM room, stage and lockerrooms could be repurposed.

6. General Infrastructure

- Maintenance concerns, particularly regarding plumbing, heating, and electrical systems, were prevalent. Many areas, including the kitchen and restrooms, require significant upgrades to meet current needs.

Conclusion

The focus groups underscored a strong consensus on the need for immediate action to enhance the safety, comfort, and educational environment at North Elementary. Addressing these concerns is vital for supporting both student well-being and effective teaching practices.