



WCA Educational Focus Groups – Secondary School

Date: September 26, 2024

Executive Summary

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

General Themes:

- The district is praised for its staff and education, but facilities need improvement to match their dedication.
- Key facility issues include outdated aesthetics (branding), insufficient breakout spaces, lack of storage, poor athletic field conditions, and SPED space shortages.
- Students and staff desire updated facilities to take pride in their school.
- Students feel as though their education and activity interests are not supported by the community.

Key Issues Identified:

1. Building and Grounds:

- Outdated aesthetics and finishes that don't reflect the school image.
- Insufficient storage across the school.
- Requests for improvements in PE storage, counseling areas, greenhouses, and classrooms (e.g., meat cutting, AG program).

2. Athletic Facilities:

- Lack of restrooms and running water at fields.
- Requests for track and turf upgrades around the football field.
- Inadequate practice fields and tennis courts.
- Interest in adding a community fitness room and additional wrestling space.

3. Student and Staff Experience:

- SPED classrooms and breakout areas are insufficient.
- Poor lighting, acoustics, and lack of private spaces for behavioral discussions.
- Staff and students note a lack of spaces for small group work and activities.

4. **Technology and Security (district wide):**

- Outdated wiring and limited power access, making the integration of modern teaching tools difficult.
- Security issues with too many building access points and poor door frames.
- New technology is needed across classrooms, especially in older buildings.

5. **Specific Group Feedback:**

- **Students:** Enjoy some spaces but see the need for improvements, especially in athletic facilities, commons areas, and outdoor spaces.
- **Teachers and Admin:** Concerns about space limitations, outdated aesthetics, and a lack of breakout rooms for small groups.
- **Paraprofessionals:** Struggle with space for student interventions, using hallways and common areas for learning is not ideal.
- **Music:** Need for improved acoustic separation and dedicated storage space for instruments and other resources.

Conclusion:

While the district excels due to its people, there is a widespread desire for facility upgrades to improve aesthetics, functionality, and pride in the school. Key areas for improvement include SPED spaces, athletic facilities, storage, and furniture.