

Task Force Committee

Meeting No. 4

West Central Area School District

Location: Secondary School Media Center

Date: January 8, 2025

WIDSETH
ARCHITECTS ■ ENGINEERS





Meeting No. 4 Agenda

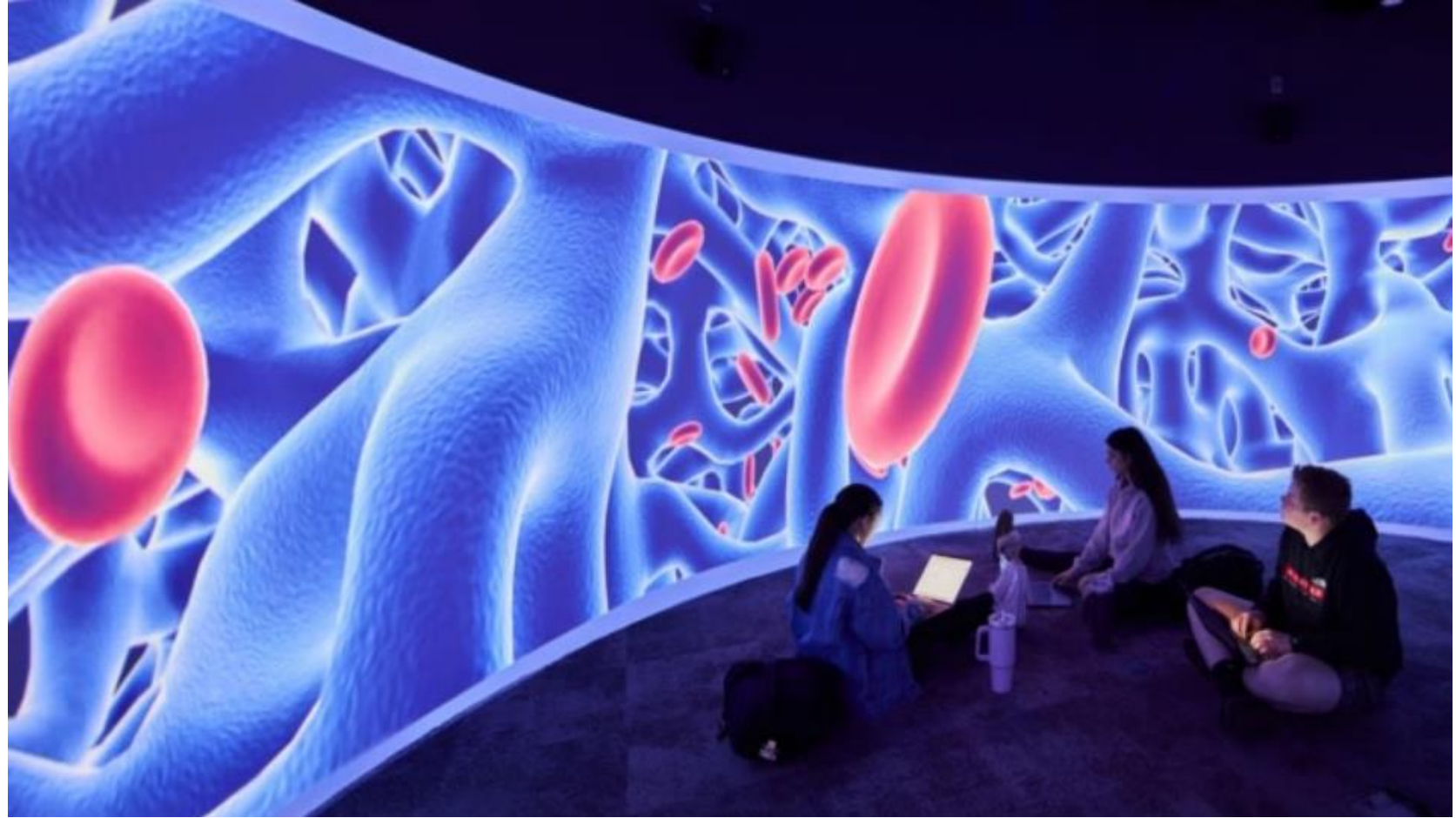
- Previous Meeting Minutes
- Educational Trends
- District's Strategic Road Map
- Strategic Directions
- Homework
- Next Meeting

Educational Trends Presentation



Today's Educational Experience

January 8, 2025



Site Design Safety



Baxter Elementary- Baxter, MN Brainerd Public School District

- Three dedicated site accesses
- Bus- Parents- Staff
- Bus loop used as hard surface play
- Signage and site lighting
- Ample green space

Site Design Elementary School



North Start Elementary School- Virginia, MN Rock Ridge School District

The staff at Rock Ridge determined through brainstorming sessions, the need for outdoor play space that could be accessible year-round. The use of materials, exterior lighting, and equipment allowed ample artificial green space to be used throughout the school year. Located in the heart of Virginia, MN, this outdoor space now acts as a recreational destination for the entire city.

- Year-round turf
- Rubber playground surface
- Site lighting
- Community access

Branding and Aesthetics



Baxter Elementary- Baxter, MN Brainerd Public School District

- Exterior cladding colors
- School district logo
- Building lighting
- Accessible main entrance
- Built-in seating
- Secure entrance

Branding and Aesthetics



Pillager School

- District colors
- School district logo



Perham High School

- Mascot display
- Warm welcoming wood tones
- Display and history

Elementary Commons



Another owner driven design feature of the Rock Ridge School District is the availability to indoor play space. Northern MN winters can be unpredictable, and having space for students to access during inclement weather was a main idea generated by teacher discussion groups. Laurentian Elementary school offers a two-level indoor play space equipped with green turf, slides, and climbing opportunities

- Biophilia
- Natural daylighting
- Physical activity
- Two-story access

Elementary Commons



North Star Elementary – Virginia, MN

- Physical activity
- Energetic colors

- Variety of seating options
- Natural daylighting



- Flexibility

Special Education and Early Childhood



North Star Elementary – Virginia, MN



Warroad High School – Warroad, Mn

- Furniture options
- Access to technology
- Breakout spaces
- Special education spaces
- Flexibility

The New Elementary Design



North Star Elementary – Virginia, MN Rock Ridge School District

- Physical activity
- Energetic colors
- Indoor play options
- Green room

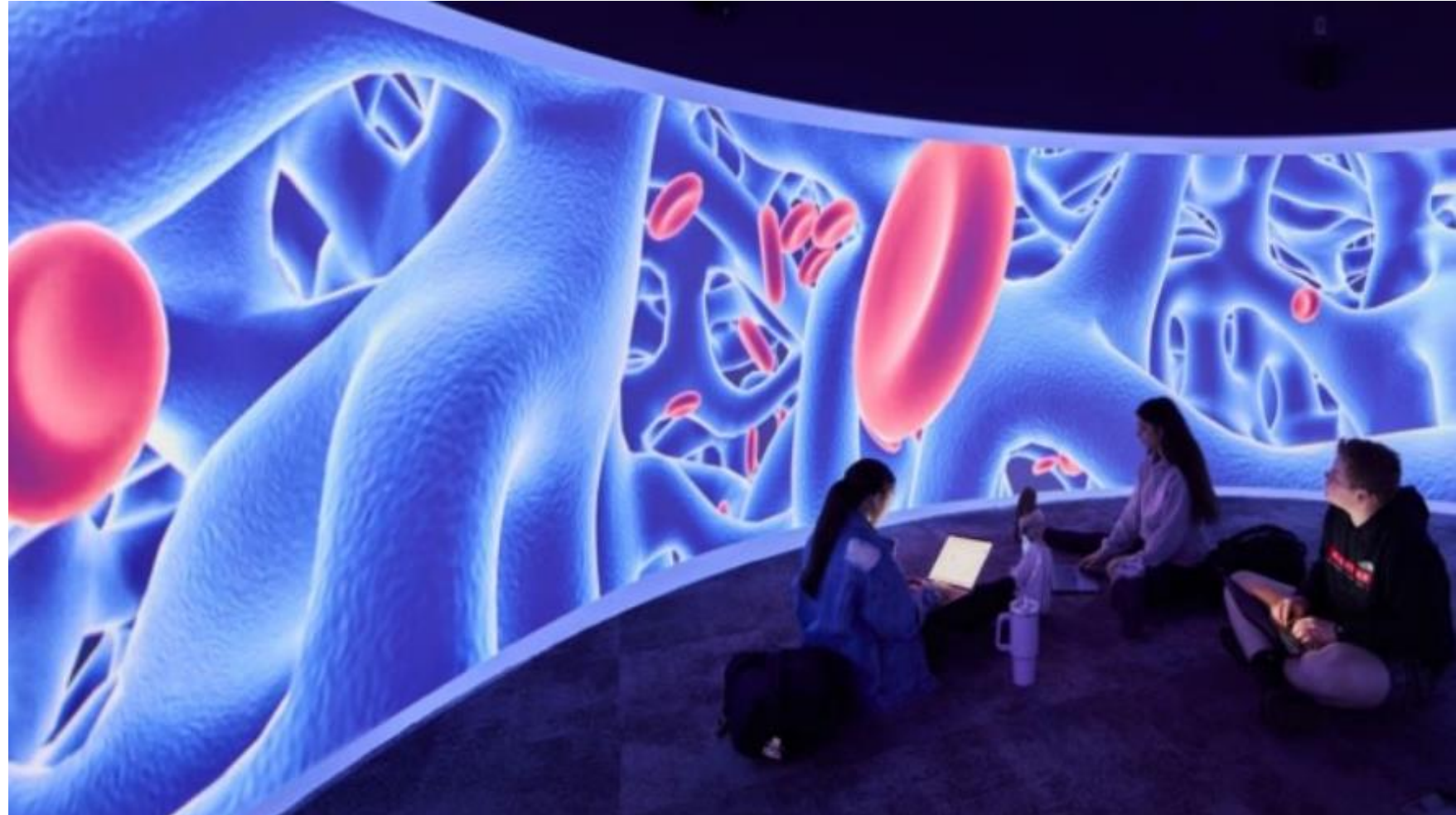


- Podcast studio

The New Elementary Design



- Solarium
- Hydroponics



- Green house
- Community classrooms
- Outdoor classrooms
- AI classroom studios

High School Commons

The evolution of a traditional school cafeteria has been an exciting change to see. Before, space that was only utilized only a portion of the day, is now a central gathering space. With the help of furniture, technology, and access to power, these reimaged spaces offer spaces for small meetings, independent study or online course, transparency into learning spaces, and visual access for supervision.



Brainerd High School- Brainerd, MN

- Natural daylighting
- Wayfinding and signage
- Student services
- Meeting rooms
- Flexibility
- Furniture options

High School Commons



Crosby- Ironton Secondary School- Crosby, MN

- Food court furniture
- School announcements
- Independent decision making
- Branding and aesthetics
- Event management
- Higher utilization

Universal Design



Crosby-Ironton Secondary School- Crosby, MN



North Star Elementary – Virginia, MN

- Single lockable toilet rooms
- ADA-compliant
- Open for monitoring

Career & Technical Education (CTE)



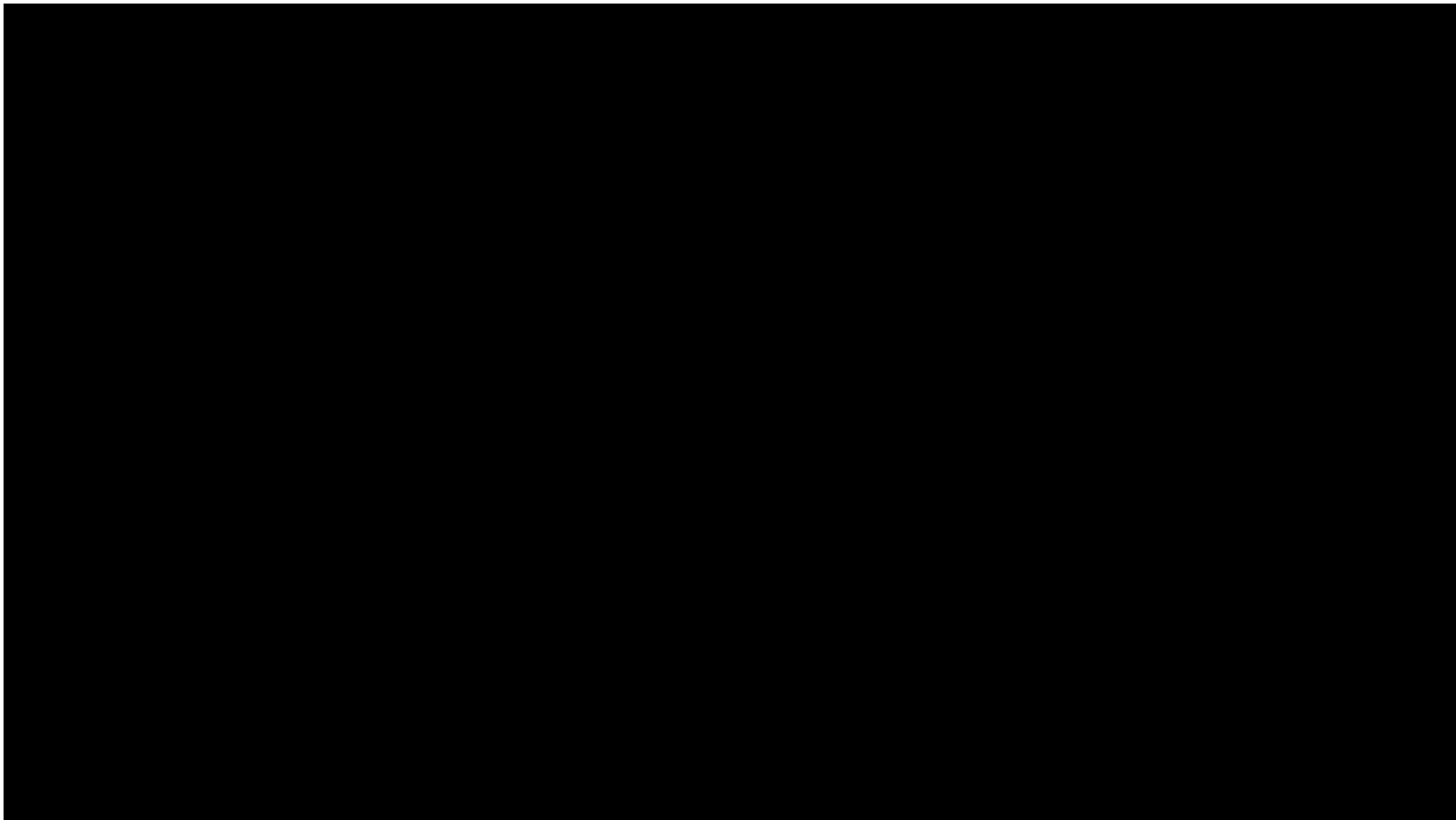
CTE programs integrate core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge and skills. These spaces allow students hands-on experiences with modern technology and equipment. Often, we are seeing local industry partners step up and help provide training for tomorrow's workforce.

- Industry connections
- Real-world experience
- Career exploration
- Academic and technical knowledge

Career & Technical Education (CTE)



Career & Technical Education (CTE)



Career & Technical Education (CTE)



- AG and Energy classroom
- Mobile partition walls
- Direct connection between classroom and lab
- Academic and technical knowledge

Discussion on Educational Trends



Review of District's Strategic Road Map



- Mission Statement
- Vision Statement
- Core Values
- Strategic Directions



West Central Area Schools

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

February 1, 2023

Mission Statement

Our Core Purpose

To challenge and support our students, staff, and families in each person's growth as a lifelong learner and a successful and engaged citizen of our community



Vision Statement

What We Intend to Create

Working together to be a magnet school that develops each student's full potential

Core Values

Drivers of Our Words and Actions

Collaboration	We all do better when we work together
Excellence	Doing our best in all we do
Commitment	Keeping promises and exceeding expectations
Learning	Embracing change, challenge, and growth
Integrity	Having the courage to do the right thing

Strategic Directions

Focus of Our Continuous Improvement

- A. Enhancing and aligning curriculum and instruction to improve student outcomes
- B. Developing and implementing a comprehensive facility plan to support learning and growth
- C. Communicating effectively to improve family and community engagement
- D. Providing innovative programming to attract students and improve student readiness
- E. Investing in and attracting staff to create a collaborative environment that supports personal and professional growth



Mentimeter

Questions and Discussions



Task Force Groups

Strategic Directions



Strategic Directions

1. Break out into 5 Groups
2. Each group has an assigned table in the cafeteria
3. Each group to focus on one Strategic Direction and questions associated with this Direction.
4. Discuss ideas as a group and take these questions home with you.
5. Task Force Meeting #5 your groups will reconvene to work through a path based on your Strategic Direction.
6. The group will share a collective path at the end of Task Force Meeting #5.

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Group A: Knights



Enhancing and aligning
curriculum and
instruction to improve
student outcomes.



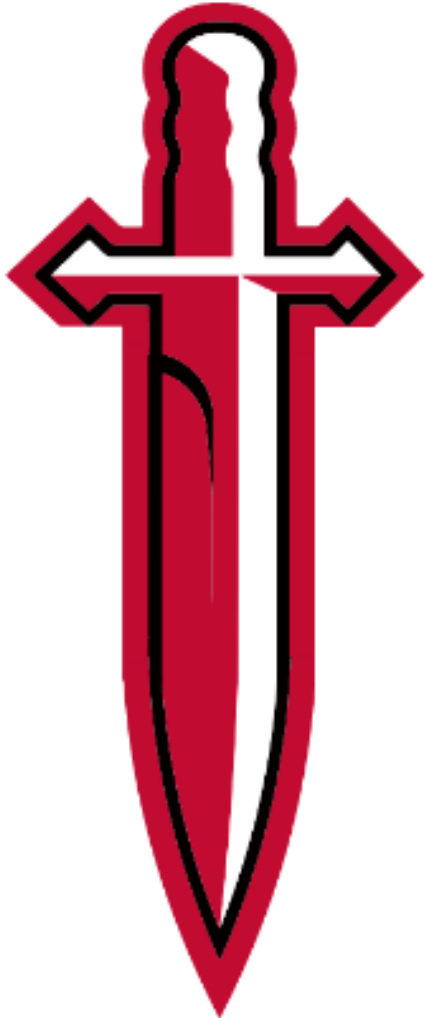
Group A: Knights

Enhancing and aligning curriculum and instruction to improve student outcomes.



- A. Provide examples of how curriculum excelling today.
- B. How do you want to see the learning environment improved for WCA students?
- C. Are there curriculum examples from other districts that we may want to adopt or consider?
- D. If so, are there physical spaces that would need to be added or renovated to accomplish this?
- E. What is the workforce of your communities and how can WCA prepare students to enter this work force?
- F. How could the curriculum change to better prepare students to join the local workforce?
- G. How could the curriculum change to better prepare students for higher education?

Group B: Swords



Developing and implementing
a comprehensive facility plan
to support learning and
growth.



Group B: Swords

Developing and implementing a comprehensive facility plan to support learning and growth.



- A. Provide examples of how the facilities are supporting learning and growth of WCA students today.
- B. How specifically could you add to the Elementary and Secondary environment to enhance learning and growth?
- C. What are other school district buildings providing to their students that WCA could provide for their students? Example: A school farm.
- D. Thinking outside of today's learning, how could a facility of the future provide a unique educational experience for a WCA student?

Example: AI classroom for immersive online education.

Group C: Helmets



Communicating
effectively to improve
family and community
engagement.



Group C: Helmets

Communicating effectively to improve family and community engagement.



- A. How do you want someone to feel upon their first impression of your school district, regardless of which building they visit?
- B. What needs to be changed in order for that to happen?
- C. In lieu of asking the communities to support the school district, how can the school district begin to support the communities?
 - I. Are there current services in the communities that need skilled workers? Example: EMT service.
 - II. Are there current industry businesses that need skilled workers? Example: Ag businesses. (but be specific)
 - III. Are there ways that the school district can extend educational opportunities to both the students and community members?
- D. If you could create the ideal community school, what would that look like for WCA? Be specific.

Group D: Shields



Providing innovative programming to attract students and improve student readiness.



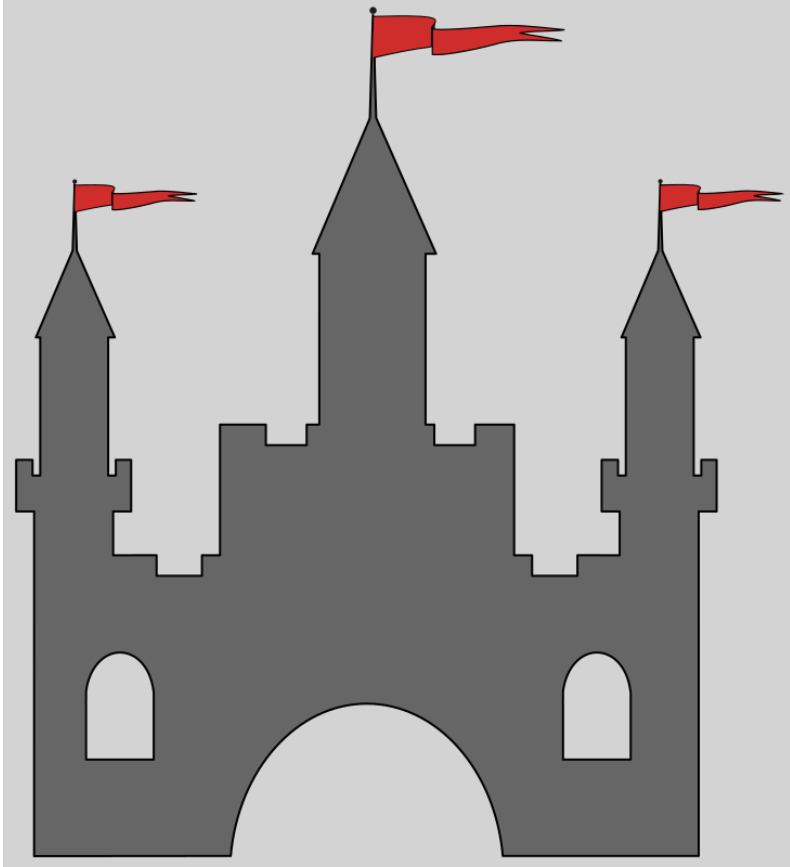
Group D: Shields

Providing innovative programming to attract students and improve student readiness.



- A. What are innovative programs in the school district currently? Example: Meat cutting.
- B. What changes to the facility could be made to enhance these existing innovative programs?
- C. What program are not currently provided, that could be added to attract students? (Be specific)
Example: STEM, coding, and robotics.
- D. What specific spaces would need to be created in order to support these new innovative programs?
- E. If you could create the ideal building for innovation, what would that look like for WCA?
(Dream BIG)

Group E: Castles

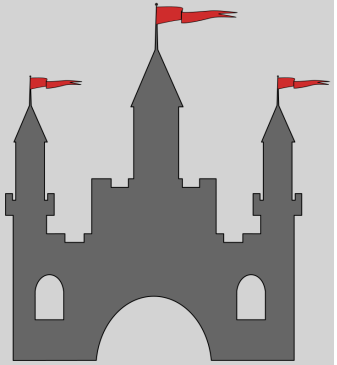


Investing in and attracting staff to create a collaborative environment that supports personal and professional growth.



Group E: Castles

Investing in and attracting staff to create a collaborative environment that supports personal and professional growth.



- A. How can the facilities and programs attract staff?
- B. What is a good working environment for a teacher?
- C. What needs to change with our current facilities to accomplish that?
- D. What physical changes could be made to our schools to improve teacher collaboration?
- E. What virtual changes could be made to improve teacher collaboration?
- F. How would a one-site model impact staff in a positive way?

Task Force Schedule

Task Force Meeting No. 5

- Date: January 22nd, 2025
- Time: 6pm-8pm

