

Facility Master Plan

Leadership Team Meeting #5

Newton Public Schools USD 373

May 7, 2025 @6:00pm

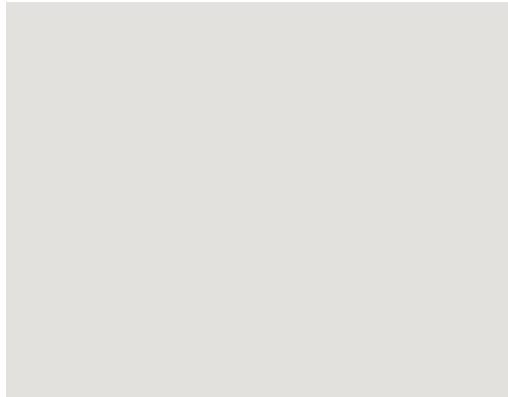
Facilitated by:

Ginna Wallace, Planner

Todd White, Education Planner

NEWTON

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Meeting Agenda

	I. Process Foundation ☐ Process Expectations and Board of Education Guidance ☐ Meeting 5 Summary and Parking Lot Update	5 Min
	II. New Information ☐ District Financial Spotlight ☐ Elementary Discussion ☐ Draft Recommendation Boards	30 Min
	III. Committee Input ☐ Discuss planning for public input and final product	50 Min
	IV. Next Steps ☐ Parking Lot ☐ Social Pinpoint and Homework ☐ Process Update	5 Min

Tonight's Goal: Prepare for Public Input



Process Foundation

Process

Throughout the Process:

7 Leadership Team Meeting

(November 2024 to June 2025)

Public Input

(May 2025)

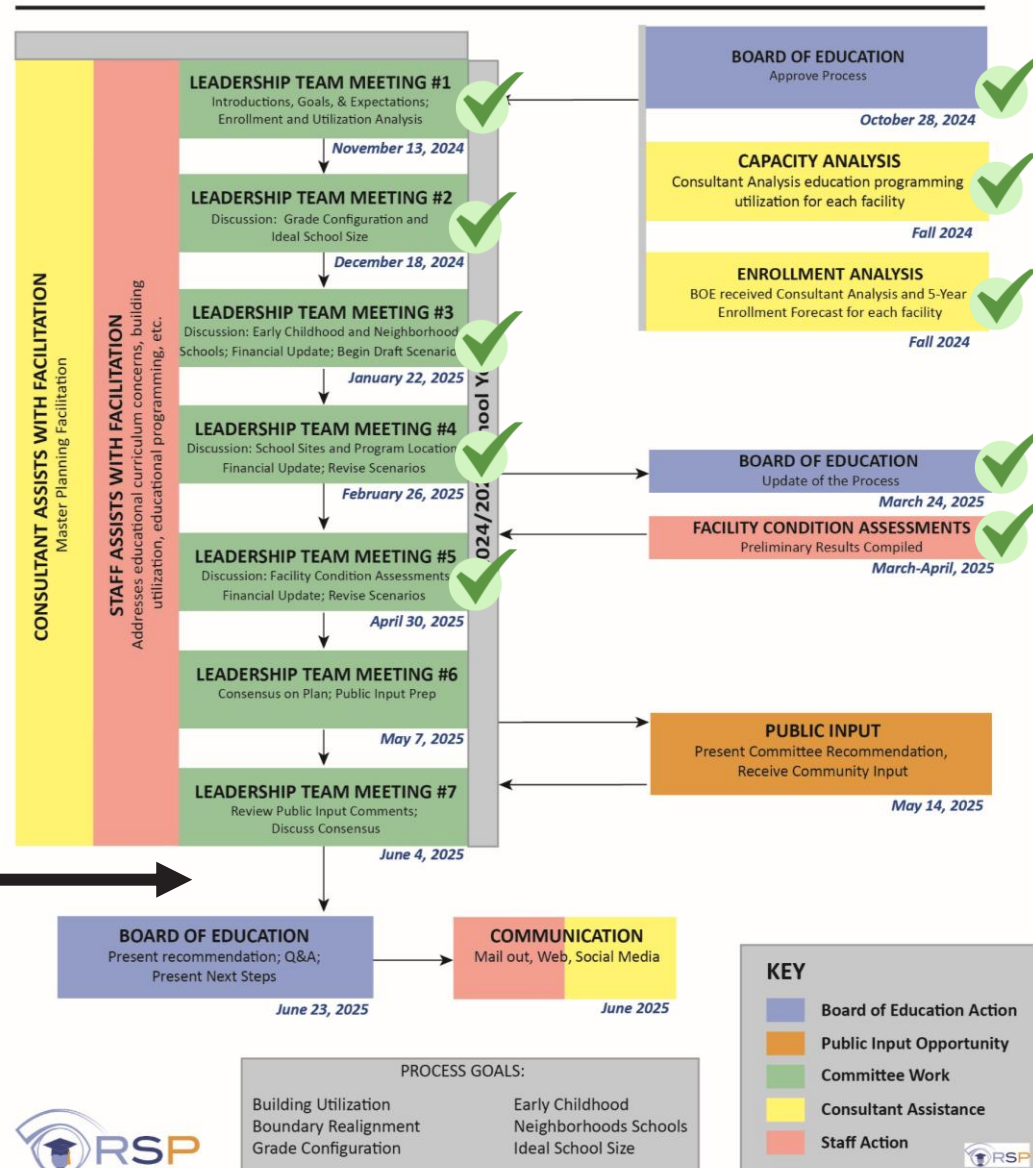
3 Board meetings

(October, March, and June)

RSP assists with facilitation and analysis throughout the entire process



COMPREHENSIVE FACILITY PLANNING PROCESS



Board Approved 10/28/2024



Process Guiding Principles

The following are potential Guiding Principles to consider for the Facility Blueprint Process:

- ☐ The Board will consider the committee work as part of **long-range District planning**
- ☐ The future Facility Blueprint should provide even **better educational opportunities** at each school to ensure an equitable student experience at each school
- ☐ The Facility Blueprint Process may include an evaluation of (but not limited to):
 - Attendance areas or grade centers
 - Ideal grade configuration
 - Optimal facility utilization
 - Current and future student programming need
 - Financial opportunities for implementation
- ☐ The Facility Blueprint implementation will include solutions in the following areas (but not limited to):
 - Building utilization (how many sections, teams, and/or students in a building)
 - Programming (special education, multi-lingual, student activities, STEM focused, etc.)
 - How building are utilized (grade centers, neighborhood centers, etc.)
 - Implementation (building inventory need, program delivery, attendance area plan, timeline, funding, etc.)



Board Approved 10/28/2024

100% committee support 11/13/24

Committee Belief Statements

Facility Needs

All students will have access to facilities that support their academic and personal growth today and tomorrow.



100% support at Meeting #3

Program Offerings

Students will have strong foundational skills that will enable them to succeed in a variety of program offerings. USD 373 will continue to provide students access to a variety of program options in academics, athletics, activities, CTE, and post-secondary skills training.



100% support at Meeting #4

Student Experience

We believe in fostering growth and community pride, striving to maintain smaller class sizes in the primary grades, embracing students as they grow, and providing supportive, inclusive environments that prepare every student for success in school and beyond.



100% support at Meeting #4

Meeting #5 Summary

- Received overview of Facility Condition Assessments
- Participated in small group discussion on facility needs at each building (HIGH LEVEL)

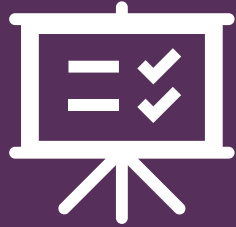
				Project Cost Estimates (DRAFT)				
Building	Functional Capacity	24/25 Official Enrollment	Utilization Percent	Life Cycle	Life Cycle Mechanical	Future Planning	Other	TOTAL
Cooper Early Ed Center	176	251	142.6%	\$ 1,209,783.33	\$ 125,000	\$ 2,490,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 3,869,783
Northridge Elementary	234	184	78.6%	\$ 1,831,682.67	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ 190,000	\$ 2,101,683
Slate Creek Elementary	234	212	90.6%	\$ 924,600	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 4,544,600
South Breeze Elementary	351	279	79.5%	\$ 1,888,466.67	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 5,473,467
Sunset Elementary	234	199	85.0%	\$ 1,928,133.33	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 141,000	\$ 5,569,133
Santa Fe Center	455	433	95.2%	\$ 523,000	\$ 708,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 417,000	\$ 1,733,000
Chisholm Middle	504	417	82.7%	\$ 2,572,642	\$ 200,000	\$ 10,050,000	\$ 247,000	\$ 13,069,642
Newton High	1,083	928	85.7%	\$ 6,442,080	\$ 214,000	\$ 16,925,000	\$ 710,000	\$ 24,291,080
NHS Auto				\$ 245,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 34,125	\$ 354,125
NHS Brooks				\$ 402,500	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 608,500
NHS Maintenance				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
NHS VOAG				\$ 358,400	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ 615,900
Other buildings (District Service, Walton, McKinley)				\$ 398,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310,000	\$ 708,890
Core Facility Total	3,271	2,903	88.7%	\$ 17,320,388	\$ 1,327,000	\$ 40,050,000	\$ 1,955,000	\$ 60,652,388
NHS CTE Buildings				\$ 1,005,900	\$ 325,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 132,625	\$ 1,613,525
All Building Total	3,271	2,903	88.7%	\$ 18,725,178	\$ 1,652,000	\$ 40,200,000	\$ 2,397,625	\$ 62,974,803

Source: Capacity and enrollment from RSP; Cost estimates from Gravity::Works (04/30/2025)

Projects listed were identified by architect as three categories:

- Life Cycle (LC)
- Life Cycle Mechanical (LCM)
- Future Planning (FP)
- Other (Blank)

Other educational improvement project(s) should be considered.



New Information

Meeting #5 Survey Results: Cooper EEC

Facility Needs:	• Roof, end of life cycle mechanical work, storm shelter. This will keep a vulnerability from becoming a disaster, should a hazard present itself. • I recommend not spending any money on Cooper and moving to other facilities • Lead Removal - Safety of Students and Staff • Adequate FEMA shelter - student access to facility for safety
Program Offerings:	• Closing facility and adding pre-k to our elementaries • Anything structural and safety related • Remove the lead • Repair/Replace roof. • adequate FEMA shelter • Anything to do with safety and accessibility are necessary
Student Experience:	• Roof replacement, sump pump and floor drains in basement, exterior restoration - helps ensure that the contents inside the building stay dry and safe • Storm shelter and space. Their is not the space to support academic growth now and in the future. The old classrooms do not have bathrooms in the rooms which makes potty training and staff ratios difficult when staff and students have to leave the room • Our group discussed integrating pre-k 4 into each school creating more room at cooper and balancing the functional capacity at each school • Truthfully, Cooper needs a new building, but that is highly unlikely considering the needs across the district, so we need a new roof (both sides of the building) and the basement water retention taken care of to keep students growing academically. • It is imperative the lead removal, door hardware that provides ADA compliance and security be addressed. The students, their families, and school staff deserve to participate in a safe and secure environment.

Source: RSP and Newton Facility Planning; results exported from Social Pinpoint 05/06/2025

Meeting #5 Survey Results: Elementary Schools

Facility Needs:	• Roof replacement, storm shelters, ADA compliance • Adequate FEMA shelter • Hardening of storm shelters and exterior maintenance items • Storm shelters at all schools/ safety and security • Update Storm shelter	• Adequate FEMA shelters • Upgrade Storm Shelter • Maintain current buildings, work on updating critical areas like roofs and shelters. • Storm shelters at all schools/ safety and security
	• Storm shelter needs and a lot of money to keep the building going for future generations. • Roofs, end of life mechanical replacements, storm shelters. This will keep our students save allow them to continue to grow. • Roof replacements, exterior work, ADA compliance (actually everything listed) - addresses basic building needs to ensure everything inside the building stays dry and safe • The accessibility and increased safety for students and staff is possible by the upgrades of ADA and security hardware for doorways within the respective elementary schools. • Fix the water intrusions; seal exterior walls, replace windows, repair/replace roofs. Secure front entrances. Upgrade existing storm shelter/provide new if none. • Anything to do with safety and accessibility are necessary. • Each building is in need a new roof and storm shelter. Northridge has asked for an ADA ramp to SPED classroom for years. Currently uses a makeshift wood wobble one. • Each of these buildings appear to need a new roof and appropriate storm shelters to be safe for students.	
Program Offerings:	• To varied with space in one building and overflowing in another • FEMA Shelter - hopefully this can be in the form of additional classrooms to give schools more flexibility with programming needs • Playground equipment and outdoor play areas need to be examined and maintained regularly, for the well being of users and their care providers. • I think playground safety is key to protecting our students. • Music and Art together has been a great experience for northridge. Add to other elementaries. • Supplemental offerings for students who need extended learning, such as foreign language, coding, etc. • Alternative learning options for students with extreme needs. • FEMA shelter	
Student Experience:	• Seclusion rooms, repair/replace playground as needed. • Redraw attendance boundaries to even out enrollment numbers. • 1 block vs. 2 block schools and competitiveness of schools coming together later is difficult. • Playground equipment replacement - ensures higher engagement and safety for students when they are outside at recess • Students and staff will be the beneficiaries of the above mentioned key projects, while they are in school. This would continue for future generations. • Continually disruptive students need to be removed from regular classrooms. • Safety and hvac are important to help our students day to day experience be better. • Continue to incorporate the railer way and mascot into each elementary • Can we solve the unequal capacity issues by redrawing some boundaries? • Addition of seclusion rooms to every school that serve both SPED and GenEd needs • Updates to elem playgrounds needed. SC has a great playground • Door security	

Source: RSP and Newton Facility Planning; results exported from Social Pinpoint 05/06/2025

Meeting #5 Survey Results: Santa Fe 5/6 Building

Facility Needs:	• ADA compliance, HVAC repairs/replacement, sidewalks repair/replace, storm shelter • Maximized capacity already at 95%, no room for future planning. • Fire safety, roof, end of life mechanical replacements, safe shelter. Being downtown, having safe doors and locks are also imperative to safety. • Boiler, Air Handler, Roof Replacement - ensures building elements stay dry and everyone is comfortable inside the building • Essential safety measures are paramount to the well being of all. The facility needs ADA updates and security measures regarding doorways and key points. • There should be minimal projects after bond issue. The canopy to connect the 2 buildings would be beneficial • Anything to do with safety and accessibility are necessary. • Door hardware upgrade • Upgrade Storm Shelter Student and Staff Safety • Due to recent bond, this building seems to be in good shape. The community enhancement to Themian Park will be an added upgrade to continue play based learning for the kid • Life cycle projects that haven't been completed yet • Roof and storm shelter • Anything that would update the main building. • Upgrade Storm shelter
Program Offerings:	• No more space for life skills teaching and 3 levels make collaboration more difficult. • SPED room remodel - enhances SPED program capabilities • Students and staff can focus on the programs and school work with assurance that they are valued, as measures to enhance their safety have been followed. • It aligns • I think playground safety is key to protecting our students. • ADA rescue Assistance
Student Experience:	• The needed upgrades have been good and the community likes this building (besides the gym name). The central location is good access. The themian park reno will add pride to this building • Canopy - provides shade for students when they are outside • The due diligence in addressing basic care and safety needs will be helpful now and in the future. • Safety and hvac are important to help our students day to day experience be better. • Special ed rooms are in need of reconfiguration and remodel to improve student experience/success/safety • Canopy would be good • Special education remodel

Source: RSP and Newton Facility Planning; results exported from Social Pinpoint 05/06/2025

Meeting #5 Survey Results: Chisholm Middle

Facility Needs:	• Plumbing/restrooms, roof replacement, ADA compliance, storm shelters • Additional FEMA shelter space to accommodate all staff and students. • Roof, end of life mechanical replacements. • Anything to do with safety and accessibility are necessary. • FEMA shelter
Program Offerings:	• Updating to Pods area • Safety, security, and structural needs addressed as a priority • Add FEMA shelter • Stair Railings Upgrade Student and staff safety • Bathroom remodel, hardening for storm shelter,
Student Experience:	• Shared spaces are dark and need to be redone, the track and field are a much needed upgrade. • Restroom replacement in pods, Replace galvanized pipe, roof replacement - bathrooms and pipes are original to building and are the oldest in the district • See previous answer for Santa Fe, as it is the same answer for Chisholm Middle School. • Fix the water intrusions; seal exterior walls, replace windows, repair/replace roofs. Upgrade existing storm shelter and provide a new one. Add more CTE spaces. Provide new lockers rooms. New track and possibly turf football field • Chisholm appeared to need a lot of upgrades. Storm shelter and roof seem to be priority • Roof and plumbing issues need replaced to keep the building safe for students. A storm shelter is also needed.

Source: RSP and Newton Facility Planning; results exported from Social Pinpoint 05/06/2025

Meeting #5 Survey Results: High School

Facility Needs:	- FEMA shelter - Door security upgrades- Staff and Student Safety - Anything to do with safety and accessibility are necessary. - Build new. The "walls" need changed. Integrate a new culinary and science area into the new storm shelter.	
	- Safety and security, Structural and mechanical needs first. - Culinary arts remodel - Reconfigure/remodel science rooms, harden for storm shelter - Roof replacement, Fire Sprinkler	
Program Offerings	- Roof replacement, Storm shelters, replace "temporary walls", ADA compliance, HVAC efficiency (windows, replace temp walls) - Add FEMA shelter space to accommodate all staff and students and update/add fire sprinkler systems where needed. - All of the 1970's areas need to be redone. How can you not put fire safety measures next to a kitchen. The paint has helped but the building needs more ADA compliancy. - Roof, pool, storm shelter, safety features such as guard rails being up to compliance, walls that are fire retardant and soundproof are also necessary. I think the most money needs to be spent at the high school, so that we can be proud of our school. - Roof, termite repairs, ventilation improvements, and a storm shelter are needed for this school to be safe for students. - It is my belief that all USD 373 buildings need to focus on daily safety and security issues. See Santa Fe responses. - Fix the water intrusions; seal exterior walls, replace windows, repair/replace roofs. Upgrade existing storm shelter/provide new if none. Need extensive remodel of interior spaces to update classrooms and cafeteria (the cafeteria needs to be larger!) - Updated science, CTE, and storm shelter sections. Can this all be done in project? The new storm shelters are the new classrooms?	
	- I think playground safety is key to protecting our students. - Science classroom remodel - Science room remodel - Focus programs on the things that students are requesting. Be willing to make those adjustments	- The science and culinary area need to be renovated in order to provide better education. - VO AG and CTE need more space to grow as that has been a priority. The building does not give access to all as stated.
Student Experience:	- A new science room or culinary arts center could be built into a FEMA Shelter. The HS holds many of the districts concerts and programs, having a FEMA shelter is great use of money and helps spatial issues. - Culinary Arts, Science Room, Swimming Pool Upgrades, All Athletic Facility Upgrades/Bleacher Replacement - helps prepare students for careers/college prep after high school - Hard to discuss as it feels to continue to divide and drive the CTE vs traditional learning. I think creating a building of all CTE offerings would also continue to drive the separation - Continue to focus on CTE. Do we make Newton unique by moving all our school offerings into career pathways? Large culture shift but could attract more people to Newton.	
	- Culinary arts remodel, science wing remodel - culinary arts remodel - Kindness and basic human interactions - Improve outdoor athletics facilities	- Students deserve an updated space to learn - On campus athletic facilities need significant updates/replacement. - FEMA shelter for all staff and student
Student Experience:	- Safety and HVAC are important to help our students day to day experience be better. - Hallways and gathering spaces to not allow enough room for students to get around. Redoing the 1970's walls and spaces would be more conducive to learning and pride of the building. - Having an up-to-date high school will be more attractive to athletes looking for a better experience, and to teachers wanting to keep up with the bare minimums. - Tennis court and pavilion, exterior stadium scoreboard - contributes to better athletic facilities for student athletes, parents, and visitors - Athletic improvements would be very helpful for High school students.	

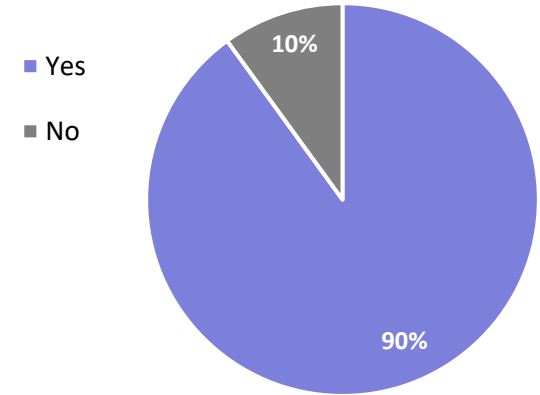
Source: RSP and Newton Facility Planning; results exported from Social Pinpoint 05/06/2025

Meeting #5 Survey Results: Future Recommendations

Program Offerings: (18 Yes Support, 2 No Support)

1. For the District to explore additional elective class offerings
 - Examples:
 - Exploratory and Career-Connected Learning
 - Life and Soft Skills Development
 - Technology and Innovation
 - Fine Arts and Language Expansion
2. For the District to foster greater CTE and Academic alignment:
 - Examples:
 - Strengthen academic base to prepare for success in CTE programs
 - Program collaboration between departments
 - increase awareness of both Academic and CTE success
 - Expand real-world learning opportunities (internships, career fairs, on-the-job training)

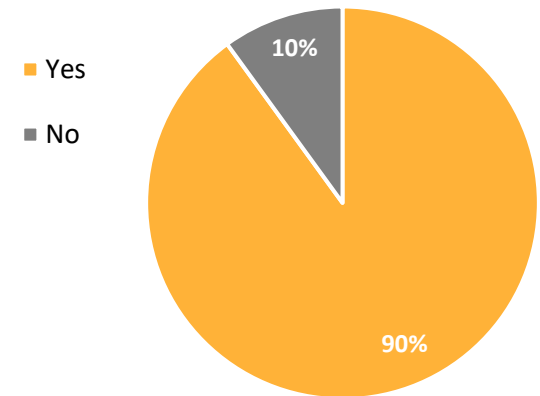
Program Offerings General Support:



Student Experience: (18 Yes Support, 2 No Support)

1. For the District to maintain the current grade configuration (K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12)
2. For the District to support greater Newton pride throughout the community
3. For the District to consider opportunities to advertise the current programs that the District is offering

Student Experience General Support:



Other Thoughts:

- I would like to see a focus on needs first in an effort to reduce the yearly cost of maintenance (things that need repair/replacement). We can address a lot of the program issues outside of a bond. But first we need space in the yearly budget to do those program expansions/changes. It does us no good to expand offerings when we don't have the yearly budget to pay for staff, space, and supplies.
- Want to stress importance of the life skill development starting in pre-k throughout all education. Promote kind humans.
- I would like to focus more on our needs. Dreaming is nice but we don't have the yearly budget to follow thru on most of our "dreams". And if we put dreams in a bond and do not focus on needs, I do not believe it will pass. Is there a way we can remodel the high school's older areas and fix the temp walls while adding storm shelters in those locations doubling as classrooms. Another gym or Auditorium will be hard to convince people to vote for. I would also like to talk about a plan to stagger items that need to be replaced every 15-20 years so that we can minimize overlap in future replacement.
- A particular area was that of student offerings. A review of current programs, programs on the horizon, and CTE or future needs of our schools should be continually examined.
- We need to quickly move out of the dreaming stage and be realistic about our current facility needs. The bond recommendation needs to be something reasonable that has a decent chance of passing. This community will be hard pressed to pass any bond.
- How these recommendations correlate and factor in the efforts of other Harvey County Committees like the Harvey Co Economic Development Board in growing Newton. While trends show a decline in enrollment, it is important to account for the projects underway in our area, such as new manufacturers, increased housing, etc.
- I would love to say yes and know that's what the community wants to hear but I don't think that we can financially sustain the current 4 elementary schools. As soon as a school is mentioned to be changed then the public will panic and it will all be about saving our schools again and create a culture that we can't fight. I think a lot of effort needs to go to the financial part and getting everyone to understand that. If any discussion of closing a school comes up then it needs to be careful as everyone will fight to save their school and we will again lose staff and community trust.
- I work in disaster preparedness as part of a 6-state cohort. I also participate in a FEMA cohort. They preach that a disaster is when a hazard meets a vulnerability. To me, having roofs that need to be replaced is a hazard that could easily be a disaster with the next rain or windstorm. (do these numbers account for insurance and deductibles? There are potentially several options for grants to help with those costs). This also takes into account having the bare level of storm shelters at each school. That is not negotiable to me. Has to be done, as well as fire safety concerns at Santa Fe and the High School. I also think swapping Cooper and Northridge would handle the capacity issues, and the Cooper location would still make it the northernmost elementary school, redrawing boundaries would not be necessary. It would offer Cooper the ability to grow as it needs. I think we need to know how much a \$20,000 (\$30,000) bond would increase the taxes on a \$100,000 home owner. My guess is its about the cost of an iced coffee a month. I think it needs to be presented as such to the public. "for the cost of an iced coffee a month, your child (district) could have updated, ADA compliant, storm safe schools" not to mention having a pool for the district to use. I think that the roofing issues as well as the end of life mechanical replacements are a no-brainer. As well as then getting the schools up to code with everything else. I realize we do not have the money Maize has in Newton, but we can upgrade and improve what we have and in doing so become a lot more attractive to teachers and new families looking for a new district.
- Would love to see fine arts facilities at NHS, Chisholm, and Santa Fe included in some facility upgrades. SF classrooms are not large enough for their programs and NHS fine arts facilities are outdated and need to be re-done to meet the needs of our high-quality fine arts programs.
- Review the outcome of this survey and provide administration thoughts on priorities
- Again, it would be great for the district to consider needs at both Cooper and OA since these are programs that set us apart from other districts. Especially with Cooper at nearly 150% for capacity and with all the information regarding the importance of early intervention.
- Another grade configuration set up that moves USD 373 Pre-K to our elementaries and separate from headstart that may lose all funding for next school year. This allows Cooper to become an alternative learning environment that the district desperately needs. Pre-K students being in their home building longer promotes that sense of community more within our building while also cutting out a transition.
- The need for an alternative school

Summary of Input

- Modernization and Safety Upgrades
 - Strong support for updating aging facilities, including addressing safety concerns, improving HVAC systems, and ensuring buildings meet current codes and standards
 - Emphasis on addressing safety hazards at current facilities (lead removal, roof repairs, sump pump updates, storm shelter access, etc.)
 - Comments on the importance of FEMA Shelter access (adequate and accessible storm shelter for student and staff safety)
 - Advocate against further investment in Cooper EEC due to its condition, suggesting closure or redistribution of Pre-K to other schools
- Flexible and Improved Learning Spaces
 - Interest in creating adaptable, modern learning environments that support collaborative, project-based learning
 - Support for updating libraries, labs, and common spaces to serve evolving educational needs
 - Focus on tailoring program offerings to student interests and needs, including exploratory and career pathway courses
- Enhanced Student Experience Projects
 - Calls for resurfacing the track, adding or improving the football field, and upgrading bleachers and locker rooms to match peer schools
 - Need for better outdoor spaces where students can gather, connect, and engage in positive activities
 - Importance of HVAC, safety systems, and well-maintained facilities to support a productive, comfortable learning environment

THEMES OF INPUT:

- ✓ Prioritize **health, safety, and compliance** upgrades at current facilities
- ✓ Align academic and CTE program needs with **space and facility improvements**
- ✓ Focus on enhancing **student experience, pride, and community use** through thoughtful design and modernization
- ✓ Enhance **athletic and social** spaces to improve student experience and school pride
- ✓ Seek **cost-effective solutions** that integrate multiple needs (e.g., combining storm shelters with high-use program spaces)
- ✓ Emphasize **reasonable, financially feasible bond proposals** that the community can support and pass

DRAFT

District Financial Snapshot

DISCLAIMERS:

- These estimates assume interest rate of 4.25% and 20-year finance.
- Valuation growth of only 1.5% per year. Estimates from Dec. 2024.

OPTION	Current B & I Mills	Net Increase of Mills	Total B & I Mills	Bond Size	Project Fund Size	Increase per \$100,000 Home Value	
						Annual	Monthly
#1	9.721	+ 5.00	14.721	\$ 48,495,000	\$ 47,575,000	\$57.50	\$4.79
#2	9.721	+ 8.50	18.221	\$ 61,490,000	\$ 60,750,000	\$97.75	\$8.15
#3	9.721	+ 14.0 *RSP Estimate	23.721 *RSP Estimate	\$ 80,000,000 *RSP Estimate	\$ 78,000,000 *RSP Estimate	\$130 *RSP Estimate	\$13 *RSP Estimate

Source: Newton USD 373, Stifel Investment Services; Option #3 is an **estimate** based on an average formula used in Options #1 and #2 from Stifel Investment Services

OPTION #1: With a net increase in the mill rate of 5 mills, there is an estimated project fund of **\$47,575,000**

- **This bond would result in around \$4.79 increase per month for households with \$100K home value**

OPTION #2: With a net increase in the mill rate of 8.5 mills, there is an estimated project fund of **\$60,750,000**

- **This bond would result in around \$8.15 increase per month for households with \$100K home value**
- Either option would still allow the District raise the LOB to the maximum to increase salaries for staff (classified and certified) while staying under 20 Mill Rate

OPTION #3: With a net increase in the mill rate of 14.0 mills, there is an estimated project fund of **\$78,000,000**

- **Increasing over 20 Mills is likely unsupported by Board and Administration**

What Is the Mill Rate?

The amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property. It is a figure that represents the amount per \$1,000 of the [assessed value](#) of the property, which is used to calculate the amount of property tax.

Public Input Expectations



Starting Point Agenda:

1. Introduction from Superintendent and/or Board President (10 Mins)
 - Welcoming statement(s)
 - Purpose of process
2. RSP Presentation (20 Mins)
 - RSP will present overview of foundational data (enrollment and capacity)
 - RSP will present an overview of committee progress and **DRAFT** recommendations
 - Committee feedback should be summarized and straightforward to improve understanding
3. Open House Dialogue
 - Stations will be set up throughout the room that may include information posters, data packets, QR codes, etc.
 - Attendees will be encouraged to move throughout the space and engage in conversations with RSP, committee members, and district administration (ask questions, provide feedback, look up address on map, etc.)
 - An electronic survey will also be available that evening for participants to submit their input
4. Survey
 - Open via Social Pinpoint from **May 14 to May 28th**
 - <https://rsp.mysocialpinpoint.com/newton-fmp/may-public-input>

Additional Considerations

- Ensure space is reserved and has necessary accommodations (screen, audio, seating and walkability, easels or tape, etc.)
- Promote the input session through multiple communication channels (email, social media, etc.) based on what's most effective for your community
- Announce when the Social Pinpoint survey will be live
- Arrange for translators to support multilingual households
- Ensure audio/visual technology is available for presenters
- RSP recommends providing snacks and water, as well as babysitting services, to support broader community participation

Program Offerings



Belief Statement:

Students will have strong foundational skills that will enable them to succeed in a variety of program offerings. USD 373 will continue to provide students access to a variety of program options in academics, athletics, activities, CTE, and post-secondary skills training.

Objective #1:

For the District to explore **additional elective class** offerings for students in all grades.

Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Exploratory and Career-Connected Learning
- ☐ Life and Soft Skills Development
- ☐ Technology and Innovation
- ☐ Fine Arts and Language Expansion

Objective #2:

For the District to **support greater pride** throughout the community and **promote program offerings**.

Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Highlight the specialties and success of current programs
- ☐ Focus on tailoring program offerings to student interests and needs (exploratory and career pathway)

Objective #3:

For the District to foster greater **CTE and Academic alignment** in middle and high school grades.

Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Strengthen academic base to prepare for success in CTE programs
- ☐ Program collaboration between departments
- ☐ Increase awareness of both Academic and CTE success
- ☐ Expand real-world learning opportunities (internships, career fairs, on-the-job training)

Student Experience



DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

Belief Statement:

We believe in fostering growth and community pride, striving to maintain smaller class sizes in the primary grades, embracing students as they grow, and providing supportive, inclusive environments that prepare every student for success in school and beyond.

Objective #1:

For the District to **maintain** the current grade levels and **balance enrollment** between buildings.

Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Ensure learning environments reflect age-specific needs
- ☐ Aim to preserve smaller class sizes in primary grades
- ☐ Consider adjusting attendance boundaries to reduce Slate Creek attendance

Objective #2:

For the District to **upgrade playground(s) and outdoor amenities** at school sites.



Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Enhance student engagement, safety, and enjoyment when playing outside
- ☐ Consider adding canopies to provide shade for students when they are outside

Objective #3:

For the District to consider **enhancements to athletic and extra-curricular facilities.**



Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Contribute to better athletic facilities for student athletes, parents, and visitors
- ☐ Noted projects include tennis courts, tracks, outdoor pavilion and stadium, pool, etc.



Facility Needs



Belief Statement:

All students will have access to facilities that support their academic and personal growth today and tomorrow.

Objective #1:

For the District to expand **safety, accessibility, and security** at facilities.



Potential Strategies:

- \$ ☐ “End of Life Cycle” projects to maintain structures (roof, lead removal, hardware, etc.)
- ☐ Harden existing storm shelters
- ☐ Design and build new FEMA storm shelters

↓ \$\$\$

Objective #2:

For the District to consider **expanding Early Childhood** programming options.



Potential Strategies:

- \$ ☐ Consider placing Preschool classroom(s) in elementary schools
- ☐ Consider facility improvements to Cooper Early Education Center
- ☐ Consider building a new Early Childhood Center

↓ \$\$\$

Objective #3:

For the District to consider **strategic facility improvements** that enhance learning.



Potential Strategies:

- \$ ☐ Chisholm Middle pod classroom improvements
- ☐ Culinary Arts and Science classrooms at NHS
- ☐ Replacement of temporary walls at NHS
- ☐ New or expanded Alternative Learning Center

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Part 3: Committee Input

Committee Discussion Task #1

Purpose:

Review and discuss materials of draft Committee Recommendations to ensure they reflect the full scope of input gathered. This is your chance to **validate, refine, or add to** what has been captured — and to help gauge the level of committee support across different priority areas.

Questions to Consider:

- ☐ Are there any key needs, themes, or recommendations missing?
- ☐ Are the priorities accurately reflected?
- ☐ Do you feel the committee is generally aligned in its support for these items, or are there areas of difference?

Timeframe:

- ☐ 10 Mins – Program Offerings
- ☐ 10 Mins – Student Experience
- ☐ 10 Mins – Facility Needs

Ending: PollEverywhere Questions to provide level of support for each topic

Reminder to Committee

Focus on **what is most important** to reflect back to the community. These recommendations are currently **in draft form** and will be reviewed after public input. The goal of this process is to provide a **long-range vision** for the district — to set a clear direction for where we want to go in the future.

Program Offerings



DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

Belief Statement:

Students will have strong foundational skills that will enable them to succeed in a variety of program offerings. USD 373 will continue to provide students access to a variety of program options in academics, athletics, activities, CTE, and post-secondary skills training.

Objective #1:

For the District to explore **additional elective class** offerings for students in all grades.

Objective #2:

For the District to **support greater pride** throughout the community and **promote program offerings**.

Objective #3:

For the District to foster greater **CTE and Academic alignment** in middle and high school grades.

Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Exploratory and Career-Connected Learning
- ☐ Life and Soft Skills Development
- ☐ Technology and Innovation
- ☐ Fine Arts and Language Expansion

Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Highlight the specialties and success of current programs
- ☐ Focus on tailoring program offerings to student interests and needs (exploratory and career pathway)

Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Strengthen academic base to prepare for success in CTE programs
- ☐ Program collaboration between departments; Increase awareness of both Academic and CTE success
- ☐ Expand real-world learning opportunities (internships, career fairs, on-the-job training)

Committee Input:

Student Experience



DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

Belief Statement:

We believe in fostering growth and community pride, striving to maintain smaller class sizes in the primary grades, embracing students as they grow, and providing supportive, inclusive environments that prepare every student for success in school and beyond.

Objective #1:

For the District to **maintain** the current grade levels and **balance enrollment** between buildings.

Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Ensure learning environments reflect age-specific needs
- ☐ Aim to preserve smaller class sizes in primary grades
- ☐ Consider adjusting attendance boundaries to reduce Slate Creek attendance

Objective #2:

For the District to **upgrade playground(s) and outdoor amenities** at school sites.



Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Enhance student engagement, safety, and enjoyment when playing outside
- ☐ Consider adding a canopies to provide shade for students when they are outside

Objective #3:

For the District to consider **enhancements to athletic and extra-curricular facilities.**



Potential Strategies:

- ☐ Contribute to better athletic facilities for student athletes, parents, and visitors
- ☐ Noted projects include tennis courts, tracks, outdoor pavilion and stadium, pool, etc.

Committee Input:



Facility Needs



Belief Statement:

All students will have access to facilities that support their academic and personal growth today and tomorrow.

Objective #1:

For the District to expand **safety, accessibility, and security** at facilities.



Potential Strategies:

- \$ ☐ “End of Life Cycle” projects to maintain structures (roof, lead removal, hardware, etc.)
- ☐ Harden existing storm shelters
- ☐ Design and build new FEMA storm shelters

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Objective #2:

For the District to consider **expanding Early Childhood** programming options.



Potential Strategies:

- \$ ☐ Consider placing Preschool classroom(s) in elementary schools
- ☐ Consider facility improvements to Cooper Early Education Center
- ☐ Consider building a new Early Childhood Center

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Objective #3:

For the District to consider **strategic facility improvements** that enhance learning.



Potential Strategies:

- \$ ☐ Chisholm Middle School pod classroom improvements
- ☐ Culinary Arts and Science classrooms at Newton High
- ☐ Replacement of temporary walls at Newton High
- ☐ New or expanded Alternative Learning Center

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Committee Input:



Purpose: Engage in a discussion and polling questions about items to consider when engaging in long-range planning efforts. Additionally, assist RSP by providing direction on next steps in this process

Expectations: Questions are designed to receive preliminary, thought-provoking feedback to begin setting the foundation for long-range planning efforts. There will be more opportunities to discuss in greater detail each of these topics.

Directions: Use your cell phones to participate in the polls!

Text to Number: 22333

Message Body: RSPMeeting

Stay in the text thread! Do not click the link in the automatic reply. Answer questions by responding A, B, C... in the text thread.

Helpful Hints:

- ☐ To change your answer, simply text the new answer. The Poll will integrate the last message sent as the final result.
- ☐ For questions with "Select all that apply": To change your answer, text "CLEAR", then send your new answers.

Committee Discussion Task #2

Purpose:

Discuss the public input format and your goals/expectations for the night. Successful public input doesn't mean we get 100% agreement — it means we engage the public honestly, hear their priorities, and use that feedback to guide thoughtful, well-supported decisions.

Questions to Consider:

- ☐ What information do we most need from the public?
- ☐ What are the most important questions to help shape the final recommendations?
- ☐ How can we phrase these questions clearly and accessibly for all audiences?

Timeframe:

- ☐ 10 Mins

Ending: Table Report Out

Survey Link



SCAN ME

Reminder to Committee

Focus on **what is most important** to reflect back to the community. These recommendations are currently **in draft form** and will be reviewed after public input. The goal of this process is to provide a **long-range vision** for the district — to set a clear direction for where we want to go in the future.



Part 4: Next Steps

Next Steps

Next Meetings:

Final meeting before public input!



Homework

Members unable to join will be able to understand what was discussed and participate in the discussion for next time.



Communication

Connect with the community to inform them of the process, invite them to public input sessions, and prepare for the possible changes.



NEWTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMPREHENSIVE FACILITY PLANNING PROCESS

