



WELCOME!

Lowell School District
10-Year Master Planning
Open House for Residents
April 19 & April 23, 2016



Lowell School District 2016 Master Plan March 31, 2016



Introductions

- District staff:
Superintendent
Walt Hanline,
Johnnie Matthews
- Board members in attendance
- gLAS Architects
- Public input: Cathy Hamilton



What is a Master Plan? Why Conduct One?

- A 10-year plan that projects the use and demands upon all school buildings and facilities.
- Allows the school district to identify immediate and long-term needs, and plan accordingly.
- Useful tool for annual budgeting and decision-making.
- A Master Plan is recommended or required for access to many grant programs and funding opportunities.
- Lowell's last Master Plan was completed in 1998.
- Many of the improvements that have been made in recent years were identified in that plan.



Lowell's Process: So Far

- ✓ Need identified
- ✓ Competitive process for firm begins
- ✓ Architect selected
- ✓ Assessment begins
- ✓ Feedback sought
- ✓ Priorities established
- ✓ "Long list" developed
- ✓ Prioritized list created and reviewed by Board
- ✓ Community input requested



What the Community Has Shared

Schools are a reflection of the community's values:

- 89.29% agree or strongly agree
- 3.57% disagree
- 7.14% don't know

Schools should meet all safety codes and standards:

- 100% agree or strongly agree

Schools should be comfortable for students:

- 100% agree or strongly agree

Students can learn in any environment and the building is irrelevant:

- 82.14% disagree or strongly disagree



What the Community Has Shared

Rank your priorities as they relate to school buildings. 1 = most important and 7 = least important

Most important to least important:

- Safety (1.2)
- Security (2.9)
- Efficiency (3)
- Comfort (4)
- Longevity (4.5)
- Innovation (4.8)
- Community hub (4.9)



The Work

Lundy Elementary

- Year Built: 1941
- Grades Served: K-6
- Number of Students: 238
(127 District and 111 MVA Charter School)

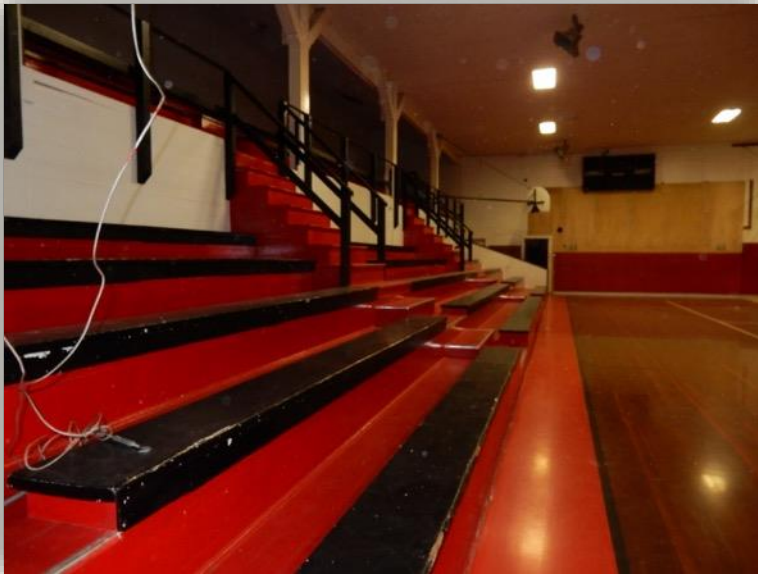


Lowell Junior High/High School

- Year Built: 1930
- Grades Served: 7-12
- Number of Students: 164



** Numbers are 2014-2015*



Lowell School District: Dedicated to educational achievement and the success of every student.



Lundy Elementary

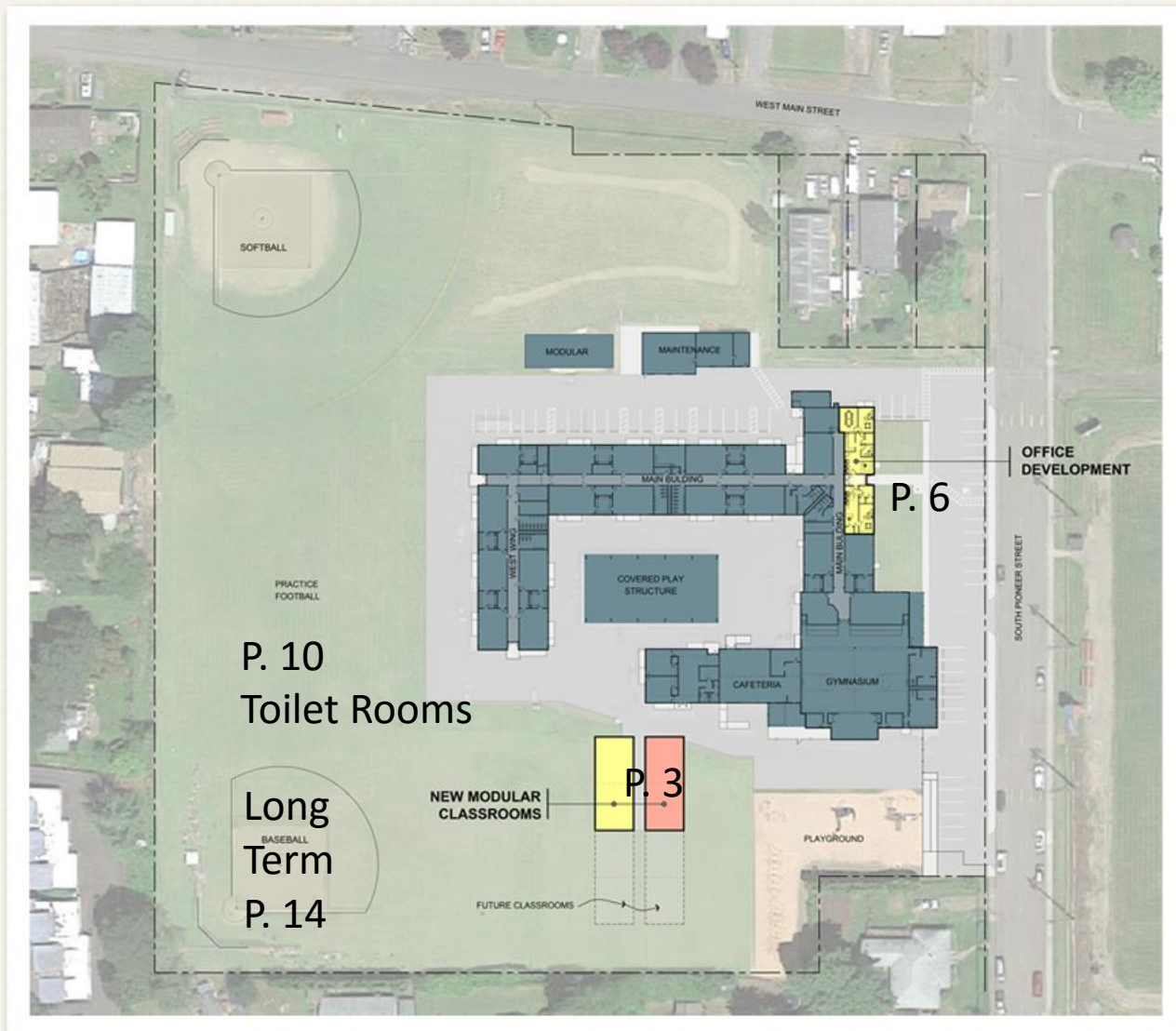
General Findings: Repair & Renovations

- Aged mechanical systems (heating, plumbing)
- Deteriorating ceiling and floor surfaces
- Safety upgrades needed, included new fire alarm and intercom systems
- ADA upgrades required for compliance



New Needs

- Improved security, including cameras, new doors and magnetic closures
- Improved fire & seismic safety measures
- Classroom space
- Addition of modular Kindergarten and Preschool classrooms, with restrooms
- Restructuring of the main offices and entry





Lowell Junior High/High School

- General Findings: Repair & Renovations
 - Aged mechanical systems (heating, plumbing)
 - Deteriorating ceiling and asbestos floor surfaces are a significant safety issue
 - Safety upgrades needed, included new fire alarm and intercom systems
 - ADA upgrades required for compliance



Lowell Junior High/High School

Opportunities:

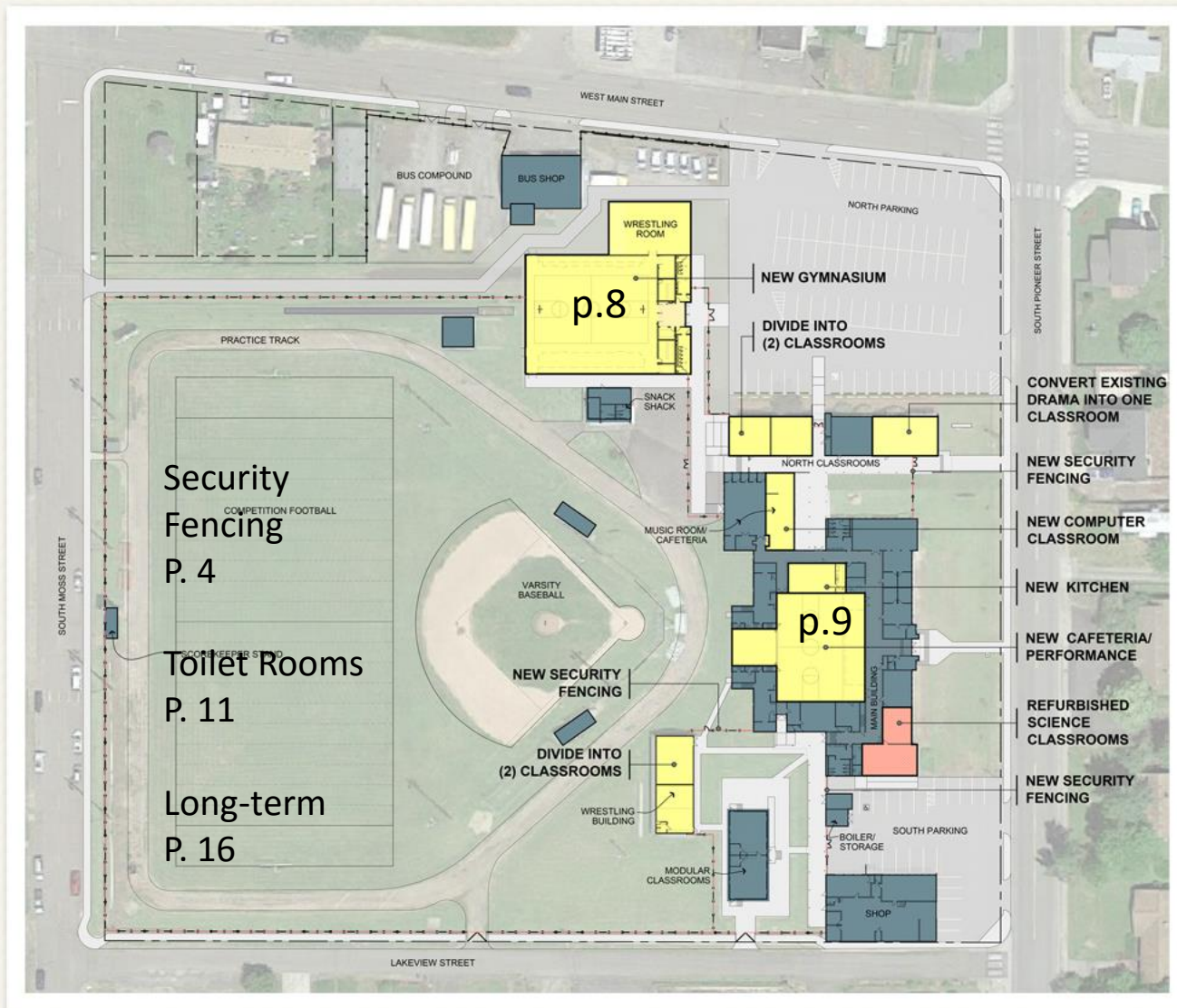
- New Gym and Wrestling Room, which allows for:
 - Conversion of old Gym to Student Center/Multi-use Room for Cafeteria/Kitchen and Performing Arts venue, with stage lighting and new stage curtains
 - Conversion of existing Wrestling Room to two classrooms
 - Move Computer classroom to former Cafeteria, which provides for two additional classrooms
 - Repurpose current Drama Room to a classroom



Related Work: \$1.1 Million Grant for Seismic Safety at High School

Not tied to local or state match funding but it will be cost efficient to do the work at the same time as the bond work. Goal: to increase the school's ability to withstand a seismic event to the point that it will limit loss of life and allow the safe evacuation of the building immediately after the event.

- Add shear walls where needed to resist the seismic load
- Bolt wood sills to the foundations
- Connect beams and girders to the top of the walls using bolts and steel hardware
- Remove unbraced masonry chimneys





Moving Forward – Costs

- The most critical work is estimated to cost approximately \$8 million.
- Low interest rates and the possibility of \$4 million in state funding combine to make this a good time to make the improvements.
- It is possible that the district will request approval of a bond measure to pay for the improvements.
- Exact timing depends on the state funds, which would cut the cost to Lowell taxpayers by half.



Possible Cost to You

We anticipate requesting approval for approximately \$4 million from voters. An additional \$4 million would be provided through state grants and wouldn't impact Lowell taxpayers. The cost of issuing the local bonds would be \$1.14 per \$1,000 assessed value of your home.



How Lowell's **present tax rate compares** with other local school districts per \$1,000 assessed value:

- Marcola \$6.79
- McKenzie \$6.70
- Pleasant Hill \$6.46
- Crow Applegate Lorane \$6.42
- South Lane \$6.19
- Oakridge \$6.04
- Blachly \$5.10
- North Douglas \$5.09
- **Lowell \$5.04**
- Yoncalla \$4.69
- Riddle \$4.66

Total district rate (Includes permanent rate plus local option, if applicable)

Note: Shows all other schools at their tax rates in 2/2016. If bond measures were/are approved in May, they are not reflected here:

*Source: Piper Jaffrey Bond
Rate Analysis for Lowell
School District, February
2016*



How Lowell's present tax rate would compare with other school districts **if improvements were made** (at \$4 million), per \$1,000 assessed value:

- Marcola \$6.79
- McKenzie \$6.70
- Pleasant Hill \$6.46
- Crow Applegate Lorane \$6.42
- South Lane \$6.19
- Lowell \$6.18
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Why The Work Matters

- Keep our kids safe!
- Give our kids a great place to learn.
- Lowell schools do a lot with little – we have a history of efficiency.
- Matching capital funds from the state are available – let's put them to work here in Lowell.
- Coordinate the Seismic Grant at Lowell High of \$1.1 million with \$8 million of local and state funding to provide a greater return from local dollars.

Lowell's Process: Next Steps

- ✓ Plan Finalized
- ✓ State Grant Status Determined
- ✓ Board to Consider Referring Bond Measure to Voters
- ✓ Decision Made



1930

Lowell High School Built

Lowell High School was built in 1930, during the Great Depression and before World War II. Thanks to past investments by the community, the facility remains serviceable for students, but is in need of some TLC as well as safety, security and space updates to bring it in line with the needs of today's students.



1941

Lundy Elementary School Built

Lowell's Lundy Elementary was built in 1941 — 75 years ago. Investments made now will help it continue to serve students.

2014

- Decision to Conduct 10-Year Master Planning for School Facilities
- Architect Selected

2015

- Facilities Review by Architects and Engineers
- Staff and Public Input Requested/Received
- Priorities Established

2016

- **April:** gLAs Architects Completes 10-Year Plan, Makes Recommendations to District
- **April:** Board Reviews and Considers Recommendations
- **April-June:** Community Input Requested
- **June/July:** Grant Status Known
- **August:** Board Decides to Proceed/Not
- **August:** If Proceeding, Refers Request for Bond Measure



Questions So Far?

Let's Tour!