

Dear Lowell Community,



April 10, 2017

It's been nearly a year since we held community meetings to review our efforts to improve the physical condition of Lowell's public schools – Lundy Elementary and Lowell Middle/High. I owe you an update on our work to improve these facilities.

For review, we have completed a thorough Master Planning process. During this process, an independent group, gLAs Architects, reviewed our buildings for safety, functionality and learning environment. It outlined recommendations for repairs, replacements and some expansions to accommodate continued growth. We have already made good use of the Master Plan, using it to secure \$1 million in grants to perform seismic upgrades to the schools. However, that still leaves us with approximately \$8 million in work.

Our hope has been to make use of State of Oregon matching grants, securing \$4 million in that manner and the remaining \$4 million by issuing bonds. The state grants are provided using a random draw, or lottery system, and then the community must approve matching funds in the form of bonds. We have been unlucky twice now, and are hoping that 1) the program is included in the final 2017-2019 budget, and 2) if it is, that Lowell's name is drawn in the next funding round, which will happen mid-year.

Here's why it's worth waiting for news on the grants: If we proceed without the state funds, we stand the chance of securing local funding but missing the state match, a loss of \$4 million. That's a lot of money, so we are pausing until we know more. That pushes the next possible bond measure out until at least November 2017.

In the meantime, Lowell schools are looking good cosmetically, but experiencing structural and mechanical failures. This winter we removed one failing radiator to reduce the load on our ancient boiler system. A sewage line rotted through, spilling 450 gallons of sewage under the cafeteria. The asbestos flooring in the high school hallways continues to deteriorate, and we are failing our commitment to our students who depend on ADA accessibility.

Obviously, we can't leave failures like this unchecked. We have been making repairs on a case-by-case basis. However, this puts us in the position of spending more and more money to repair or maintain items that ultimately need to be replaced.

This mailing includes an overview of the work that would be completed if we receive the state funding and local bond support. I encourage you to review it and provide any comments or questions. Please use the form included, or email me at whanline@lowell.k12.or.us. I will share your comments with our School Board.

We are all grateful for your support, and for your ongoing commitment to Lowell schools. As important as our facilities are, our students and their safety and education are most important to us, and you can count on us to keep our attention on the daily work of teaching our future citizens.

Sincerely,

Dr. Walt Hanline
Superintendent of Lowell Schools

\$4 million local funding via bonds
+ 4 million state grant funding

= \$8 million for local school improvements

Prioritizing Improvements

The efforts the district considers most important are, in order:

- 1 Improve student safety and security
- 2 Conduct renewal efforts that will prolong the lifespan of existing facilities
- 3 Update facilities to improve the educational experience of students
- 4 Repurpose or reorganize space for improved efficiency
- 5 Create multi-use gathering places for school and community use



Lundy Elementary Improvements/Upgrades

Security and safety upgrades:

- Centralized magnetic door controls for lockdowns
- Site access controls and security cameras
- Seismic improvements to facility and equipment, including anchoring
- Sprinklers and other fire suppression, safety systems
- Electronic door entrances to limit access to students, staff and authorized visitors
- Replacement of old interior and exterior doors with locking doors compliant with security criteria
- ADA improvements for safe access for all students
- Renovation to entry and main office, to limit access to school via office area only

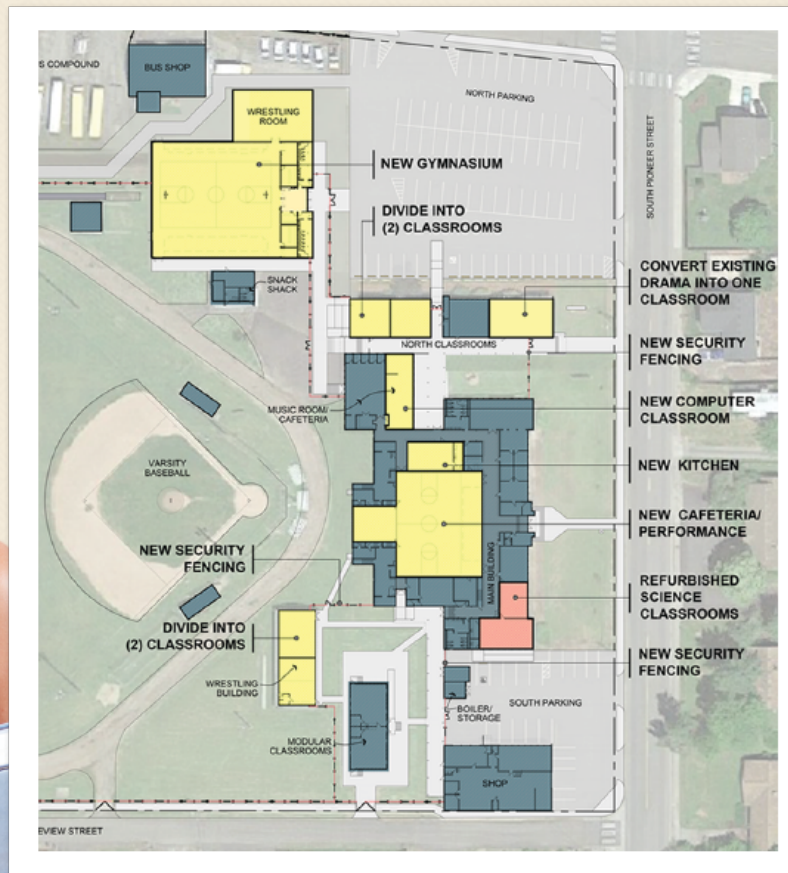
Improvements for adequate learning spaces include:

- Addition of kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classrooms, with bathrooms
- Indirectly, improved efficiencies will allow funds for programming and staffing to be used there, instead of for facilities

Renewal and replacement of vital building systems focus on efficiency measures and addressing maintenance needs:

- Plumbing and electrical updates for safety and efficiency
- Replace classroom lighting – some of which is 70 years old – with brighter, energy-saving LEDs
- Repairs to seriously deteriorated areas of both facilities
- Replacement of asbestos and broken and deteriorated flooring





Lowell High School Improvements/Upgrades

Security and safety upgrades:

- Centralized magnetic door controls for lockdowns
- Site access controls and security cameras
- Seismic improvements to facility and equipment, including anchoring
- Alarms and other fire suppression, safety systems
- Electronic door entrances to limit access to students, staff and authorized visitors
- Replacement of old interior and exterior doors with locking doors compliant with security criteria
- ADA improvements for safe access for all students
- Perimeter fencing to secure building

Improvements for adequate learning spaces include:

- Upgrade of science classrooms and equipment to modern standards
- Indirectly, improved efficiencies will allow funds for programming and staffing to be used there, instead of for facilities

Renewal and replacement of vital building systems focus on efficiency measures and addressing maintenance needs:

- Plumbing and electrical updates for safety and efficiency
- Replace classroom lighting – some of which is 70 years old – with brighter, energy-saving LEDs
- Repairs to seriously deteriorated areas of both facilities
- Replacement of asbestos and broken and deteriorated flooring

If matching grants from the state are allocated as hoped, the district will have funds to be able to:

- Convert old gym into a multi-use cafeteria and common space for eating, performing arts students, and for community use after school hours
- Convert existing concession space and adjacent windowless classroom into food prep and serving area that would be located next to the “new” cafeteria
- Build a new, regulation-sized, ADA-accessible gym and wrestling room
- Re-purpose and develop the old/ existing cafeteria into new classroom space(s)



Share Your Thoughts!

We want to know what you think about Lowell School District and its facilities.

Save a stamp

Respond online:
<http://svy.mk/2nP54bz>



Send us your questions, comments and concerns.

Please share your name and email address with us so that we can answer your question.

Did you attend Lowell schools? Yes No

Do you have children or grandchildren in our schools? Yes No

Are you interested in getting involved with our schools? Yes No

(Please note that all volunteers will need to authorize a criminal background check.)

Are you interested in helping with community outreach about our buildings? Yes No

*Please return this form to Lowell School District, attn.: Supt. Hanline, 65 S. Pioneer Street, Lowell, OR 97452.
(Thank you for picking up the postage! Every little bit helps.)*