

# Executive Summary

A result of the small group work activity

## Community Engagement Sessions (CES) #1 • Feb. 1, 2022

An estimated 55 participants attended the first **Building Our Future Together** community engagement session on Feb. 1, 2022.

The topic for the first **Building Our Future Together** community engagement program was “*Assessment of Facilities: Where we’ve been, Where we are, Where we’re headed.*” Participants heard a presentation by Superintendent Dr. Lisa Hichens, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Brad Newkirk, Chief Financial Officer Tony Inglese, and Project Manager for DLR Group, Keri VanSant, that featured foundational information about the current state of the facilities, how the facilities do and do not support learning and teaching, an introduction to the Educational Master Facility Plan, as well as information about the type of facilities that support and enhance education.

To view the presentation, visit [www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement](http://www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement). Following the presentation, participants worked in 10 small groups to complete the tasks discussed below. Following is a summary of the responses from the groups. Verbatim responses can be found at [www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement](http://www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement).

**Task #1:** Based on the information you learned tonight, what is your group's biggest surprise and concern about BPS101’s facilities?

Presented below are the most common responses given across the 10 tables completing work activities:

Information Most Surprising	Number of Groups that Mentioned Topic
Maintenance and building condition	9
Impact on taxes	3
Technology infrastructure/education	3

Safety issues	1
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Information Most Concerning	Number of Groups that Mentioned Topic
Plan for construction	6
Facility plan/construction impact on students	5
Finances	4
Timeline	2
Long term impact/considerations	1

**Task #2:** What key questions about the future of our school facilities would your group like addressed through the Building Our Future Together process?

Please rank the level of importance of each question as high, medium or low.

### **Questions Related to Taxes/Finances**

Seven out of the ten groups at the Building Our Future Together session listed a total of eleven questions related to taxes and/or finances. Of those questions, three questions centered around the cost of rebuilding vs. refurbishing.

A total of six questions were rated as high priority such as “Fiscal impact for improvements (short & long term)” and “How is this being paid for?”

### **Questions Related to the “Plan”**

Six of the ten groups listed a total of ten questions related to the plan for the buildings, construction, and implications for staff and students. Some high priority questions included, “How do you create a plan that will meet the needs of the students, staff, and community members over the next decade or longer,” while another group rated the question, “What will be the plan to update the other buildings? And what will be the maintenance plans for the future,” as well as questions about the maintenance plans for the facilities.

## **Questions Related to Enrollment**

Five groups listed questions related to student enrollment and population fluctuations. Questions were rated as medium or high priority such as, "How have you accounted for future shifts? (SpEd, population, economics)" and, "What is the future five-year enrollment?"

## **Questions Related to the Current Facilities**

Three groups asked specifically about what will happen to the current facilities and identified these questions as high priority: "Are schools being torn down," "Are we keeping all six elementary schools," and "Are all six schools (K-5) being kept?"

## **Other Topics**

Other questions mentioned topics such as safety, specific building features, staff concerns, and communication of the plan.

## ***CONSENSUS POINTS***

- The following topics should be addressed during the Building Our Future process:
  - A plan to maintain existing and new buildings.
  - Projected enrollment changes and how they are addressed in the plan.
  - Details on funding the Educational Master Facility Plan and how it will impact local property taxes.
  - Specific information about rebuilding compared to refurbishing existing facilities.
  - Timeline and information of how students will be transitioned as the plan is implemented.

**For a complete listing of all responses  
see the CES #1 Verbatim Response Document**