

Building 4J's Future

Public Input: Wall Comments

Community Forum on Oct. 1, 2012

North Eugene High School (North Region)

Forum participants had an opportunity to provide input by writing on wall charts. There were six areas: The consultant's starter recommendations for the Churchill, North, Sheldon and South regions; comments on prioritizing goals; and "other comments." Participants also could submit written comments on a paper form.

*The comment chart for each school region was divided into three sections: + - OTHER
Comments have been transcribed in the section they were written in, regardless of content.*

Churchill Region

+ POSITIVE

- Adding language to region
- Immersion equity good – Asia important to Oregon future.
- Science and Technology specialty good

- NEGATIVE

- [No comments]

OTHER

- [No comments]

North Region

+ POSITIVE

- New North increases pride in the North Eugene community
- Open up visibility to Johnson Stadium and benefits
- Students need more pride in the community

- I like idea of fewer, more efficient and flexible spaces. Bigger schools can mean more choices.
- Moving Japanese Immersion closer to secondary education
- Larger classrooms
- Having a technology immersion program (Howard) in a 21st Century building makes a lot of sense
- Combining Howard's technology focus with Corridor's project based learning and arts focus could create an exciting new magnet program
- Add space where students and teachers can have conferences inside the classroom (offices)
- Improve theater space (renovation). Consider science lab access for small schools.

- NEGATIVE

- Classrooms at North and Kelly are too dark, stuffy, and crowded.
 - Kids on floor or 2 kids per desk
 - Kids sitting for 1.5 hours on lab stools
 - Dark and poor tech.
- Corridor should remain independent. Merging with Howard will cause it to disappear. Keep YG in North.
- Corridor is the heart of elementary schools in this area.
- Corridor needs to stay a small school. It has a lot of community involvement. Teachers, parents, and students work hard to make the school a school everyone talks about and always have special memories.
- Small schools create a safe, creative learning environment – check the stats! Higher test scores
- North region needs a program to keep our area unique. Do not have YG and Corridor move.
- If the goal is “equitable and appealing schools”...the removal of Corridor and YG programs would achieve the opposite effect. Leaves the North region as the least attractive to students. Nothing to draw them in. A new building does not take the place of programs.
- Maintain a strong YG program regardless of location

OTHER

- Create a vo-tech regional school!
 - Agree!
- Also keep woodworking

- Howard fields are adjacent to Emerald Park and the Emerald pool (owned by River Road Parks and Rec District). How about a partnership between them and the new Howard and Kelly MS, and NEHS! (Emerald pool is just 1 mile from NEHS)
- North High needs more STEM-type programs
- Co-locate with community partners
 - YMCA and Library and Parks & Rec Pool
- Add classes that focus on Fine Arts and improve current classrooms
- How would transport and admissions across 4J work with more “magnet” schools?

Sheldon Region

+ POSITIVE

- For all of these sub-proposals, have you considered using Listening Projects (listeningprojects.org) to build community support?

- NEGATIVE

- *[No comments]*

OTHER

- *[No comments]*

South Region

+ POSITIVE

- Moving French closer in
- New building for Roosevelt. Site Roosevelt at current site.
- Edison is a historic school building. I believe that its closure (and eventual demolition) will have negative effects on the entire historic South Eugene
- Small is beautiful, economical, and safer
 - Edison is beautiful
 - The community is beautiful
 - The education is strong!
- Small schools = strong communities

- South Region wants to work to preserve a successful program at Edison while supporting the needs of other communities in 4J. Where new is desired and needed so be it.
- Edison is a great school with strong community support in a mature neighborhood. A new facility with Camas Ridge may have “plusses” in terms of maintenance costs but will cause losses to kids who can’t bike or walk anymore, and the loss of the heart of the neighborhood.

– NEGATIVE

- Civic site is smaller in size than the current Roosevelt site! Rebuild Roosevelt on current site – not enough fields now!
- Please help South Eugene support the bond – renovate Edison
- Smaller schools are preferred, not schools twice as big as currently.
- Please – historic is not just old.
- South University is a neighborhood under enormous pressure from the UO – it desperately needs Edison to continue to attract families
- Please help our cherished elementary school be renovated where it is presently located. We want to keep it exactly where it is. We love Edison!
- Please consider renovation of Edison and Camas, not replacement/consolidation
- Consider small footprints and alternative transport/walkable neighborhood school to be valuable and good for our community.
- Although consolidation of existing neighborhood schools may appeal to offer short-term savings in maintenance by virtue of improved economy of scale, this approach to long-term planning is based upon a false economy and is not in the best interest of our children and other stakeholders.

OTHER

- *[No comments]*

Prioritizing Goals: What’s most important to you?

- *[No comments]*

Other Comments/Questions (wall chart)

- Please ensure community involvement in this process. The presentation is fine, but allow opportunities to actually get involved before decisions are made.

Other Written Comments/Questions (not on wall charts)

- Thank you for listening to the community and considering the many facets of each decision to consolidate schools. Please consider new schools first for the communities of students that most need them.
- If the school building is sturdy enough to stand, it's good enough for instruction. The only people who would support building new schools are developers and providers of materials. Doing this to consolidate and building bigger buildings isn't right. Anyone who went to school would know how hard it is for kids to make friends in a small building, let alone a big building.
- I am worried the "new" doesn't always equate to increased educational suitability. Why aren't we investing more in our teachers? We need to start from the bottom up, not the top down. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter where our students are, but what they are being taught.
- I am concerned over the Asian studies program. I would hope the district would work harder to promote and encourage their, first ever in the U.S., YG Program. We are not opposed to a move, but don't alienate the River Road community who has embraced and supported YG for the past 26+ years. In addition, we truly work well with Corridor and I would encourage you to continue allowing us to work together.
- Our concern is for continued growth and success of YG program. YG is a unique and superior program.
- I would have liked to hear concerns and questions from the community. I came not really knowing what to think about the plans and would have liked to hear both sides. Pros, cons, etc. Also, I do not agree with Kevin [*Boling, principal of Bertha Holt Elementary School*] about new schools being better and changing all the things he said it would help. For example, Madison has lots of bullying and it does not use the building to its full potential. I realized that may be because of how it's run. Also from hearing from the special needs teacher, they may not be in a closet, but they still don't have what they need at Madison. So from my point of view new is not better.
- 24 years ago 4J SD took a survey of what languages to offer for its 3rd language immersion school. The preference leaned toward Japanese. In 1988, the Churchill region had the highest "vote" for a Japanese immersion school, but no space was available in the region and the school district chose to put us in the North region. The first three years were difficult as there was only one class per grade level. Funding in 4J for staff is determined by student numbers as we know. For the next 21 years the North region families have shown their support by

making YG their neighborhood alternative school. If we move, we need to be able to keep our North area families with bussing down to River Road. In 1988, Yujin Gakuen offered with no preparation year for curriculum development. If the school district decides to support a Mandarin Chinese immersion program my hope would be to allow for a planning year where they might travel to existing programs to cull best practices and plan their curriculum. TSPC is very challenging with their certification requirements. Licensed native speakers are not easily available. Limited licenses are no longer available. Green cards, Visa acquisition training would be needed by current human resources staff.

- Corridor needs to remain independent or co-located with YG. Corridor is a unique offering in the 4J district. It has a format with electives and co-mingling of grades and offerings that mix arts, sciences, inquiry and critical thinking that no other 4J elementary does. It has a robust field trip program that is entirely parent funded. It requires no bus/transportation, so it is less expensive. Finally, it has a community of parent support unlike any other 4J elementary school with a culture of parent volunteerism and donation that far outstrips Howard. Merging Howard and Corridor will be the end of the Corridor experience and students who thrive there will not thrive in other programs. Corridor doesn't need to stay in its current building, but it does need to remain independent. Corridor & YG are a big part of North Eugene draw, feeding NEHS and providing a draw for people to locate to the area. Moving and merging these programs will hurt the entire community and further hurt NEHS' reputation as a school.
- Co-locate with City Recreation/YMCA, etc. Do new developments pay into school resources? I totally support fewer schools that work better for students. I know people get attached to their school and teachers, but in the long run it makes more sense to have new, efficient and flexible spaces. Kevin Boling is 100% right! Would so many magnet schools with special focus lead to access and transportation problems? What if a different area school was better for your child?
- Industrial and commercial technologies, Tech and Vocational School. Not talking about less, but frankly more technologies. I think a vo-tech HS would lead to economic development drawing businesses to the area.
- For new schools please consider adequate space for specialists, conferences and team meetings.
- I love the idea of new facilities for the reasons Kevin presented: Safer, Collaboration, Environment
- When building a new school, it is easy to forget about building a designed space for specialists such as Speech Language Pathologists. In your design, please consider these kinds of spaces, making them easily accessible to students, quiet and lighted appropriately.
- Thanks for soliciting input and for the opportunity to discuss these proposed changes. Please remember, facilities don't create a world-class education — teachers and parents and engaged students do!