

Building 4J's Future

Public Input: Wall Comments

Community Forum on Oct. 10, 2012

Roosevelt Middle School (South Region)

Forum participants had an opportunity to provide input by writing on wall charts. There were charts for eight topics, based on the consultant's starter recommendations:

- *Churchill region*
- *North region*
- *Sheldon region*
- *South region: Rebuild Roosevelt Middle School at the Civic Stadium site*
- *South region: Rebuild Roosevelt Middle School on its current site*
- *South region: Consolidate Edison and Camas Ridge elementary schools*
- *South region: Other*
- *Other comments and questions*

*Some of the comment charts were divided into three sections: + – OTHER
Comments have been transcribed in the section they were written in, regardless of content.*

Participants also could submit written comments on a paper form.

Churchill Region

+ POSITIVE

- Churchill is the only region without a foreign language immersion program. Relocating YG [Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School] to ATA [Arts & Technology Academy] and continuing through Churchill High would greatly benefit the Churchill region schools. Language immersion and STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] would strengthen this region and increase enrollment.
- 4J absolutely needs a Chinese immersion program. Realistically this is essential for future Pacific Rim trade, culture, and technology education. Churchill is the only 4J region without a foreign language immersion program. I don't care if it is in a new Asian Studies building that includes tracks for Chinese, Korean, and YG Japanese. Nor do I care if it is in ATA or McCornack going on to Kennedy M.S. Fine with me to move YG to Churchill region – but we also need Chinese immersion – look to the present of the future – Mandarin is the #1 spoken language on Earth! Prepare our children by offering Chinese immersion!
- Don't move a YG program that works and helps the North Region. Add a Chinese immersion elementary to the Churchill Region.

- Bring Chinese program to Churchill.

- NEGATIVE

- *[No comments.]*

OTHER

- If Sheldon and North can support Spanish Immersion then why not North and Churchill with parallel yet different Asian Studies? North with Japanese and Churchill with Chinese. This would further enrich our children across the Eugene area.
- Close all language immersion schools. They are unfair to all other students.
- Move Japanese immersion here!
- Wonderful thing about Kelly: With YG feeding into the middle school they have opened up language immersion to new learners, i.e. you did not have to have gone to YG to start Japanese and age 11–12. But move YG to Churchill and that leaves Kelly. You can enrich without harming.

North Region

+ POSITIVE

- We support a district with 4 strong regions and a plan that suits the diverse needs of each. What is needed in North (new buildings) is not what is best for the South region.
- Moving YG/Corridor will provide North Eugene High with more space. Move YG to Churchill region so each region has a foreign language immersion program.
- Corridor and YG have co-existed side by side for 20 years and supported the North region.
- I fully support the idea of renovating schools to serve children today and into the future. But at what cost? Families already invested do not come under any measurable monetary calculations. Yes, upgrade our facilities, but no, don't move/eliminate us. (Corridor and YG)
- Small school programs work! We know, ask a Corridor parent!
- Yes! NEHS must be rebuilt!

- NEGATIVE

- Just like Mr. Boling said, a school is not just a building. It is a community! And that is what Corridor is "a community." Please don't take this away from us. We want to work together but keep our program. We (Corridor kids, parents, staff) are all family and work together to give our kids the education they get going to Corridor.

- Moving YG out of North area will be detrimental to Kelly MS and North HS. They will lose many supportive families.
- As Corridor parents, we have committed to provide our kids with a small community educational experience. I do not see the need to get rid of this program just to upgrade buildings. I am for the building renovations for all North elementary schools, I just feel all programs can be included in this.
- With the removal of YG/Corridor what is left that makes the North area unique? Do not remove our alternative school. Merging with Howard leaves a watered down version of our Corridor program at best. We will not have the manpower or money to continue our program. "Equitable and appealing" school does not consist of 500+ students. Mega schools have been proven to have more problems. With dropout rates, interpersonal relations, student confidence. This decision greatly affects Kelly MS and NEHS as well. Kelly will lose their volunteer base as a majority come from Corridor/YG!

OTHER

- Corridor has been a sustainable, productive school for 40 years! The program works! Let's work together to "merge" into a program that fits the needs of all kids.
- A survey of how many North residents send their student to other high schools needs to be conducted and the results shared. On my "block/neighborhood" I know of five families who send their student to other high schools or districts due to the negative reputation of North. This is not due to an old building, but due to inferior programs. Removing the YG program will further harm that region and cause less diversity.
 - Further, you need to assess the challenges this will create for Kelly MS.
- Not the job of "active" "passionate" parents to bring up the parents of another school!
- I watched the division of a community happen as 4J shut down Meadowlark and created an atmosphere of anger and animosity in the Sheldon community. Don't do this again. Bring Eugene together work to increase education, not anger and resentment.
- Has the Corridor program been evaluated as a negative? Or detrimental to kids? Why does Family School get to stay intact? Just let Corridor get a new hallway (corridor) in River Road or Howard.
- What about low income families? Families that already have children in an alternative program and/or immersion program. Do you now bus them? At whose expense?
- Removing the YG program from NEHS will leave our only language as Spanish. You cannot compare the BV Spanish program to the neighborhood immersion program that River Road offers. They do not appear to be of the same caliber.
- A personal story about Corridor: this school was my son's alternative. We knew he needed a small and personal touch. Being low-income we cannot afford private schools even with scholarships. The Village School was closed to us because no room. That left us Corridor. What

happened to children like ours who need a small school environment? Send them to a newly merged mega elementary? I don't care how you set up a building, more students increases the likelihood that kids like mine disappear and fall through ever increasing cracks.

Sheldon Region

+ POSITIVE

- Good plan!
- Ref: *Jack and the Giant School*. Stacy Mitchell. The New Rules, Summer 2007.
Successful Schools: Smaller, Safer, Saner. Joe Nathan and Karen Fabey. Nat'l Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities.

- NEGATIVE

- [No comments.]

OTHER

- [No comments.]

South Region – Rebuild Roosevelt at Current Site

+ POSITIVE

- Large existing property allows substantial flexibility in layout of all the school components. Preserves Civic Stadium site for Civic Stadium.
 - Agreed!.
 - Yes!
- Rebuild or renovate Roosevelt at present site — it would be nuts and unsafe to put it at smaller Civic site across busy roads — accident waiting to happen. Save Civic Stadium for its intended purpose which is to provide sports activities (soccer? etc.).
- The Civic site is way too small. Kids would spend 20+ minutes walking to and from the existing sports fields. And adding the Y to the Civic site would make the available space even smaller. Remodel or rebuild Roosevelt here. Let the Y share the Civic site with Civic Stadium as a music and sports venue.
- If you rebuild, do it on the present site.
 - Agree!!

- Remodel & renovate!
- It is so sad to continue building and then tearing down. Renovation is respect for the past as well as the future!

– NEGATIVE

- *YES*
- What exactly is so bad here? I expected rats and a leaking roof? Why not add a wing of new classes and some interior windows (maybe new lockers?) – much less money?
 - Ditto!
 - Agreed.
- I had heard so many negative reports re Roosevelt before my son attended this school. I was pleasantly surprised by how nice and in fine shape Roosevelt seemed. I see no reason to tear it down.
- This is a perfect spot for a middle school. There are fields and opportunities to grow here. The Civic site is too small. Save Civic for historic purposes.
- Repair is far cheaper – do not rebuild! Repair \$21.9 million. Replace \$32 million.
- Best option – least disruptive and least likely to cause opposition and controversy – also likely to be less expensive.
- For traffic needs as well as separation between schools and ages, if needed improvement or replacement undertaken, please remain on the current site. There is already overwhelming congestion in both SEHS and RMS locations separately which jeopardize our kids. Consolidation would compound the problem (and that’s only one of many reasons to keep campuses separate.)
- (1) Amazon Parkway already at capacity – student drop-offs and pickups and school buses coming and going would be too much.
 (2) Locating between Willamette and Amazon places students at greater risk of injury or death.
 (3) May not be allowed under uniform federal accessibility standards (see UFAS 202.3.1) “Prohibited reductions in access.” Also Section 206. May not be allowed under Americans with Disabilities Act standards for accessible design.
 Roosevelt site doesn’t have these problems.

OTHER

- I have no independent information about whether improvements are needed. What I want to clarify is that RMS should remain at its current site, and far more importantly, RMS improvements are not tied to Camas/Edison consolidation. Very different issues and pros and cons must be weighed separately.

- All schools need low cost passive solar for heating and cooling – gyms could have solar hot water and classes for design and building solar units. Teach the kids...
 - Yes

South Region – Rebuild Roosevelt at Civic Stadium Site

+ POSITIVE

- Strongly supportive of Roosevelt/YMCA at Civic site to retain community benefits of the site. Any proposed use will result in increased traffic; but traffic associated with school will be less than housing development or commercial purposes. Adjacent location to South Eugene could create budget efficiencies and increased opportunities for partnerships and collaboration.
 - Agree with above!
 - Yes!
 - I agree with above, there will be a traffic and safety issue on either site. Locating at Civic will give students the opportunity to take advantage of the high school.
- Build Roosevelt at the Civic site, don't sell Civic Stadium site.
- Civic Stadium was given to 4J for a specific purpose. 4J has already lost my trust and respect for not following their duty in regards to Civic. (We could be having single 'A' baseball and UO baseball there now but for 4J's greed.)
 - Give me a break.
 - Yes!
 - Great, now we're getting conspiracy theories. How Eugene!
- Less disruption to staff, students to build at new site. Opportunity to utilize on-site building materials to honor historic stadium in building process.
 - Good idea!
- Civic Stadium belongs to the people in spirit. Keep the historic icon!
 - How much money are "the people" willing to pay for that historic icon? First to purchase the land and structure, and then to keep it from falling down? Not enough, from what I've seen.
- Do it – make it a flagship middle school – build it to accommodate future needs
 - Yes!

- NEGATIVE

- Take Civic Stadium off the list. 4J should turn it over to the city or a nonprofit, who will properly take care of it.

- Yes, yes
- That would be an injustice to Eugene's schoolchildren. Please make decisions that are fiscally sound.
- Much less safe for children commuting. Renovation costs less!
- Civic Stadium is an asset for the students
- Too close to high school influence – drugs, etc.
- Civic Stadium is a historic building and site. It is educational and could provide a sports venue for children. If the school district would update the facility it could provide revenue. After all they own the site free and clear, why not use it to generate revenue. It can be done. We don't need to tear it down.
 - Agreed!
- Roosevelt is already close enough to South!
- Civic needs to be a learning center. Classes on building rehab and maintenance. Management classes.
 - Teach the kid how to survive in the workplace.
- Too much traffic on Amazon and Willamette for safety for our children.
 - Agreed!
 - Agreed.
- The site is way too small. Why limit Roosevelt?
- The high school probably doesn't want the middle school to take advantage of them.
- Not at all a safe (or large enough) location – and RMS and South already only blocks away.
- Civic Stadium site is too small and would require tearing down a historic structure which could never be replaced. Would also cause students to cross busy Amazon Street to use any other sports facilities it would share with South.
- Not enough space at Civic for a middle school.
- Terrible option – it's too close to busy roads and intersections. Will generate more traffic in South Eugene.
- A soccer field on the Civic site is not enough sports fields for a middle school. The current Roosevelt site has 2 soccer fields and use of an adjacent city softball field and 2 other soccer fields.
- A new Roosevelt built at the Roosevelt site would likely be built on the 2 soccer fields which are right across the street from South Eugene HS track field. An easy walk for Roosevelt students to take classes at South.
 - I agree

- Roosevelt has 14 acres. Civic has 10 acres. Not enough room for a middle school, a Y, and sports fields
- Civic Stadium has emotional impact but not a value added to schools. Not useable to majority. Get out of the Civic debate – Sell it or raze it to use for schools.

OTHER

- Open up the shops again. Auto, Wood, Metal. Teach kids “Life Skills”
 - Ditto! We need “hands on” shop skills in addition to college prep.

South Region Consolidate Edison and Camas Ridge

- Renovation costs less
- Teachers collaborate regardless of where our rooms are. –teacher
- Save Edison – historic, walkable
- Camas Ridge + Edison = 748 students
- Of the five schools rebuilt in 2005, have these schools shown great improvements in the statewide report cards? Why would you close schools with outstanding scores?
- Of first importance is renovating Edison School.
- Where is neighborhood livability on the list of 4J priorities? It’s not.
- Edison is the center of a walkable neighborhood. A majority of students do/can walk or bike!
- We ♥ Edison
- Please save it – Parents and non-parents.
- Facilities matter – renovate and repair schools where the community wants it.
- We moved to Fairmount so our children could walk to school. Edison is a big part of our neighborhood. Education is more than building layout and keeping maintenance costs low. What about knowing all of your classmates? Children aren’t prepared for schools of 750+ kids at the age of 5. How many teachers support this plan?
- Me too – it would be my first time ever to vote against a school bond if it includes closing Edison.
- About leadership, culture, lots of other variables.
- If you build a new Camas because their enrollment justifies it, what happens to Edison? Is it left to languish? Or do you repair and renovate?

- Why are we writing on walls instead of discussing as a group here?
- Combining Edison and Camas Ridge will create a mega-elementary that studies show lowers educational outcomes. Why? We want better facilities but not at the expense of educational success.
 - Amen to this line! Community fosters education and community suffers as the school gets larger and larger.
- If 4J opts to close Edison, I'm sorry, but I will vote against the bond measure. We need to retain the socio-economic stability in Fairmount and SUNA that Edison provides.
- School buildings are not "tools," they are places.
- Why such a hard-sell mumbo-jumbo presentation?
- Camas Ridge already has 450 students including former Harris, Eastside, and some of Parker. Keep it as a neighborhood community school that combines the best of all these programs on same site. Renovate the building if funds available, but do not merge with Edison which already has a great neighborhood school. Kids do best in smaller schools, not mega-elementary schools beyond walking/biking distance.
- Reform the tax law so that we can pay for teachers.
 - Yes!
- Why ditch a well-established, high-functioning school like Edison? The closure of Edison would adversely affect the surrounding neighborhood.
- The state's flagship university should have a flagship school!!!
- Will future Eugenians thank us for closing our most beautiful old school – and the one best-placed to draw on connections to our state's flagship university? Renovate the Edison site!!!
 - Yes
 - Ditto
 - Yes
- Politically inadvisable – you will alienate a core constituency
 - ☹ boo hoo
- Smaller schools = success!
- Please teach our children to preserve! Old does not mean useless. Renovate and modernize Edison to meet future learning demands. Local, neighborhood school – kids walking and biking (which reduces obesity) and encourages community involvement.
- Size and location are big problems. Merger creates a school that is too big and not centrally located for walking/biking.
- Please consider renovating. These are neighborhood, walkable, bikeable schools. They are so important to their neighborhoods!

- I would vote for a bond measure that would renovate Edison, but not one that would close our neighborhood school.
 - We did in 2011 – what did they do w/ \$?
- We love our little school. The building is beautiful. Don't let it go. The grass isn't always greener
 - Totally agree. Maybe some schools don't need windows to the common areas to monitor kids because there are lots of parents volunteering. It's easy to volunteer when you can walk/bike to school!
- School consolidation ignores the strong neighborhood and political support for 4J. The strong engagement and support at both Camas and Edison. You are alienating your strongest base of support and fundraising and I have already heard many people say they would campaign against a bond measure that included this.
- A terrible idea. I see your charts, ranking schools by 4 criteria, but how about measuring them by success? Which schools have the longest waiting lists?
- Community-connected siting of schools is surely as important as building layout for major elements of "what makes schools work": walkable, modest-sized neighborhood schools support parental involvement (besides having massive benefits for city structure, physical fitness, community spirit more broadly. Renovate Edison.
- Presentation suggested that the input forums are somewhat disingenuous – have you presented "the consultant's evaluation" or what the district has decided it "wants to pursue" – you said both. Please consider community input – you need community support to invest in our schools' future.
- Amazon, 24th, Hilyard, 29th, 4 busiest streets = no place for an elementary.
- Support neighborhood schools! Pay attention to preserving small, rich communities.
- Renovate Edison into a model school defined around connections to UO!!
- Edison school is a model school.
- Evidence on elementary school size supports higher achievement/outcomes in schools. 300-400 students (particularly for low-income and diverse students)
- Renovate Edison – substantially cheaper as well.
- Campus K-12 will lose the wonderful/effective school culture present at Edison.
- Renovate Edison – it's a great small, successful neighborhood school – closure of the school would not be good for its students, families, or the neighborhood.
- Renovate, not always build new.
- Collaboration among teachers occurs when supportive principal and active engaged parents create a culture and build a structure that encourages, facilitates, and enables it.

- New buildings with classrooms arranged in pods will not boost. Student achievement. Please protect and preserve schools like Edison that already accomplish the kind of collaboration and academic achievement that we'd like to see district-wide
- Why are we not using/considering/following any of the thoughtful and well-researched planks of the "Oregon School Siting Handbook"? (with Edison on cover, prepared in conjunction with UO) – All about walkable, safe, embedded in neighborhood schools.
- Don't waste taxpayer dollars. Renovate, don't replace.
- Renovate Edison. Small schools produce better learning. Save the façade – rebuild the interior – use input from research, community and stakeholders – get UO AAA involved!
- 60% of Edison kids walk or bike to school
- 0 (zero) parking spaces and don't need them!
- Relatively new to Edison. I find it an incredibly engaging and supportive community and I attribute that in part to the smaller size and immersion in the neighborhood. That's what I want for my kids
- No! Small schools are more effective and better schools!
- Renovate \$5.7 million. Replace \$12.6 million.
- Consider renovating Edison.
 - Mega schools have no record of performance
 - Smaller classrooms – better experience
 - Lots of room for renovation: gym? Black top? Break out walls?
 - Less cost
 - Maintain south community epicenter (including property values)
 - Smaller bond measure will likely pass – include too much and it may fail.
 - Rebuild Camas – there is room/demand for two schools
 - Please read "Planning for Schools and Livable Communities" I have emailed to the board today. Look at the school on the cover
- Pods not necessary with a 350 student school where everyone knows your kid's name!
- Neighborhoods matter and the consultants don't understand this. Renovate.
- Please read case studies re: renovation the "Oregon School Siting Handbook".
- Edison has place for full-time kinder when funding is available
- Edison was built when quality construction was valued. No flat roof.
- \$900K was approved by the voters to renovate Edison. It is a start in the correct direction

- Where is the data that schools built in 2004 have improved student outcomes based on the new building features presented tonight
- Why would we consolidate schools when the city council is pushing for growth?
- Reasons to keep Edison where it is and renovate it:
 - Smaller schools (400) = better student learning.
 - Edison, because it's small and a neighborhood school, has created a very strong community.
 - Our kids can bike and walk to school, which is good for their bodies and good for our community.
 - Our young kids won't be able to walk to a site at Roosevelt, not across two busy streets.
 - We need to teach our children that we should re-use and renovate before we tear down and rebuild. It's better for the world and is usually less expensive.
 - As a SUNA resident, I believe very strongly that we should keep a school in the neighborhood. Without it, we lose our ability to attract families and we risk becoming a university student rental slum
 - We don't need pods because we have a 300-student school.
 - In terms of buildings leading to better student outcomes, I watched my son, from the hallway above in P.E. the other day. There are eyes on the street.
- Smaller schools have more community involvement – more before after school involvement in programs. They are more of a community.
- Negative externalities of Edison consolidation: Property will be sold. Development will drive property rates higher, making it harder for families to live in South Eugene. Losing neighborhood school fundamentally changes where people live and raise families.
- South Eugene residents oppose merger of Camas and Edison. All 4 neighborhoods have said they would fight it. They won't be fooled by a Camas renovation that ignores Edison then closes Edison the following year.
 - Yes
 - Ditto
- Please renovate Edison School, and keep it where it is. I am concerned about attracting families to South University neighborhood and keeping my property value up, Edison school is very important to our neighborhood. Thank you.
- Edison's building is gorgeous.
- Do the consultants you used even know the community? They have no idea about how the community feels about our existing schools.
- Please show us real data on how the new 4J school buildings have increased teacher collaboration and reduced bullying. When I asked for specific examples of increased teacher

collaboration currently, I'm told there's no money for extra teacher/specialist time to cover collaboration. Come visit Edison and see how our teachers are collaborating!

- Edison is very useful! Renovate if necessary, but keep it. It is loved by the community! It is too costly to build new schools when we can keep the ones we love and maintain the community that exists.
- Kevin Boling mentioned that a school culture should foster respect, caring and high academic achievement. Edison already does this with flying colors...all it needs is some renovation.
- This combination model has worked. Data proven. Use it here too. Edison, while charming and neighborly, has outlived its usefulness. It does not work for students with disabilities so that makes it not community focused.
- Edison and Camas each provide vital community services/identity to their neighborhoods. Combining the two would create an oversized mall-like environment. To demonstrate how destructive this is, consider what Valley River Center did to Eugene's downtown.
- What did the eval regarding Edison say regarding remodeling? Cost? Vs. new? The school is integral to this neighborhood. Keep Edison with new vision for it. If you have to tear down, rebuild on same site!
- We're also interested in seeing the 2011 bond measure funds used wisely. Voters approved \$900K specifically for Edison capital improvements. We ask you to be accountable to voters' wishes. Renovate Edison please! You've got a great start with \$900K.
- I'm glad you chose to renovate Willagillespie (the other old building) rather than tearing it down and selling it. This is the same method you should use for Edison. Save our historic buildings – plus Edison is doing great things inside – take a look if you haven't done so or don't live in the neighborhood.
 - Yes
- Edison and Camas Ridge should be renovated; not merged. Better for students, community, and neighborhood and less expensive.
- South University and Fairmount are currently very fragile neighborhoods due to massive influx of students. Edison is currently a top-rated school and attracts highly involved and supportive families. If you replace a wonderful neighborhood school with say a university office building and parking at as McMennamen's b&b/pcb- you will kill the neighborhood as a family/residential place. Families will flee as some have already. RJ allocates extra resources to certain schools now to address special/neighborhood/population needs. The Edison area has a special need now. Renovate – don't tear down a school that works.
- Please remodel Edison and keep it as the heart of our neighborhood families.
- Will you please research and present info on the cost of repairing and updating Edison? The whole community will support it if it's financially feasible.... It is.

- Merge Edison and Camas Ridge and build a new and vastly improved facility to house the new school. I will miss the ease and convenience of walking to school with my daughter, but I'd prefer she, and the children in this community, have all of the opportunities that would be possible from the combined resources. –A Camas Ridge Parent

South Region – Other Comments and Questions

- What happened to the ~\$900K allocated for remodeling Edison in the 2011 bond? If that \$ had been spent as planned, Edison would not have the weaknesses that the outside consultant held against Edison in its formula.
 - Yes
 - Major public trust issue!! Ask us to vote for a bond measure for specific projects and then withhold the money because now “we might close that school.”
 - Yes – where’s the accountability on use of funds voters voted for?
- I am firmly against consolidation for all of the reasons laid out in the Oregon School Siting Handbook – and from personal observation of the benefits a neighborhood school offers – emotional and health as well as academic. Renovating Edison would address the shortfalls identified in the facility study, would maintain board accountability to voters and support prior representations that money is set aside to renovate Edison, and lastly, would be consistent with prior precedent to renovate, rather than replace, (Eugene’s) our historic schools (i.e. Willagillespie E.S.). Please be conscientious in your decision making and keep kids a priority in your bottom line. Thank you!
 - Yes!
- You need to consider the lower cost of renovation versus complete replacement – voters will be in no mood to approve something that does not appear cost effective.
- You should also consider the impact on neighborhoods, walking, biking, and healthy activity of kids. Many of these options could likely result in fewer kids walking and biking and more traffic.
- I’m a parent, neighbor, and usually a 4J advocate. I’m not clear where the recommendation to consolidate Edison and Camas Ridge originated. The Shaping 4J process ('07 and '08) very heavily promoted the educational value of small schools (cited 300–400 for elementary – for academic achievement and overall success of students. What happened to the passion for small schools. The recession/economy changed budgets but it did not change how kids learn best. I strongly support renovations and reconstructions – even new schools – but not at the expense of school size. I heavily encourage you to review the research and best practices information you provided to the community during the Shaping 4J process. Keep Edison and Camas Ridge whole but not consolidated.
- I think that having a semi-combined Middle and High School is very bad for the 6 and 7th graders – who need to still be children. The few kids who want/need to take a high school class should not drive this decision, nor a desire to have easily combined staff meetings!

- Agreed!
- Build at the Willard site. We need an alternative elementary school in that area.
- How can all students be supported at a school of 750 children. If Edison and Camas Ridge are combined they all lose!
 - Agree!
- City of Eugene’s “Envision Eugene” is in support of local neighborhood schools, parks, and shops in walk/bike accessible areas – Please keep this goal in mind and support our neighborhood schools like Edison and Camas Ridge as the hearts of our neighborhood communities – don’t turn our city into some outside developer’s short-term profit at long term cost to our sense of safe local communities for our families.
- Recommendations from the Oregon School Siting Handbook:
Consider small sites and multi-level schools. Districts should select sites that can be incorporated into the neighborhood instead of sites that isolate the school from the community it serves. An excessively large site may reduce siting options, eliminate transportation choices, and foreclose the possibility of the school serving as a center of community. By using creative design, schools can be multi-level, thereby requiring less land and making it easier to integrate them into the neighborhood.

Renovate and expand existing schools. Where possible, districts should consider renovating or rebuilding schools on sites that have anchored neighborhoods for decades and to which students already can walk or bike. They should recognize that it is just as important to preserve, maintain, and renovate existing buildings as it is to build well-designed, well-located new ones. Working with architects and engineers who are familiar with school renovation practices is also valuable.

- Yes!
- I hope the board will read the entire handbook and apply its principles in their decisions.
- I am not persuaded that the keys to effective teaching and learning (as described tonight) are directly related to new buildings with pods. Why can’t remodeling to add windows and improve ADA accessibility, etc., address the facility-related concerns? The schools you propose to abandon already provide orderly environments, consistent and reliable curriculum, etc.
 - Agree
 - I agree!
- Move Charlemagne French immersion to either remodeled Parker or remodeled Willard site — and continue with French in South region.
- All current buildings can be repaired/renovated for about \$100 million less than replacing them. All these bonds can lead to voter fatigue that could result in less support for teachers and staff.
 - Yes
- Keep the French immersion in the South region and make it more accessible to everyone!

- Your consultants do not know our community and the passion we have for our schools. We want to keep Edison and Camas Ridge — just renovate!
 - Yes!
- I support education but I will not vote to close Edison (and rebuilding Camas Ridge does not solve the problem). There are many others in the community who share this view.
 - Yes
- Reuse and recycle. Don't raze.
- Putting Camas and Edison at a new site is 700+ kids who now cannot bike or walk. At 450 Camas feels like enough "kid-mass."
- Combining Roosevelt and the YMCA = good for both.

Other Comments & Questions (wall chart)

- In 2004 the UO conducted a year-long evaluation of Oregon's school siting process. The result was *The Oregon School Siting Handbook*. Two of the four guiding principles in the handbook are: the school site is easily and safely accessible by walking, biking and transit; the school site is a community focal point. Has the 4J board read the handbook? If so, how does the current proposal fit into the above principles? Note: Edison school was chosen as the cover of the handbook.
- All our students need auditory access. The Soundfield systems at Holt, Chavez, Madison and Cal Young work well. Add to all classrooms.
- Bertha Holt is a well-designed facility, Use it as a model for other elementary schools in all areas of Eugene.
- Start student projects (classes) that have the possibilities of saving energy and money: low cost solar projects (classes). Food production for school lunch programs. Teach students while saving schools energy and money.
- Shop classes teach students how to work later in life. Open up the shops.
- Language immersion schools are unfair. Close all immersion schools and save the money and provide more language instruction to all students.
- Edison access issues for students with vision and/or mobility issues.
- If Edison is closed, how can we maintain a central place to gather? The Edison playground is used by folks of all ages. Last Saturday there were 18 boys (16–18 years old) playing football and 12 children from 3–12 playing on the blacktop and swings, etc. It is a wonderful center to meet folks. Edison is certainly in need of renovation i.e. accessibility in particular. We would like the committee to consider the impact of making elementary schools service larger populations rather than keeping them smaller. I think many problems can arise if a school is

too large. Neighborhoods require these institutions to stay healthy and foster “ownership” and responsibility toward our children and neighbors.

- Wheelchair access at older schools relegates students with disabilities to different paths than their peers.
- INCLUSION!
- How effective are 500+ grade schools?
- Buildings do not make a community – the families do.
- We need diversity in our buildings and programs.

Other Written Comments/Questions (not on wall charts)

- I have been an active Camas Ridge parent since its inception (conception even) and have seen how difficult maintaining and nurturing a community can be with increased numbers of students and teachers. I feel very strongly that yet another increase in student body size is detrimental to education quality. Just as class sizes going from 28 to 32 is a much bigger increase than just 4 students, so adding 200 students to an already strained 450 will make true community solidarity very difficult to achieve. Tom Cramer
- I have no kids or grandkids in this area. These are my beliefs. Neighborhood schools, such as Edison and Camas Ridge, are better for the kids—better academics, better social development and better physical development (walk to and from school). Parents can know each other, which makes the kids safer and encourages parent participation in school activities. Schools surrounded by homes are safer for kids, since neighbors notice anything odd going on.

Large schools encourage children’s anonymity and respect for one another, which increases bullying.

I am very concerned about the safety of kids crossing 24th and Hilyard and playing in an isolated area by Roosevelt’s fields (new building site?) Increased costs will occur to hire people to monitor. School buses increase pollution and increase obesity and decrease bone density.

The area between SEHS and the stadium has long been known as a drug sales area. Not good for anyone, especially middle school kids.

- Children went to Edison. Renovate Edison: smaller schools are better; is a high performing school in a unique neighborhood; moving Edison will destroy our neighborhood; all the apartments have made negative changes, please don’t take our neighborhood school away; walking to school saves money for the district.
- I am surprised that SEHS scored so well. The classes are so full with 35+ kids.

Camas is big enough—don't merge with Edison. No regional elementary. Parents and kids like neighborhood schools (as a formerly Parker parent).

- Renovation costs less, don't be wasteful. Teachers do not need new buildings to collaborate. Super elementary schools of 750 is scary. Smaller schools are better! Roosevelt site for Camas/Edison merger is not safe for young kids to commute. Don't turn the Edison neighborhood into UO rentals.
- The reason that we moved our family to the south area was because of Edison Elementary. It is upsetting to hear that it might be closed to create a mega school. When it comes to education we believe smaller (not bigger) is better. We would rather see you use the existing site and raise a new school.
- Please do not close Edison school. Remodel it! Our neighborhood needs to keep this historic and important focal point for children and for our history. The focus on consolidation to save money and making schools better disturbs me. It seems what we want to do is create a community which values smaller schools Large elementary schools are a bad idea. Keep Roosevelt at its current location. Putting an elementary school at such a busy corner is a bad idea.
- I am new to the area, but did not hear much about how kids of different economic statuses' learning needs are being addressed. There are a lot of fundraising efforts going on in my kids' schools that do not seem to acknowledge the possibility of differing economic situations of the students in an "inclusive" way. I am just curious to know if these discussions are happening as well.

I also hear a lot of "it was good enough for me" and "what we have is good because it's ours"—I don't think everyone appreciates the need to improve sites and technology as essential for their kids' futures. If they could know what they're missing!

- Edison Elementary is a neighborhood destination for the South University folks. It is a landmark and meeting place for all families here. I grew up in Southern California and do not want to see 4J go in the same direction the school districts there went in. My husband had the privilege of attending Edison, Roosevelt and South Eugene. He and his fellow students have all taken the EXCELLENT education they received there and many have on onto advanced degrees and Ivy League schools. My daughter is 3 years old, and can't wait to attend Edison. If Edison and Camas Ridge are consolidated, I will not be able to walk my daughter to school. I will have to drive her, or she will need to be bused. Edison is very much a part of the rich fabric of our walkable/bikeable South University area. It would be regrettable by many in that were to change. The cost to renovate Edison is \$10 million. The cost to our neighborhood if we lose Edison is incalculable.
- My kids attended Edison, Roosevelt and South Eugene High School. We live in South Eugene between 19th and 20th and Onyx and University. Families still come to our neighborhood to attend Edison and Roosevelt, but increasing pressure by student housing for UO is making the quality of life in our neighborhood deteriorate. For example, the family house next to ours is now occupied by 5 sophomore UO students whose loud parties attract wandering groups of

students looking for party houses. Should Edison close or move, our neighborhood would become a student ghetto.

We loved that our children—now 30 and 32—could walk to Edison and Roosevelt. With child obesity such a problem, children should be able to walk or bike to school.

Also, I still have hopes that Civic Stadium can be saved!

Both Edison and Roosevelt are excellent schools, despite the building problems. If they must be rebuilt, do it as close as possible to the current sites. Larger schools are not necessarily better.

- Live in Churchill region, but attend South schools.
 1. Will Charlemagne ever move to a more centrally located building? Only parents who can drive their kids there can have their kids attend. This sets up a community of only high SES families.
 2. Yes, please replace the building at Camas Ridge, but do not ask us to move to a different location and merge with Edison. This will kill our program.
 3. Crest Drive Elementary would be great for a SW YMCA facility. If not that, please sell this to someone who will keep the facility “open” for walking, etc.
 4. Camas has been asked to change and adjust many times over the years—it’s enough!
- I would love to learn more about the pros and cons of each of these options. I am sold on the need to update the failing buildings but I’d like to read the analysis of data to form an opinion. People are passionate about the personal history and sentimentality behind Civic Stadium, fear of lost property value, and inconvenience of farther away schools, and need reasonable arguments to sway them in a valid direction. Thank you for hosting these forums.
- I am very supportive of the proposal for the YMCA to co-locate with Roosevelt either on the existing site or at Civic Stadium. I think siting Roosevelt/YMCA at the civic site could be an excellent use of the property. I disagree with the position taken by the West Amazon and Friendly Neighborhood Associations that traffic concerns should preclude building a school/Y on the site. Any proposed use for Civic will increase traffic, and the city, 4J district, and/or developer will have to address traffic needs.
- As an urban planner I am completely opposed to closing neighborhood schools. When the city applies for grants and looks to neighborhoods to choose for pilot projects we must assess services within the neighborhood. Walkable schools are consistently lacking in Eugene.

As far as sustainability—Edison School is a candidate for adapting and continuing to use an existing building in a walkable neighborhood.

I would definitely consider leaving Eugene if the livability is compromised. I have better job

opportunities outside the community but stay for my daughter to attend a school as great as Edison.

- A graduate of Edison, Roosevelt and South Eugene, with a child that will begin attending Edison Elementary in three years, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to shut Edison and Camas Ridge, and combine them into a large school at the Roosevelt site.

Edison's success should be measured as much by what it adds to the community at large as what it provides within its walls.

Yes, it should be upgraded. But by moving the school out of the neighborhood, we eliminate the ability of children to commute by bike or foot.

Edison is full of light and character. As one in the architectural field, I can safely say, a "modern" school can only hope to achieve what Edison already so clearly provides. Let's protect our history, or 40 years from now we will only be trying to replicate the neighborhood schools of old, as we are currently attempting to repair the damage done to downtown Eugene by shortsighted consultants and planners.

- Edison school should be renovated. It is a crime to close such a beautiful, historic school. Camas should also be renovated. Roosevelt should stay where it is. Moving these schools will damage our south University neighborhood irreparably, as well as lead to reduced quality of educational experience for all our neighborhood children who walk, bike to school and have friends nearby.
- Keep our neighborhood schools in the neighborhoods. They are the very heart of our individual communities within our city. Keep Edison where it is! Camas Ridge also.

DO NOT combine middle schoolers with high schoolers. They are too young to be exposed to "high school" shenanigans and issues.

- We need to do everything we can to keep our neighborhood schools. We all need to work statewide and nationally to return our country, state, community to excellent funding of our schools with progressive taxation.

Many of our schools—as well as highways, bridges, etc.—were built when our top tax rates on the rich were as high as 90%. It is time again for those who do well from our society, pay for what got them there.

Teachers make good outcomes for students not buildings. Figure out how to hire more teachers and pay them well.

- The building consultants were given tasks with poorly conceived parameters. They focused on property age and condition and did not compare the cost of renovation versus new construction. They also did not consider operational costs for things like buses. The study did not consider some broader Oregon and Eugene goals.
 - Transportation accessibility

- Strong neighborhoods
- Strong community engagement
- Sustainability

As a result, they overstated the grounds needed for schools, undervalued pedestrian and bicycle access, favored new construction over reuse, and underestimated the importance of fundraising and political support for funding and schools like Edison, Camas Ridge and Roosevelt.

Civic Center is NOT an acceptable site—it is too dangerous in terms of traffic and I would actively campaign to oppose a measure that included this (I have been a strong school supporter and Eugene Education Fund donor).

- As a parent with young children and a student of small schools, I know that smaller schools build community. Schools with fewer than 400 students also have better outcomes. Students and teachers feel invested, and students learn more.

I love that my children can currently walk to Edison. It would be many years before I would allow my 7-year-old to cross 24th and Hilyard to a new school at Roosevelt. Walking and biking to school also creates community and is simply good for them.

As someone who cares deeply about the future and how we impact the earth, I also feel strongly about re-using and renovating before throwing out and starting afresh. Edison is a beautiful building with much historic value. I love my son's classroom. It is large with big windows. I love standing outside Edison on fall days, saying hello to neighbors while enjoying the gorgeous brick building against the fall foliage. And, renovation costs less.

As a SUNA resident, I feel very strongly about keeping a school in the neighborhood. Without it, were not a draw for families, and we risk becoming university student slums.

- I'll email. One problem with the process (chart paper and anonymous forms) is people don't need to take responsibility for what they say or how they say it. Kirsten Haugen (haugen.ka@gmail.com)
- Parents are a natural constituency to vote and rally support for bond measure. And we all want improved facilities! But not at the expense of appropriately sized elementary schools (300–400). No massive elementary schools! Yes community-scale schools!
- Why remodel Willagillespie but abandon Edison? What happened to the money allocated for remodeling Edison in the 2011 bond? Voters approved 4J plan to solve some of the weaknesses Edison still has (because district didn't spend money on Edison as it told voters it would) and now those weaknesses are being used as justification to abandon the school. Edison already has adequate space for full-day kindergarten.