



Steering Committee #1

August 8, 2024

Agenda

- 1** Setting the Stage:
Role, Intros & Timeline
- 2** Setting up for Success:
Approach to Working Together
- 3** Moving Forward: State of
Facilities & Community Input
- 4** Kudos + “Even Better If”
& Next Steps

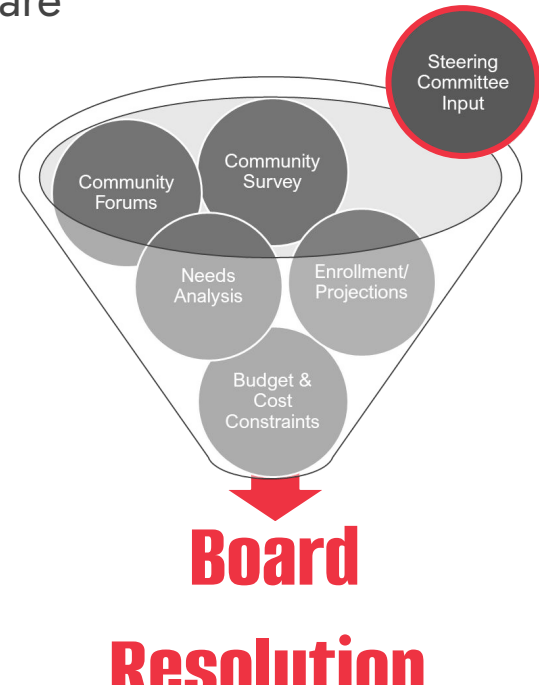


1. Setting the Stage: Committee

Role, representative group is commissioned by the SJPS Board of Education to develop a May 2025 bond proposal recommendation that reflects The greatest facilities needs of the district. Participants are a cross-section of the community, including:

- Students & Parents
- Teachers & Administrators
- Board of Education Members
- Community At-Large

Facilitation provided by district administrative leaders and professional services consultants




1. Setting the Stage: Intros

20-30 Second Introductions:

- Name
- Connection to SJPS
- 5 Words on Why you said YES to Join the committee



1. Setting the Stage: Timeline

	2024						2025					
	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
MAY 2025	Stakeholder Input Scope Development			Treasury Approval BOE Calls Election			Voter Outreach			 Vote!		

This is a collaborative, information-driven process with regular input from District Leaders, BOE and the community at large...

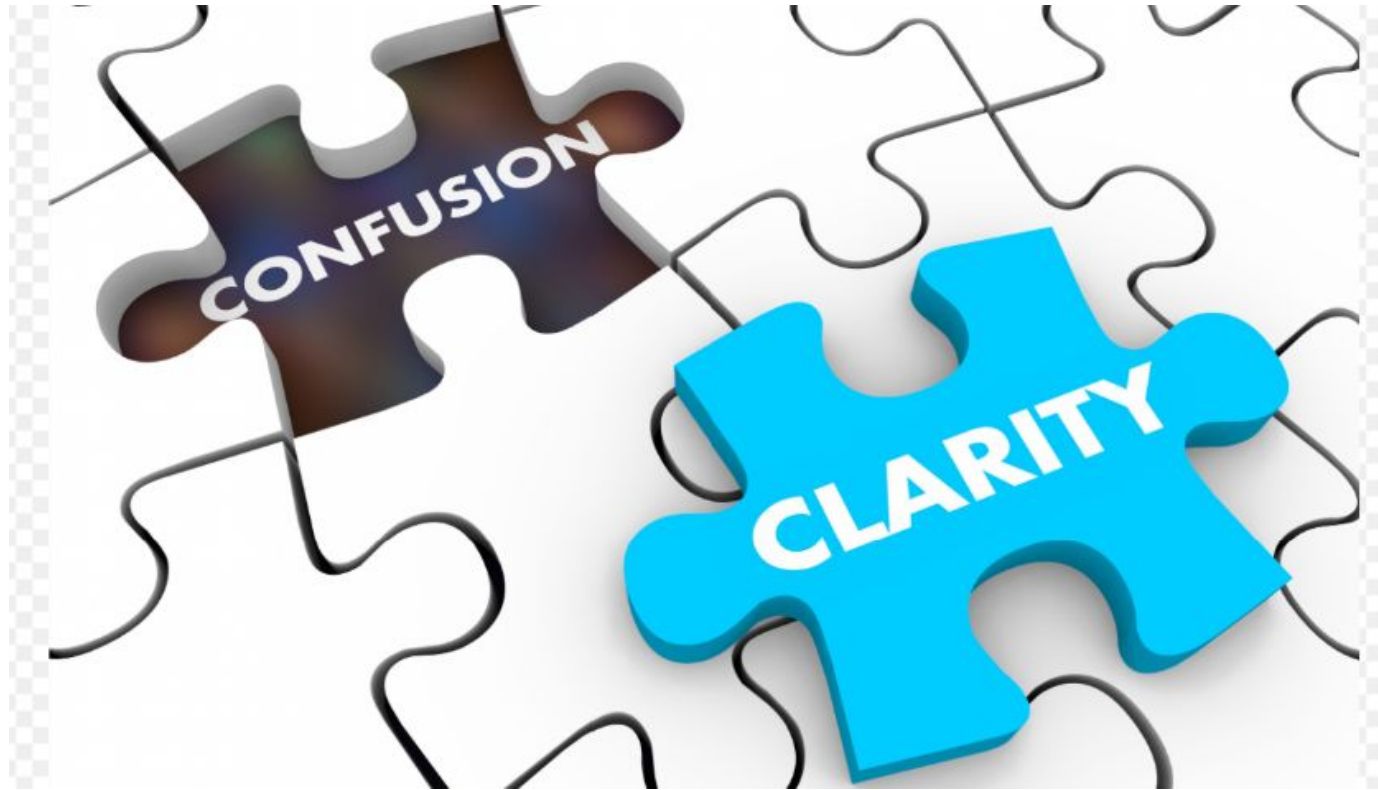
1. Setting the Stage: Timeline

	DATE	STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIVITY	GROUP
AUG	AUG 8	Background & Big Picture Priorities	Steering Committee #1
	AUG 15	Continue Big Picture Priorities Discussion	Steering Committee #2
	AUG 29	Draft Outline of Recommended Scope	Steering Committee #3
SEP	SEP 9	Review Draft Outline of Rec. Scope	Board of Education (BOE)
	SEP 12	Adjust w/ BOE Feedback - First Full Draft	Steering Committee #4
	SEP 16	Community Survey - Review of First Draft	Community Feedback
	SEP 26	Adjust w/ Survey Results - Second Draft	Steering Committee #5
	SEP 30	Review Second Draft	BOE

1. Setting the Stage: Timeline

	DATE	STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIVITY	GROUP
OCT	OCT 10	Adjust w/ BOE Feedback - Third Draft	Steering Committee #6
	OCT 16	Community Forum Input on Third Draft	Community Feedback
	OCT 24	Adjust w/ Forum Input - Final Rec. Draft	Steering Committee #7
	OCT 30	Review Final Rec. Draft	BOE (Workshop)
NOV	NOV 7	Adjust w/ BOE Input - Final Rec.	Steering Committee #8
	NOV 11	Review Final Rec.	BOE
NOV to MAY	NOV-FEB	MI Dept. of Treasury - Review Process	BOE/SJPS Leadership
	FEB-MAY	Outreach to Voters	All
	MAY 6	Election Day	All

1. **Setting the Stage: Timeline**



2. Setting up for Success: Team

Norms

Center for Creative Leadership 

Team norms are a set of rules or operating principles that shape team members' interactions. Team norms establish clear, agreed-upon behavior, how the work will get done, and what team members can expect of each other. This is a key way to build trust, which is critical for team success.

2. Setting up for Success: Team

Norm



2. Setting up for Success: Team

Norms

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



2. Setting up for Success: Team

Norms

- Your WORST and BEST team experience (1-2 Min - Individually)
- What makes for good and bad team experiences? (2 Min - Table Discussion)
- How do we help ourselves and each other avoid “Sheldon” moments? (2 Min - Table Discussion)
- Sharing (10 Min - Whole Group)

IdeaBoardz brainstorm, retrospect, collaborate

How does it look



2. Setting up for Success: SJPS

MISSION STATEMENT:

St. Johns Public Schools will provide an educational experience that prepares all students to become individuals who think critically, live purposefully, lead responsibly, communicate persuasively, and serve others generously.

DISTRICT VISION:

To become schools that embrace change through pursuit, evaluation and celebration of new knowledge and skills. To provide every student with the choice to undertake advanced learning without remediation.

Goal 1

Provide a district wide environment that supports the social and emotional well-being of all students.

Focus Areas

- **Self-Awareness**
 - Emotions
 - External Supports
- **Self-Management**
 - Manage emotion and behavior
 - Goal setting
- **Relationship Skills**
 - Positive communication
 - Social skills
- **Responsible Decision Making Skills**
 - Academic
 - Social situations

Goal 2

Focus on continuous academic improvement Pre-K through grade 12.

One Year Targets

- 100% of 3rd grade students meet the reading benchmarks established by the "Read by Grade 3" law.
- In grades 3-7 in ELA and Math the difference (gap) in the district's percentage proficient and the state average will increase by 3%.
- In grades 8 and 11 in EBRW and Math the difference (gap) in the district's "Career and College Ready" and the state average will increase by 2%.

Goal 3

Create an environment that fosters engagement between the school board, students, staff, and community.

Focus Areas

- Develop a marketing and branding strategy that promotes St. Johns Public Schools.
- Recognize and communicate excellence in all areas of St. Johns Public Schools. Tell our story!
- Establish consistent, ongoing communication between students, parents, staff, and community.
- Build relationships between community, staff, and students to foster engagement of all stakeholders.

Together, we succeed.

3. A Quick Look Back: May 2024

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SCHOOL BOND PROPOSAL

On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, our community will vote on a school bond proposal for St. Johns Public Schools.

If approved by voters, this bond would provide \$92,000,000 for improvements across the district at **no tax rate increase** expected over the current rate to address four key areas:

SAFETY & SECURITY

Safety & Security

- Increased exterior door monitoring
- Secure entrances
- Replacement doors and locks

NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

New Early Childhood Center

- Increased childcare access
- Improved educational outcomes
- Opening up additional classroom space in elementaries
- Community-use gymnasium and multipurpose room

BUILDING & LEARNING EFFICIENCIES

Building & Learning Efficiencies

- Add sufficient elementary classroom space
- Update and modernize learning environments
- Upgrade High School Metals, Wood, & Auto Shop
- Improve heating & cooling
- Update transportation and traffic infrastructure
- Enhance A/V, landscaping, and finishings
- Install new elementary playgrounds

ATHLETICS & FINE ARTS FACILITIES

Athletics & Fine Arts Facilities

- Install a multi-use turf field to replace the soccer field
- Improve tennis, track, wrestling, baseball and softball spaces
- Upgrade auditorium lighting and stage
- Add, replace, and update musical instruments

2024 Result
YES: 2,096
NO: 2,205



Andy Schmitt
Teacher & Coach

3. A Quick Look Back

BOE Input

Safety & Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to make top priority• Don't cut any scope, maybe add
Early Childhood Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep a focus for immediate need for care, educational outcomes for all, retention of kids• Ideas: Add Kindergarten to Early Learning Center; Early intervention, GSRP, Head Start• Educate community, explain benefits thoroughly: All kids of all needs, profession vs. service• Explore other options (but understand logistics)
Educational Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing facilities that maximize educational outcomes for all students preK-12, preparing for future in global society• Smaller classroom sizes (fewer students per class)• Explore new Elementary option• CTE-Update, older buildings, class sizes• Clarify/provide specifics for term "efficiencies" for building and learning needs
Athletics & Fine Arts Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify benefits of investments• More programs and year-round opportunities• Engage local businesses for support• Ensure equity between athletics and fine arts• Important area for recruitment/retention of families

3. A Quick Look Back

BOE Input

STRENGTHS

- Early engagement by board and admin
- Robust, visible information sharing through district materials and meetings
- Strong informational and community outreach effort
- Thoughtful scope development

WEAKNESSES

- Active opposition
- Supporters not active until February
- Confusion about Early Childhood Center, elementaries - needed more “*why*” details
- Low participation among staff

OPPORTUNITIES

- Find ,pre ways to increase community engagement in scope development
- Support exists, need to increase election turnout
- Earlier Get-Out-the-Vote effort

THREATS

- Confusion about needs vs. wants
- Making a compelling case to extend debt to invest in public schools and our community
- Voter apathy “taking it for granted” and overcoming low turnout

3. A Quick Look Back

Input

June 2024 survey themes:

- Overall strong support of schools
- Strong perceived need among supporters
- No “deal-breakers” may need to refine some items
- Apathy - many indicated they supported but did not vote

SAFETY & SECURITY

- (+) Top priority and reason for many YES votes
- (-) Misunderstanding of specific projects, skepticism of need

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

- (+) Key Reason for many YES votes; current lack of pre-school/early learning access and emphasis of benefits
- (-) Perceived as “daycare” and seen as outside taxpayer responsibility

BUILDING + LEARNING EFFICIENCIES

- (+) Elementary improvements, aging facilities, community attraction, educational environment
- (-) “Efficiency” felt vague, not understanding additions, confusion about other funding options being “enough”

ATHLETICS + FINE ARTS FACILITIES

- (+) Agreed on scope and the specific pain points of facilities that would be addressed
- (-) Perceived recent upgrades, saw some items as want not need (not “educational”), artificial turf contested, some needed more information

3. A Quick Look Back

SC Input

Safety & Security - Survey Themes



STRENGTHS OF MAY SCOPE

- That this remained a priority
- **Overdue and necessary changes**
- Equity across buildings
- Vestibule and door security
- Consistency of monitoring



IMPROVEMENTS TO CONSIDER

- More focus on cameras
- **Communicating specific needs more clearly with student focus**
- Seeking more cost-effective locking systems
- Focus improvements by geography
- Workstation security to protect secretaries
- Assuring alignment with best practices

3. A Quick Look Back

SC Input

Early Childhood Facilities - Survey Themes



STRENGTHS OF MAY PROPOSAL

- Prioritizes youngest learners
- Recognizing and addressing need
- Proactive approach to education
- Gym
- Centralized location

IMPROVEMENTS TO CONSIDER

- Evaluate location
- Consider dropping from proposal
- **Decentralize improvements** to other buildings
- **Communicate clearly:**
 - Advantages, why important
 - Specifics on services
 - cost of building
 - operating logistics (staffing, tuition, etc.)
 - Data and research
- Needs to be larger
- Remove gym space
- Lower cost

3. A Quick Look Back

SC Input

Building & Learning Efficiencies - Survey Themes



STRENGTHS OF MAY PROPOSAL

- Needs are evident
- **Prioritizing country schools**
- Trades
- Support teaching and learning
- Reducing class sizes



IMPROVEMENTS TO CONSIDER

- **Communicate clearly:**
 - Shorten list, be succinct
 - Show needs visually
 - Address upkeep challenges
- Transportation facility necessary?
- New buildings for rural schools
- Focus on staff spaces to attract teachers

3. A Quick Look Back

SC Input

Athletics & Fine Arts Facilities - Survey Themes



STRENGTHS OF MAY PROPOSAL

- Turf field: provides activities for whole community
- Needs are clear
 - Tennis courts cracking
 - Soccer field drainage
 - Track cracking with weeds
- **Support for fine arts AND athletics**
- Comprehensive improvements
- Keeping our programs strong
- Outside bathroom facility
- Attractive to external community members

IMPROVEMENTS TO CONSIDER

- **Communicate clearly:**
 - Show needs visually through more photos
 - Community use
 - Benefits of investment in co-curriculars
- Reconsider/Remove turf field
- Remove athletics completely
- Reduce overall investment in this area. “Wish list.”
- Centralize bathroom facility to better serve all activities

3. A Quick Look Back



4. Moving Forward: Priorities



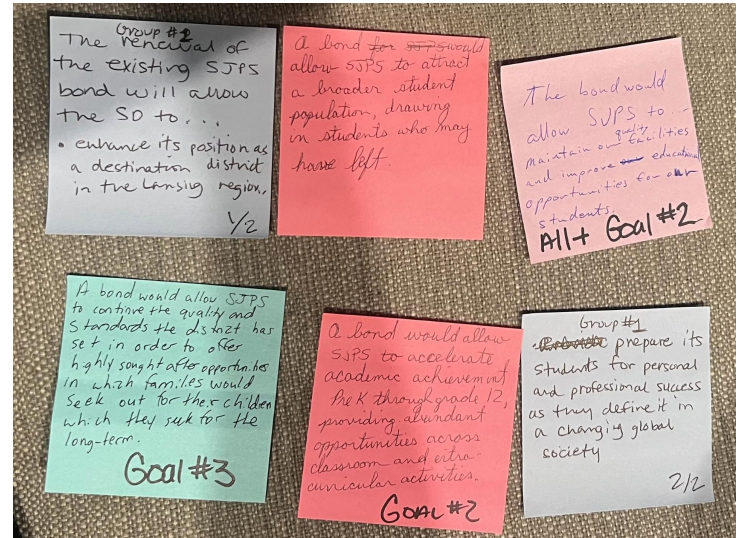
These needs persist as buildings exceed useful life (on borrowed time in some areas) and cost of materials and labor increase...

4. Moving Forward

BOE Input

The Board of Education (BOE), in reviewing the SJPS strategic plan and needs of the district, provides the following facility improvement guiding principles:

- Maintain quality facilities
- Improve opportunities across classroom and extracurricular activities
- Continue high standards and accelerate academic achievement PreK-12
- Prepare students for personal and professional success in our global society
- Enhance position as sought-after district for families, students and staff



4. Moving Forward: Priorities



Decision

Imagine the end of this process...
What would need to be prioritized for you to be highly energized and excited to share the committee's recommendation with your neighbors?



St. Johns High School
SJHS AP Biology



St. Johns
Public Schools

4. Wrap-up & Next Meeting

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YOU are an Influencer!



- Share that you're here!
- Initiate and engage in conversations
- Bring other ideas and perspectives forward

Thank you!