

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM ON GROWTH AND CHANGE

Community Comments:

(What concerns do you have? What are your thoughts or ideas? What else should we consider?)

- Is there a particular enrollment number target for each of the comprehensive high schools?
- Will the portables go away if we build a new high school?
- What are the proposed boundaries for the new high school?
- Not against a year-round or double shift as a short-term solution. Long-term a new high school is probably the best; I hope voters would go for it.
- Would only a \$185M new high school be on the bond or other projects as well?
- Concerned about shifting boundaries and possible resentment that could exist from families and the district.
- Charge developers for schools or have them do work at the schools (Developers who are building houses in our district)
- Daughter still goes to View Ridge
 - Was told the school was built for the actual numbers
 - Need to always build for projections
 - Find a way to not play catch up
 - Input programs (IB) at low population schools
 - Inner city Canadian school
 - K-7, 8-12
 - 8-10, 11-12 (Honors 10's and IB classes)
 - "8 honors" go to Everett HS (and North) – increase reputation of EHS
 - High school should have been built already
 - Not enough trust with school board and public
 - People are resistant to new ideas (PTA, school board – "comfortable")
 - Missing the mark if we don't include other cultures
- Question – Number poverty, structural barriers
 - Trauma informed practices – district wide training?
 - Diversity is discussed, but I don't hear about LGBTQ support
 - Advertise! Parents want to know about it
 - How much connection is there with apprenticeship programs? How can we bring these to the high schools?
 - What are the statistics on that? Could it be used to reduce numbers?
 - We are for a new high school AND year around high school
- Build a new high school ASAP
- Build/renovate schools to be 3-4 stories to maximize space at each site
- Our district is doing a great job with poverty students
- Appreciate behavior programs K-8, consistency is critical for success
- Build a new high school ASAP

- Why do we always pick special elections for our bonds?
- Research why teachers quit profession, and figure how to re-engage them back into the profession
- Advertise to population the cost of portables verses cost of new construction
- Give a 5 minute presentation like this at every (parent) orientation in the fall
- Concerns
 - View Ridge ES is already over capacity
 - Our View Ridge community is aging
 - Would schedule changes affect other levels?
 - We are Madison ES parents and we can't afford to send kids to all-day kindergarten
 - More money won't serve well
 - Stock (standard) model/cheaper option versus all the frills
 - Madison ES has higher poverty, so high income family variance out of the school and low income families don't
 - Communication isn't good for how advanced technology is
 - Madison ES needs to be invested in first – build their community first before building new schools
 - Did not hear a lot about safety, entrances, bus routes, student pick up areas.
- Why aren't schools built with extra classrooms? Were they built on actual counts or on projections?
- How long does the bond last? We just passed one last year.
- Magnet zones/schools – why are they not at every school?
- Everyone has a smart phone – why isn't the school using it?
- This information is not new
- No one from the City (planning, council, etc.) was present at the forum
- Schools are antiquated and old
- Administration building is great for the administrators
- Property sold to YMCA
- Too many portables in the district
- Lowell – Hazardous pick-ups and family involvement is limited
- Bond 0 (zero) in the City, 10% tax rate
- King5 said 70K = poverty level
- New homes are everywhere
- Gentrification downtown, where all the kids are going?
- Homeless rate is high and they are not paying
- Harbor Point, Alderwood – other places have nicer buildings, ours are not nice
- Too many portables – it's embarrassing
- Concerns
 - Immediate safety need at Evergreen and Madison ES
 - Many physical safety concerns especially at Madison
 - People use the grounds and cut through the property
 - Drug sales in the neighborhood
 - Security around the older buildings

- New schools are all in the South end, and schools in the North end are on the back burner
 - All the new housing means more kids – how will that impact Evergreen, Madison, Cascade, etc?
- Include, somewhere, that we need normalized opportunities for SPED/non-SPED students to interact
- Sequoia HS - can we consider utilizing space during non-instructional times?

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- Concerns with option C – affecting boundaries. If option C happens, what happens to kids for middle school? Would they be separated from friends when they go to high school?
- Happy that there are plans in the works to place a bond on the ballot
- Hearing positive things from the community, feels like we're trying to catch up
- Concerned about busing kids to other schools – far away – when things go wrong with buses, how does that affect kids, lives?
- Thought projects would be starting immediately
- Kids who were going to be in middle school would be part of remodeled school – that was 2 years ago, so it feels a little misleading. Concerned about how up front the district is with a timeline. Our idea is as soon as possible, the district's idea is as soon as they can. Feels like they were lead to believe it would be quicker.
- Like that there is more information this time
 - Good to hear demographics
 - Good to hear projections
 - Arbitrary numbers – but now seems like there is real science behind the projections
- Not just build new schools down South. The North needs upgrading and modernization too.
- Having this information helps them be able to share with neighbors and the community
- Boundary issues
- If the bond fails, would option C be the default plan?
- Concerns:
 - Shifting schedules
 - Does this affect only Jackson?
 - Will it include a boundary change?
 - How would this affect sports, running start, and other programs?
 - Portables
 - What is the life of a portable?
 - Where does the money for portables come from?
 - New HS
 - Where would the \$189 million come from?
- Thoughts:
 - Boundaries
 - Portables

- Work on getting this done – it is important
- Growth is huge
- Focusing on more advanced courses (push us through)
- Appreciate opportunity for AP and college courses
- Bigger focus on kids needing additional support in reading and math
 - Worry that the growth may take away from that
 - Excited to come to school everyday
- Hands-on learning, excited to hear in the presentation about “real-world” type courses, like automotive
- Poverty – bank account learning (money sense)
 - Homeless – benefitted from the program
 - Transportation (South end to Garfield)
 - Free lunches – necessity
 - Consistency and stability
 - Assisted w/ variance
 - Summer school opportunities
- Concerns/ Informational text:
 - AVID
 - HS courses that would help advance (*my son/daughter*) to the next steps
 - Real world classes - state of the art revamping automotive classes
 - College credits in HS (i.e. architects)
- Concerns/questions about the modernization of North MS
 - Where will students go to school?
- Concerned that the community will not vote for future bond
- Need to get the word out/marketing campaign
- Like the plans to add on to Jackson ES
- Feels like the planning is “spot on”
- Is there a way to get copies of the PowerPoint slides and other materials to share?
- Concerned about the possible number of portables
- Is there a limit to the development?
 - What role does the local government play?
 - Are developers paying their share?
- How will the city/county assist the district with issues around homelessness?
- Need for an ELL in the north-end
- What are the sticking points around bond failure? How will we approach these people?
- Is current space being utilized?
- What happens to portables when we do not need them anymore? Are they repurposed?
- Kudos to the district, we love this district
- Appreciate the opportunity to give input
- The plans are well in hand with exception of portables
- Not fond of portables – prefer permanent buildings
- Dry portables stink – water, facilities (may not be as warm)
- Not good at Elementary level, younger classes

- May not be enough time to travel (*walk*) to classes at middle and high school level
- Concerned about security in portables when there are a lot of them
- Permanent facilities or buildings are better if the growth continues and easier to repair and maintain
- Not fond of long distance bussing. It takes kids a long way from home and takes a long portion of their day for travel and they may not be able to participate in after school activities
- Build a south end high school now. Over-crowding can lead to problems with student supervision
- Concerned funding may not be possible if the bond does not pass – and if not what other options are there to provide for our children and make sure they are educated? Are there other creative ways to fund schools?
- If we do not have good schools, we do not have a good place to live. Maybe send our kids to college early.
- Money should be spent on pre-K and smaller class sizes first before the HS. If they are educated now it will alleviate the burden to a greater extent.
- Does not like the doubling up on shifts
- It would be good to build a new high school
- Portables are meant to be a temporary structure
- Permanent structures are better than portables

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- Concerned with plan C – bussing changes – 3 comments
- Communicate bond needs – better outreach
 - Communicate where past bond money has gone
 - PTA – engage our parent groups/lighthouse meetings
 - More notice for upcoming events
- Snohomish county is growing fast
- Excited about 1:1 student to computer ratio
- What other efforts (besides bond or levy) are being pursued? (private/business/PTSA)
- What programs can be cut (bottom of the list) to repurpose? Is there a list?
- Is there a way to fast track permits?
- Portables are fine, if they're more cost effective
- What percentage of property taxes are we missing from the growth/new homes? Is there a way to cover more?
- Concerned about boundary changes –need to request community input
- Concerns about Early Learning Center – only if profitable
- Early Learning Center – Should be a pay program – more pressing concerns
- Is there a way to get more money based on number of children per household?
- We have fabulous teachers! They need more support. If classes get bigger, they need even more support
- Like the idea of expanding school sites, instead of adding portables
- Fourth HS – has the district decided on boundary lines?
- Class size, intervention, math intervention, using staff to help with decreased class size, have qualified staff to support
- District needs more Town Hall style meetings – good to hear from group
- Need to have conversations about re-boundary
 - More effort into conversation with community
 - Bias in the district about high schools
- Concerned about impact on teachers, do they have a say? Impacts on students
- Don't like portables (off putting)
- Like altering schedules – year round school
- I have students at Cascade. Cafeteria does not have enough space, long lines, some don't eat, can go hungry, lunch is one of two meals
 - Also need to update the track – not inspiring, not attractive
 - Pride from presence
 - Staff feel more vulnerable in portables

- What about staffing? Will we add more staff? (office, paraeducators, attendance, etc.)
- New high school is important
- Behavior issues in classes – SPED classes with behavior related to staffing (more paraeducator support may help)
- Bus barn in south end good
- Security cameras are great at Cascade
- When is the bond going on ballot? Many people in my neighborhood will vote for it because they are older and don't have kids in school
- Staggered schedule needs to be K-12 (year-round school) – I like it!
- The portables will not make it easier for instruction
- Concern about not being able to have enough teachers
- The portables are not going to be enough – the space and man power is too great
- Don't see a choice – we need a new high school (I hate portables)
- JHS situation worries me – taking over the tennis courts, kids need those activities as much as they need academics. For me it is worth paying more taxes.
- Regarding Silver Lake, the parents would like to have security when students come in and leave because there have been some cars that do not respect the speed limit or the lane where they should stay (*Note – the school principal will follow up on this with Everett Police*).
- Everett has grown so much in the past years I think it will be useful to have a high school
- We are looking at the level of elementary. We have seen the growth and teachers have so much more work because of the class size
- From 10 years ago, this area has seen a lot of growth in jobs. This state has had a lot of growth in work, jobs and schools
- Security of their children worries them. Cascade High School is very open – anyone can come in. Very easy access for strangers
- Do schools all have cameras? Is there someone monitoring those? Do they continually monitor the cameras at Cascade? (Because of all the things that have been going on, the shootings, that's what makes me worry.
- At Cascade, are the students allowed to use marijuana? Is there a way to check them? – Use of marijuana on district property, or at district events, is prohibited.

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- I am concerned about growing class sizes
- I think moving children to schools outside their communities is disruptive to their social development. Especially as private activities such as sports are based on house boundaries so kids being split between schools and other social groups isn't great
- I have to work in a portable due to highway construction – I do not support more portables. Not a great learning atmosphere.
- Get parents to develop a grant-seeking volunteer group. This group's sole purpose would be to seek and apply for grants for Everett Public Schools – Every little bit may help
- We support building new schools to handle the large student population growth, rather than moving students around as a temporary measure. Our neighborhood is very unhappy with the school boundary changed about 10 years ago. We hope that we don't have to go through that again by the school district (it really disrupted the community).
- Students are in 7th grade – private school. Which high school will they be in? Both are current JHS boundary for 2018-19
 - Will they be bussed due to over-capacity? Don't want kids to be bussed
 - What is the plan?
 - Will the expansion result in more kids being in portables?
- Location of high school? What will its boundary be? Lives on 35th in South end of district
- How will it be determined which students will go to JHS and which to HS No. 4 (parent of 3rd grader at Cedar Wood)
- Cedar Wood – has highly capable program – concerned that this is consistent at middle and high schools including the new high school?
- Does the district have a plan to have Advanced Programs already in place at all schools?
- Cedar Wood ES & Heatherwood MS
 - Option B gives access and options
 - Building infrastructure can be used for multi-age from year to year
- Likes option B the best – build new high school for the future –best long term option
- Option A is status quo – don't want more portables
- Option C - does not like bussing, inconvenience for parents
 - Will there be discontinuities in student relationships if CHS students are bussed to EHS? Example – Athletics, continuity of programs impacted

- Idea/example - Labs for science – have optional times like community college. Lab for multiple schools use. Do this at off hours?
- Penny Creek ES parent – Rezoning (redoing boundaries) is less popular
- Moving kids to Cascade – concern that friends don't want to be bussed
- Concern around elementary rezoning (no Penny Creek to Silver Firs)
- Would it start with rising class?
- If portables then security
- Were all Penny Creek updates dissolved?
- Heatherwood/Gateway/Jackson
 - Hard sell – increase property tax
 - Is there an option outside of new school?
 - Property taxes went up 20% due to Bond
- Property on 527 Seattle Hill Road – What's happening there?
- Forest View - 1 year old, infant
 - Overcrowded schools impacts kids, kids are at the core
 - High school – like the site
 - Focused bond
 - Okay with bussing – don't like portable idea
- Why are you already behind on this?
- Is it true that JHS portables are for 9th graders only?
- A high school is needed
- Cascade needs renovation too
- Why do we need to shift boundaries when we could make a high draw magnet to EHS to get kids to go there and balance out enrollment
- What about the impact on our middle schools with the increasing enrollment?
- Drastic decisions: double shifting – when/what would trigger those at high school? Bond failure? These may be least acceptable to community
- In order to build more portables @ JHS, on tennis courts, will that eliminate tennis programs – does that cut the program?
- Have we investigated corporate sponsorships of facilities? i.e. Google for STEM programs?
- All new housing leading to new growth and enrollment, do development companies have to pay a subsidy to help with increased enrollment?
- The space children learn in is important. Good, modern, spaces enriches children learning. Modernize
- Portables are not great – makes a big impact
- Would be great to build a new high school- support a bond
- Not in favor of the bussing option on board
- Concerns over length of time to permit and build, can the extra property be used for overflow in the meantime?
- As a short term solution, some of the more extreme solutions could be tried
- Tough to learn in overcrowded environments
- Supportive of adding classroom space for K-3 reduction
- Overcrowding - would the school board partner with charter schools to help with enrollment?
- Do developers pay fees to district when they build their housing developments?

- New construction definitely leading to new enrollment – what does EPS partnership in planning with private developers look like?
- Big property tax increase due to levy, STS, rising property values – concern over how to market and pass a new bond. The alternative to building/bond not pleasant.
- Concerns – Woodside remodel – what does that mean for our children?
- What is the timeline for opening Elementary No. 18?
- What is the timeline for opening Woodside ES?
- Has EPS considered different models of student learning opportunities vs traditional school models? Some examples are:
 - 10% of HS online learning
 - 25% of HS with half on-line and half in class
 - Divert resources to teach students how to learn on-line, virtual learning, etc.
 - This could save dollars and lessen the need for so many buildings when looking at the trend of increasing enrollments
- Portables do not (*provide*) the support needed in the services of programs
 - example – extra classroom space does not help science classes and the need for lab space and water
 - need more bathrooms, space for cafeteria
- Do class sizes get smaller as kids get into high grades?
- Is there a class size limit that you staff for?
- This year at Woodside ES, teacher changes were done due to class size. What happens next year?

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- It is great if we can build another high school. At the same time, how do we know that there won't be any bond or propositions passed by local or state government? In 2016 we had RTA tax, EMS tax, and criminal justice propositions passed leading to increase in property and car taxes. So my question is – What will state and local government give up so the bond for new school can pass? All of these hit household pockets, but what can be given up? I am also open to year around school. This is the second meeting I have attended. First meeting was at Jackson High
- Why does it take 4 years before construction can begin? Even with a new high school, we will still be at 25 portables at Jackson. Only 5 less than doing nothing. Can we expedite this process? We are paying for a new school and most of the portables
- What will new boundaries be for HS & ES?
- How did we get to this point? Couldn't past projections predict this growth and help us get ahead of it?
- Don't bus my kids to Cascade!
- Regarding growth, there needs to be more transparency about the fees developers pay to help cover the cost of growth in schools. They need to stop getting deals – same fees for every developer based on size
- Thank you for working to give our kids the best possible education and facilities. I support the bond/levy and am willing to pay higher taxes for strong schools.
- Please do not consider bussing southern students north. It will unfairly disadvantage those students and families
- Please no bussing! I came from a bussing district and it was terrible. I support a new high school but I have some concerns about getting it passed.
- Bussing is detrimental to participation
- Is school enrollment taken into account when approving new housing?
- If all these new houses have been added, where does the extra taxes go – with that many houses there should be money available or accumulating. Don't tell me it is shared between all houses, a percentage. My taxes went up \$700 this year. If it is a percentage, why do my taxes go up?
- You sold the old admin building for 3.325 million, where is that money going?
- We all knew this was happening, they have been adding lots of houses for the last 5 years. You wait until some of the schools are over capacity to realize we need to do something now?

- I voted no on the first high school bond. I felt the tactics used “for” it used false information and tried to trick us into voting for it
- I moved to this area from downtown Everett specifically because I didn’t want to raise my kids in that area
- Is really moving 300+ kids going to make that much of a difference? That number seems too low to make a difference
- What is the potential for a freshman campus/building at Jackson HS?
- We paid more for our houses than people on the other high schools.
- Cascade and Everett are not as good of high schools
- It is a temporary solution with a huge social cost
- Property values of our homes will decrease
- Who is allowing all this new construction while this overcrowding problem is happening?
- Security of portables
- How does new construction assist with infrastructure needs, especially apartments?
- I support a new high school, Option A
- Could pushing more students to running start alleviate the crowding? Consider year round school. Prioritize based on safety and health concerns
- Developers should be paying a much bigger portion into the pot – please lobby the county.
- Have a plan B if bond doesn’t get passed in February. Adjust for the April ballot to get something passed
- School board – please provide leadership. People are going to whine no matter what
- Many south end elementary schools are overflowing - with playgrounds covered in portables, but Silver Firs elementary is not full. Why has the Highly Capable program not been moved from Forest View to Silver Firs? These classes are segregated from the rest of the grade level activities anyway.
- Why not add onto some of the existing elementary schools? Wasn’t there originally a plan to add onto Forest View? Wouldn’t this be cheaper than new schools?
- If the state fully funds education, will existing levies that currently fund salaries be discontinued? Will these funds be available for construction?
- Where does all of the additional property tax revenue from all the new residents to our area go? When I asked previously I was told the same levy/bond total \$ amount is distributed among all residents, so as new people move in each individuals property taxes should go down. However, none of our property taxes have gone down, even a little. Where is this money going?
- I understand the Longfellow building has been sold for 3 million. Where will that money go and why is it not being allocated to a new high school? Wouldn’t it go a long way to appease voters resentful of the new admin building to use this money for a new high school?
- What can be done to speed up this process? Everett SD is years behind on construction of a new high school. Year round school and busing are NOT good options in the short or long term. New HS should be a priority!

- How crowded Jackson will be in 2017 and onward. If my child will be able to attend or if boundaries will change.
- Jackson HS as 10, 11, 12; Middle Schools as 7, 8, 9; and K-6 for elementary
- If one child attends Jackson is the other sibling automatically enrolled into Jackson as well?
- Don't like the bussing idea
- 100% for a new high school
- Is this a surprise? Does it match what was projected 5 years ago
- Is there some way the developers can pay more for these schools (impact/mitigation fees)?
- Has it been considered to split the district?
- 6th grade campus?
- Bus most new/southern students to other schools
- Put new HS on bond – build that new HS
- Get parents involved – even mobilized, go door to door
- Get senior citizens involved
- Problem with bussing is that property values may drop
- Social problems – feeder patterns
- Zoning matters
- Need HS and ES – suffocated by overcrowding
- Worried about Cascade busing “option C”
- Keep kids together with feeder patterns
- Home values will be affected
- During interim, while HS is built, will boundary revisions take effect?
- Consider HS @ 10-12 grade
 - Move 9th grade to middle school, 6th grade to elementary
- Need new high school – concerned about crowding
- No busing north to Cascade HS – already up early
- Portables, how secure are they? More security is needed
- Lunch room is beyond packed
- Open to shift idea
- District really needs to let taxpayers know how greatly new high school is needed – Particularly seniors who don't have kids in district
- Put 6th graders back in elementary where there is the capacity
 - HS: 10-12
 - MS: 7-9
 - ES: K-6
- Staggered start times?
- Tearing down other elementary schools, where do those kids go during modernization?
- Concerns about shifting borders. How will this impact families that can't attend community events at schools that are not within their residential community?
- Concerns about moving to Cascade – should we move out of this district? Won't bus to Cascade – too far
- Social media connected
- High school is still in the works – what ____ has the board been having in light of this?

- Why does it cost \$185 million to build a HS?
- Contactor/Development fees, this fee may vary. Do the developers pay these fees? More transparency – what's the contribution to schools to support?
- Leading option – new school. Are we projecting out far enough? Don't want to wait past the point of no return
- Year round school may be a good 2nd option
- Not worried about tax/levy on top of the bond – the money is here and families support
- These sessions are positively buzzing in the community.
- More things like these meetings to help parents be informed
- Breaking off into different districts; our rapid growth in the south end, perhaps the SE needs its own district – need our own budget to meet the specific needs of this region.
- Bussing is not a good idea, impacts study club, activities, family participation
- Will they move kids mid-HS?
- Already have a problem – not just in 4 years district is behind the ball on growth compared to Northshore, proactive on growth.
- Moved here for a reason – for the schools. Frustrated if as a senior she gets shipped to another high school
- Where is the tax money from all the new housing going?
- Busing to alternative location bought houses for the schools – particularly for the high school
- Possible magnet schools/programs
 - STEM
 - Auto
 - IB
- Interested families could transport to alleviate enrollment
- Adding portables doesn't add common areas for students – this is important
- Property taxes climbing
- Concerned that a bond wouldn't pass – other options feel like "Sophie's Choice"
- Where is the money from all those new houses going? Is it not enough?
- Have we looked at what has worked in other places (outside Snohomish county) Referenced her experience in TX – where housing developments constructed concurrently with schools
- Something has to be given up by the state government or local government; no more local bonds. No more sales tax.
- I am not okay with rotating schedules
- Why can't we start the building process earlier than 2023?
- What do the local tax payers have to pay for the schools? The home developers and people who approve developments should share the burden of taxes. Have we ever considered coordinating with HUD? It helps to know their plan for population growth for the area.
- I am against the busing out of boundaries (plan C). If the plan goes through – is there a "grandfathered" exception for existing students?

- Make building the HS a priority – it won't be passed if there are too many things going on
- I am against the busing out of boundaries. Why and how did you decide to move a certain group of students to Cascade? If Jackson reaches maximum capacity (30 portables), will it affect AP and honor courses?
- What are the thoughts of teachers about the overcrowding?
- CRC money – how did that impact building?
- Historical levy/bond information – with dollar amounts
- Clear boundaries – the ones that are published are too fuzzy to read.