



WCS Master Planning PTO Meeting: Parkview Elementary 10/17/2023

Wooster City Schools held a PTO meeting at Parkview Elementary on October 17, 2023 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. This was one of our currently scheduled Master Planning PTO meetings to help create a new WCS Master Plan. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting.

Next Master Planning Event:

October 25, 2023: 5:30-7:30 p.m.: Buehler's Milltown Road Community Room

Key Discussion Points:

Master Planning Update:

- Only 22% of voting population voted in the May election
- Continued emphasis on re-engagement through the Master Planning Town Halls, PTO Meetings, and Survey
- Engage with the community through November and potentially have a plan to present to the board in December or January.
- Possibly engage voters in November 2024 or May 2025

Cornerstone: What should be done with Cornerstone Elementary?

- Demolished and rebuilt, renovated, or sold to private investor
- Keep the facade and build behind it
- Discussed the positive aspects of a educational presence on the Cornerstone site

Cost/Funding: How much is this community able to afford right now?

- Assessed values of Wayne County properties could increase by an average of 38%
- Due to HB 920 from 1976, WCS would not receive significant funding increases with the property value increases
- Building project could potentially be co-funded with the state through the OFCC

Questions/Ideas:

- Could we do the grade level buildings with one new building and use the middle school?
 - Edgewood is a part of this long-term plan-we have invested using COVID funding.
- Could we keep the pre-school? Yes-that was part of the original plan.
- Home buyer value and community appeal concern; we have counties around us that have new buildings
- Our buildings outside of the high school are not up to date with current safety standards
- We have spent more money at Cornerstone in maintenance the past two years more than any other elementary building

Building Configuration: Neighborhood Schools vs. Grade Level Schools

- Our current configuration will not work in the future due to population growth on the north end.
 - Kean Elementary is already full. Aren't all buildings full? Yes. We are likely just a few years away from needing to use modular classrooms.
 - We will either need to redistrict or move to grade level schools because we are growing in certain geographical areas.
 - If we go to grade level buildings, what would transportation look like?



- Longer distances for some riders but less destinations will likely lead to insignificant financial impacts
- Grade level: Grade leveling buildings in our current structures would mean a lot of transitions for students but if we build another building transitions would be greatly reduced
- Advantage to grade Level buildings:
 - We can serve children more equitably if our buildings are grade-leveled
 - We are all Wooster Generals so we would become unified sooner
 - Staff seems to lean toward grade level buildings for professional, collaborative reasons
 - Community members seems to lean toward neighborhood schools as that is what they currently know and experience
- If the levy passes, it would take 2-2.5 years to build

Next Steps:

- We need more people to engage like the crowd here today; getting people to fill out the survey and attend the meetings to share ideas
- Website Update and Documents
- After Master Planning and PTO Meetings we will evaluate if we need tours of all of the buildings
- Suggestion was made to teach the math around school funding
- We need to highlight grant funding so the public knows we don't pay for everything