Phase 3

Together · We · Plan

Task Force Meeting #1

September 30, 2026

Overview

1. Introductions **(10 min)**
2. About Phase 3 **(10 min)**
3. Role of the Task Force **(10 min)**

   Small Group Discussion #1 **(30 min)**
4. Engagement Approach **(15 min)**

   Small Group Discussion #2 **(40 min)**
5. Next Steps **(5 min)**

At the end of this meeting…

- Explain the goals for Phase 3 of the Master Facility Plan
- Understand the role of the Task Force for the Phase 3 process
- Understand the role of representing the entire district as part of the Task Force
- Look ahead to see how community input from Round 1 of engagement will inform the work
- Begin to picture the direction of the Phase 3 process over the next two years



Introductions

What is the Task Force?

Welcome!

Facilitators

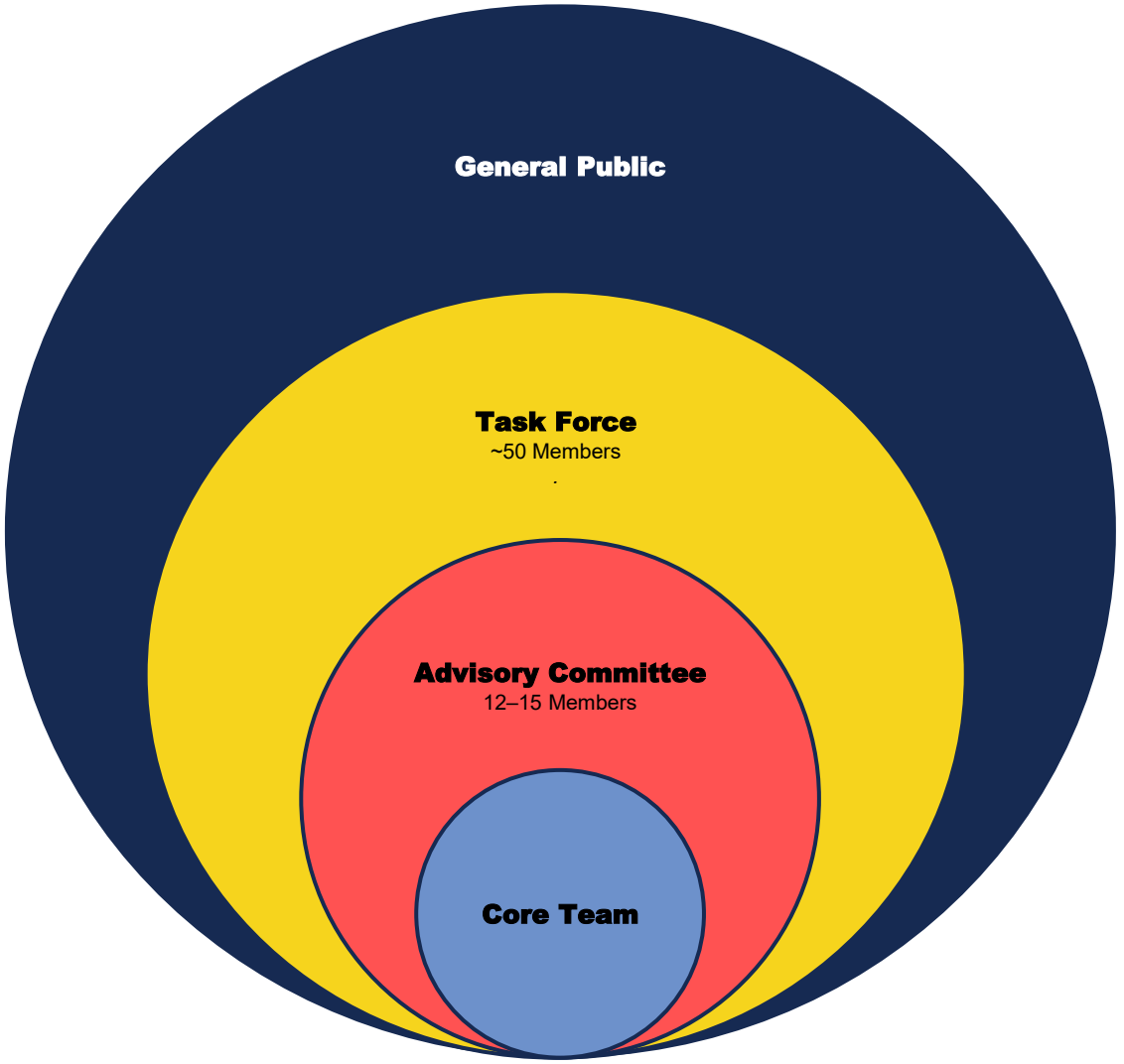
- Sarah Bongiorno, Planning NEXT
- Ethan Lower, Planning NEXT

School District Leadership

- Amber Epling-Skinner, Board of Education
- Stephanie Harless, Board of Education
- Dr. Trent Bowers, Superintendent
- Jeff Maddox, Assistant Superintendent
- Thomas Cusick, Treasurer

Architectural Advisor

- Advisor from Thomas Porter Architects



Establishing the Task Force

Who is in the room?

Members are a combination of

- Residents who were selected through an open application process and,
- Nominees who were invited to represent key stakeholders/community organizations

This setup helped us build a Task Force that is broadly representative of the different neighborhoods and backgrounds that make up the Worthington Schools community.

Getting to Know the Task Force

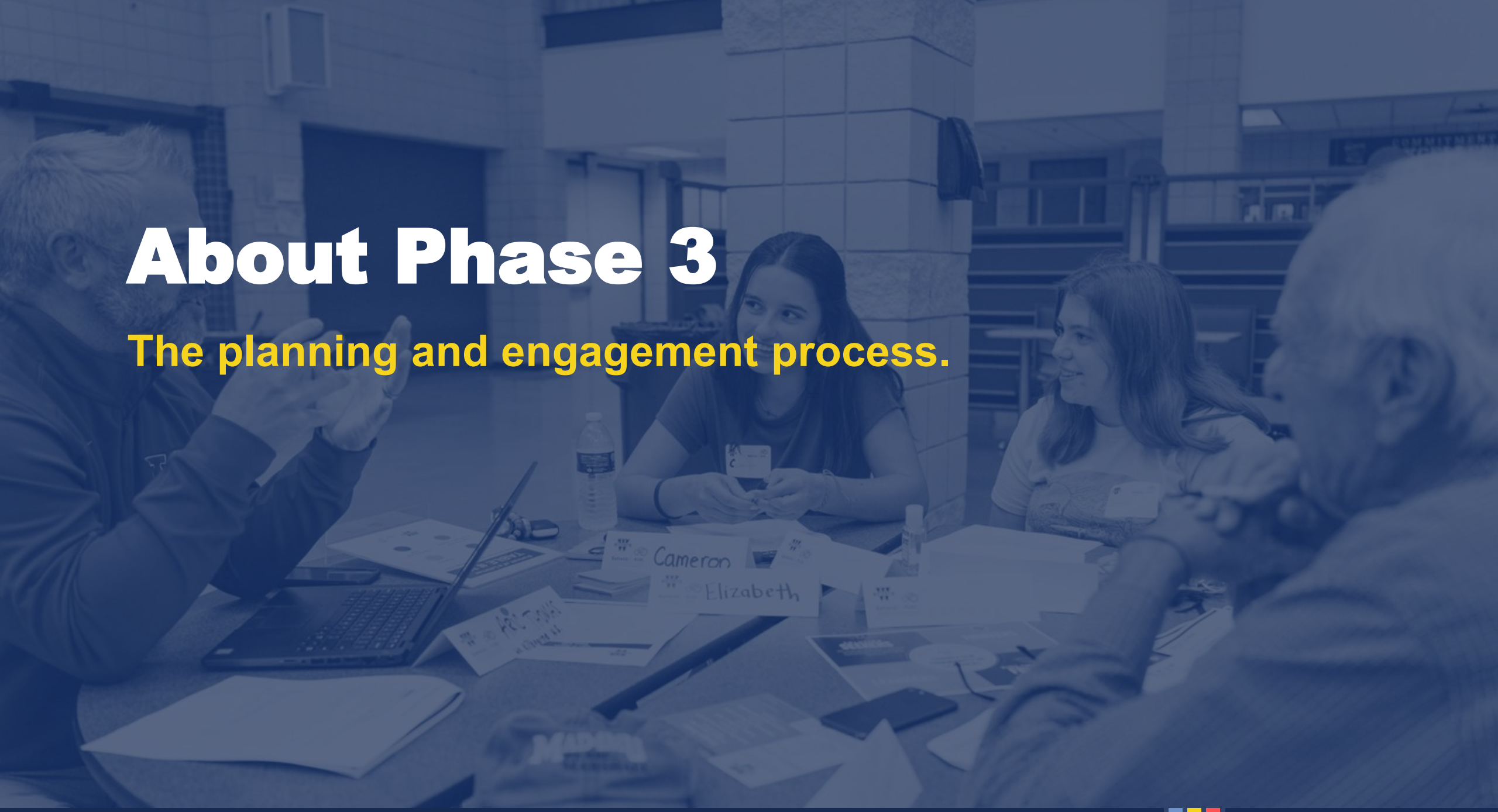
Scan the QR code on the screen

- How are you feeling as we start this process?
- In one word, what do you love most about the Worthington Schools?
- How long have you lived in the Worthington Schools community?



About Phase 3

The planning and engagement process.



Recap
Phase 1

- Renovated four middle schools
- Shifted to 6-8 grade configuration
- Completed a district-wide technology update
- Funded by a 2018 bond issue



MASTER FACILITIES PLAN PHASE 1:
MIDDLE SCHOOLS

THE 2018 BOND ISSUE: ADDRESSING GROWTH AND MODERNIZATION

At the same time, the district was able to address two key needs: accommodating student growth and modernizing facilities. All four middle schools received comprehensive renovations and expansions. Notably, Perry and Worthingway Middle Schools were significantly reconstructed.

The bond issue also enabled the shift to a 6-8 grade middle school configuration starting in 2021 to address the growing student population. Additionally, the bond provided funds for improvements in other buildings, technology upgrades, and new school buses, ensuring a safe and well-equipped learning environment for all students.



HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BALANCE & NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL FEEDER PATTERNS

Worthington Schools experienced an imbalance in its high school student populations. Thomas Worthington High School neared capacity, requiring adjustments. To address enrollment imbalances between Worthington's high schools, the Slate Hill Elementary School attendance area shifted from Thomas Worthington High School to Worthington Kilbourne High School starting in the 2021 school year. This realignment optimizes the district's use of existing space and ensures equitable opportunities for students in both high schools.

Additionally, adjustments were made to balance the middle school feeder patterns in 2021. Students residing in the Brookside and Bluffsview areas transitioned from McCord Middle School to the newly reopened Perry Middle School. Similarly, Slate Hill students began attending Perry Middle School instead of Worthingway. Finally, Wilson Hill students moved from Kilbourne Middle School to Worthingway Middle School.

Recap
Phase 2

- Renovated two high schools
- Improved a range of sports and recreation facilities across high, middle, and elementary schools
- Funded by 2022 bond issue



Current Master Facilities Plan

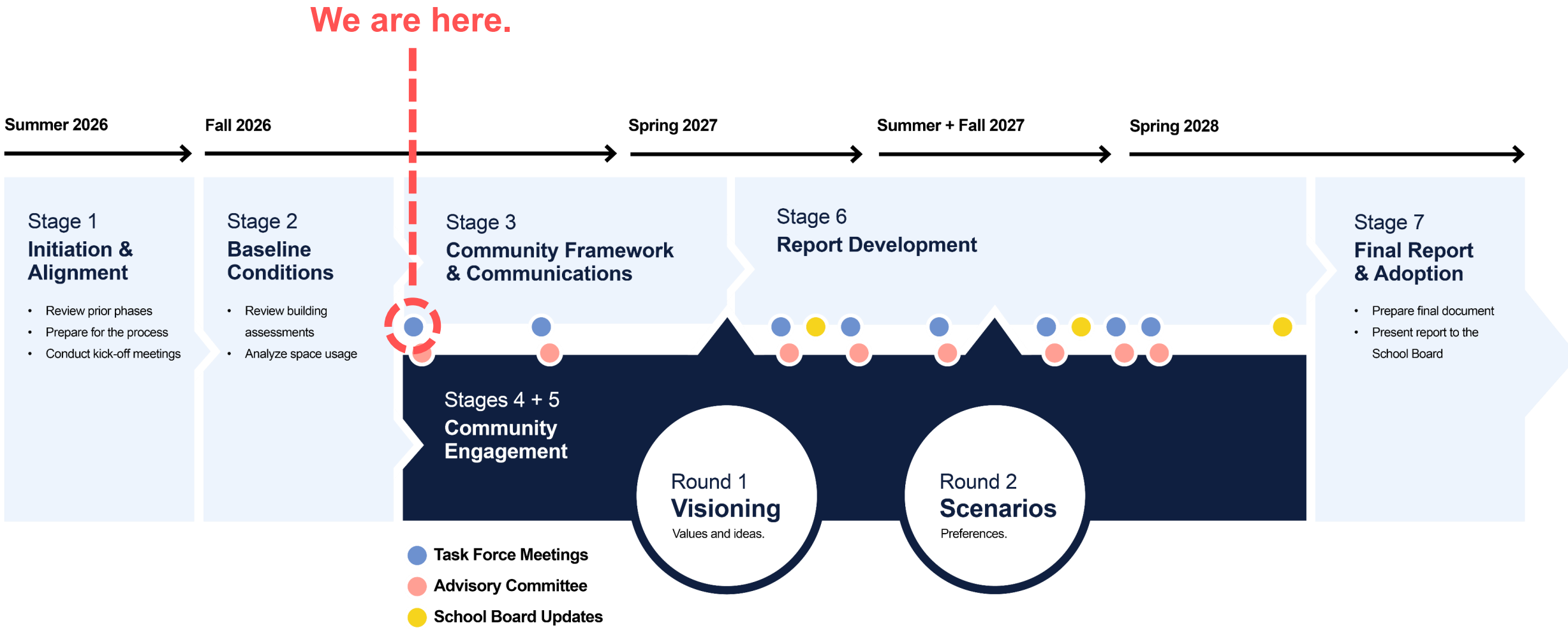
Phase 3

- Focused on the future of the 11 elementaries and Sutter Park Preschool Building
- Builds upon what worked well in the previous processes
- Ensures that everyone in the community can participate and share their ideas
- Roughly a 2-year process building to a Spring 2028 recommendation

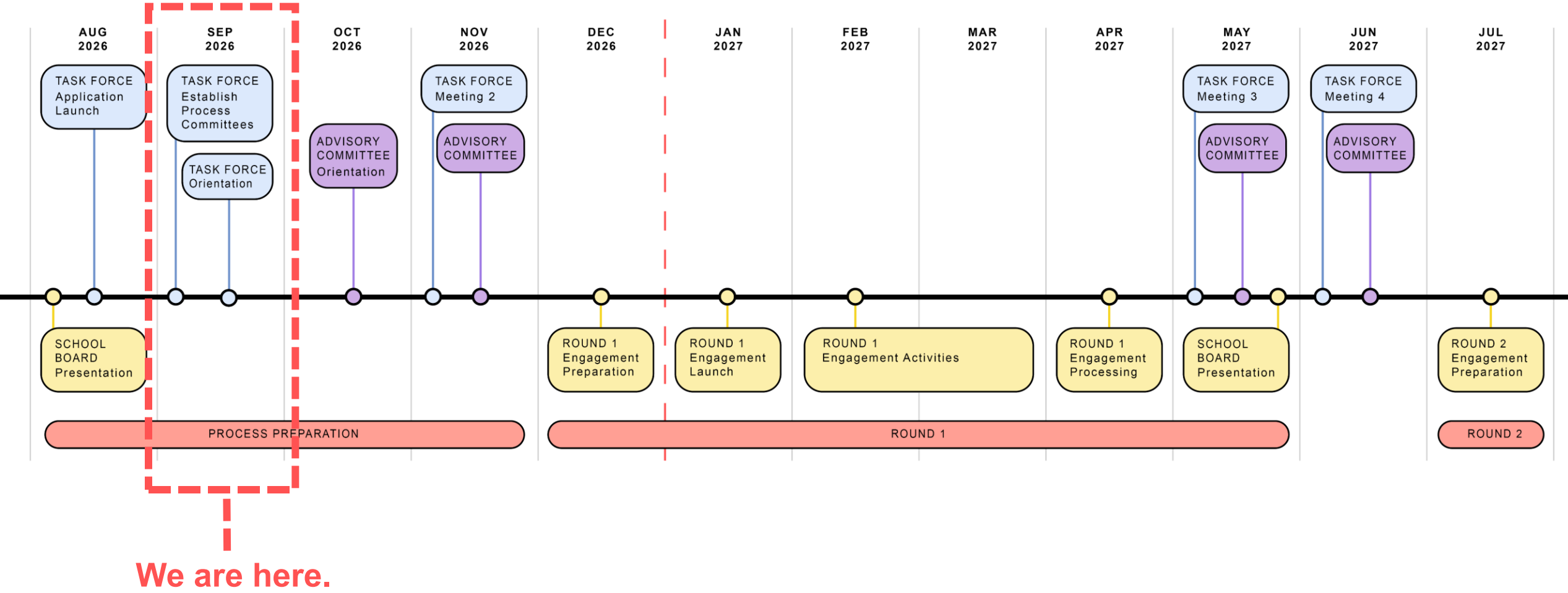


Why Phase 3?

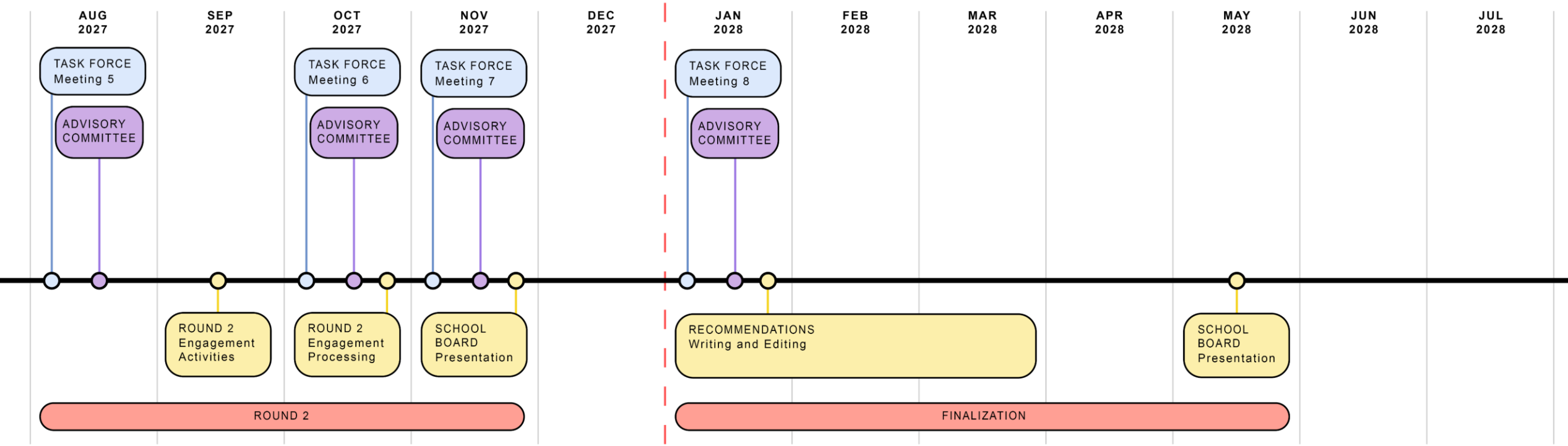
- Phase 3 is the next step in Worthington Schools' long-term planning process.
- Worthington's 12 elementary and preschool facilities were built between 1958 and 1989—over 37 years ago
- Staff maximizes current facilities, but they generally do not meet modern education standards
- District leadership understands the community priorities, funding, and project feasibility will take significant effort to align


We are here.
Summer 2026
Fall 2026
Spring 2027
Summer + Fall 2027
Spring 2028
Stage 1
Initiation & Alignment
Review prior phases
Prepare for the process
Conduct kick-off meetings
Stage 2
Baseline Conditions
Review building assessments
Analyze space usage
Stage 3
Community Framework & Communications
Stages 4 + 5
Community Engagement
Round 1
Visioning
Values and ideas.
Round 2
Scenarios
Preferences.
Stage 6
Report Development
Stage 7
Final Report & Adoption
Prepare final document
Present report to the School Board
Task Force Meetings
Advisory Committee
School Board Updates

Tentative Timeline 2026-27



Tentative Timeline 2027-28



How You Will Spend Your Time

- In general, time will be split between work sessions and assisting with outreach and community engagement
- October and November meetings will introduce Phase 3 and prepare for Round 1 engagement
- December and January will focus on promoting the Round 1 engagement opportunities
- February and March will focus on assisting at the Round 1 engagement events

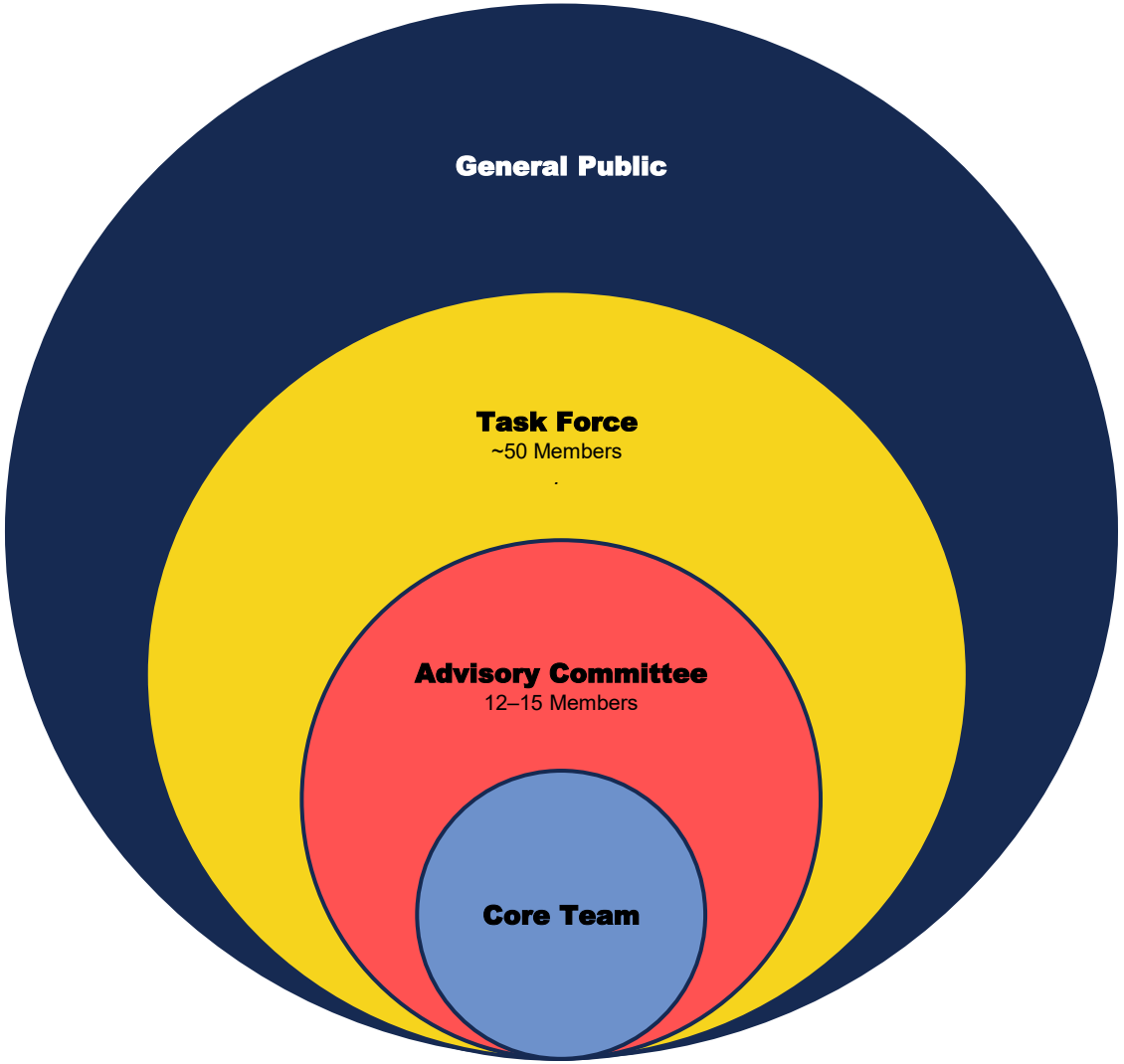
Role of the Task Force

Shaping public input into recommendations.



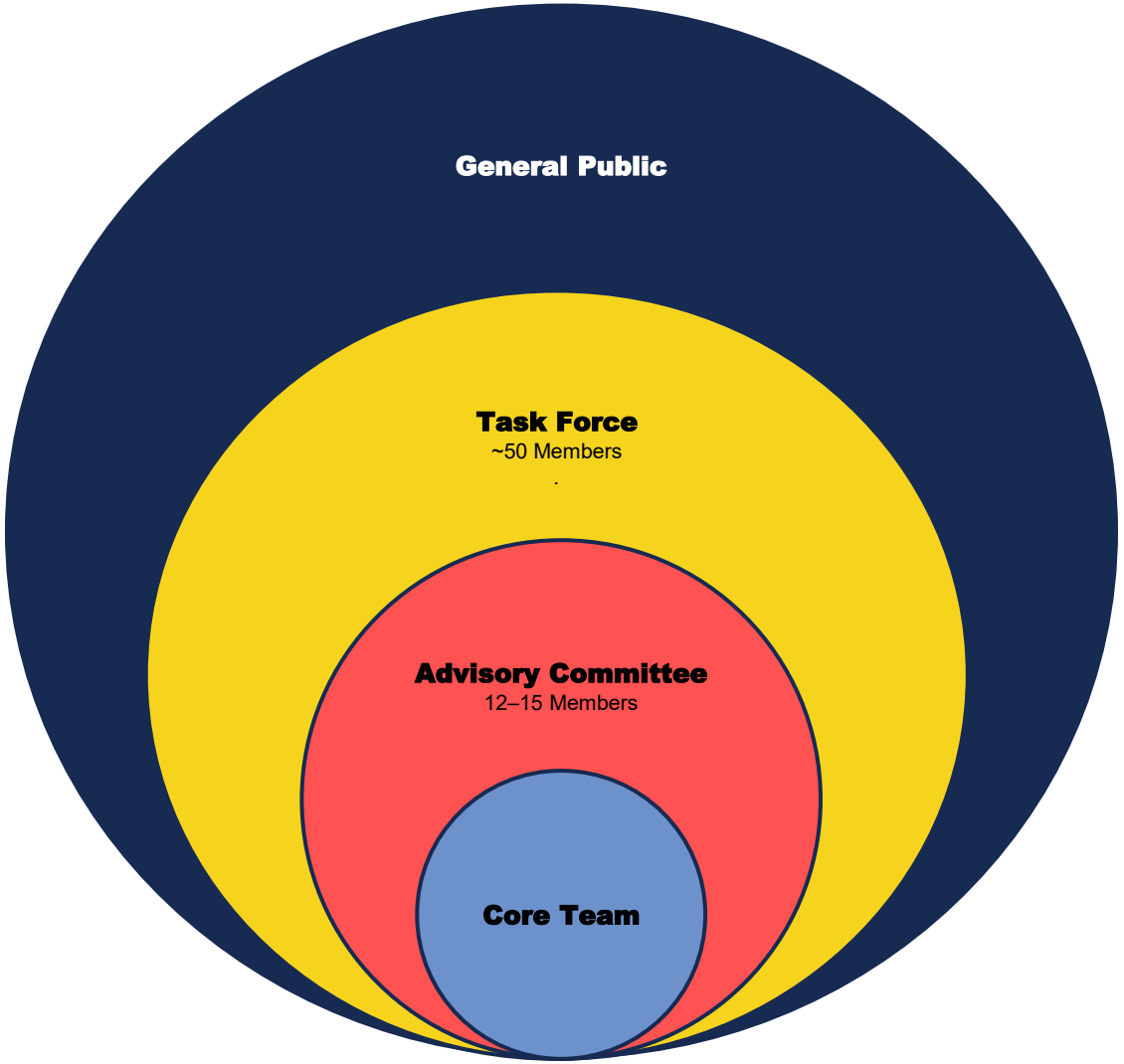
Roles and Responsibilities

- The public will participate in two rounds of engagement that will guide the future of the school district's elementary and preschool facilities. The first round will capture ideas and values and the second round will solidify the community's priorities.
- The Task Force refines public input into strategies and outcomes and will shape the final report to the school board.
- The Advisory Committee processes feedback from the Task Force and provides direction to the engagement process and report development.
- The Core Team manages the logistics, schedule and scope of the process.



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Your Role

- Represent the community in the planning process (8 meetings)
- Act as a spokesperson for the effort in your networks
- Distribute information about Phase 3
- Help plan and facilitate engagement opportunities (2 rounds)
- Review and interpret input received from the engagement process
- Refine input and data into recommendations
- Help communicate findings and recommendations to the broader community
- Nominate members to the Advisory Committee

You represent the entire district.

You are building a rubric for decision making and then a roadmap.

Your job is to balance community vision and preferences with what is achievable.

This is about the next generation.

Small Group Discussion

1. What norms should guide how we work together throughout this process?

2. What is top of mind for you coming into Phase 3? If you are familiar with Phase 1 or Phase 2, is there anything we should carry forward?



Engagement Approach

Overview and approach for Round 1



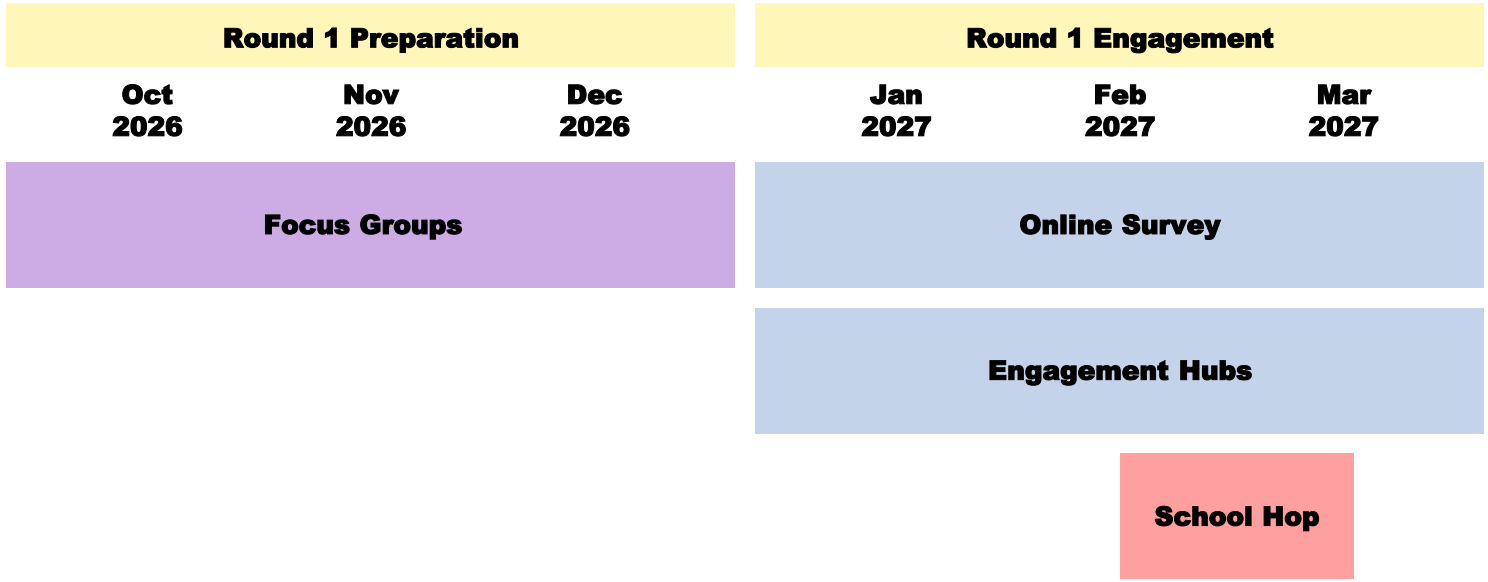
Purpose

- Introduce ***Phase 3: Together We Plan*** to the community.
- Engage people where they are through a variety of formats.
- Gather insight to understand community values and ideas for the future.



Round 1 Overview

1. School Hop
2. Focus Groups
3. Engagement Hubs
4. Online Survey



1. School Hop

Tour and open house at all elementary schools and the preschool.

February 2027 – March 2027

The hop will include both educational and input opportunities.

- **School tours** will offer community members an opportunity to understand the current conditions of each elementary school and preschool building.
- **Educational display boards** provide key information about the district, school, and highlight benchmarks from other school districts (new learning technologies or facilities)
- **Engagement activities** will be designed to gather ideas about community members' values and priorities regarding the future of elementary school and the preschool buildings

2. Focus Groups

Facilitate small group discussions with key stakeholders

October 2026 – December 2026

- Conduct one-on-one interviews with school board members
- Facilitate small group meetings with key stakeholders to discuss their values and priorities for Phase 3.

3. Engagement Hubs

Drop-in anytime at key locations

January 2027 – March 2027

- Provide an ongoing opportunity for residents to drop in on their own time
- Locations will be strategically placed across the district
- Could be staffed or stand alone

4. Online

Create an online engagement portal

January 2027 – March 2027

- Create and publicize online activities with the same questions and activities as in-person
- Online activities will remain open throughout each round of engagement

Small Group Discussion

1. How do we motivate people to participate in the Phase 3 process? (This includes older adults, adults without children, and youth.)

2. How do we ensure people think about the needs of the entire district, not just their school?

3. What are your reactions to the school hop format? Do you think this is a good approach?

4. Where in the community should the engagement hubs be located?

5. Is there anything we missed in our approach? Any additional general comments.

Next Steps

Preparation and homework prior to the next meeting.

Establishing the Advisory Committee

- The Task Force will nominate co-chairs before our next meeting
- Complete the Microsoft Form sent out after the meeting to nominate yourself or someone else for the role
- A balanced group of 5-6 nominees will be selected to join the Core Team to form the Advisory Committee



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Next Steps and Homework

By Wednesday, October 7…

1. Complete the demographics and Advisory Committee nomination form
2. Visit the website at togetherweplanphase3.com and share your “aha” moment by emailing Harleigh at hgraham@wscloud.org.

By our next meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 6-8pm…

1. Review FAQs and come with any questions, comments or suggestions
2. Use your “Elevator Pitch” with 5 people you know
3. Review the meeting agenda

Thank You!

Phase 3

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