Executive Summary

As a result of the small group work activity
Community Engagement Session #1
Oct. 12 | Oct. 18 | Oct. 19 | Oct. 20, 2022

Approximately 141 community members and staff participated in the first of two community engagement sessions for ENGAGE District 7. For the first session, meetings were held on Oct. 12, 18, 19 and 20, 2022 at four locations in D7 (Worden, Columbus, Woodland and Cassens elementary schools).

Presentations at each event began with a brief overview of the Engage D7 program by community chairs, Lucas Siron and Dr. Lynda Andre. David Courtney, CFO/COO, gave a synopsis of the District's financial timeline dating back to 2008 through today, while Superintendent Dr. Patrick Shelton and architects from Cordogan Clark presented an overview of the Planning Principles for the Development of the Improvement Plan. During the course of the four meetings, participants worked in a cumulative 25 small groups to complete the tasks discussed below. To view the presentation and verbatim responses, visit *EngageDistrict7.org.* Following is a summary of the responses from the groups.

TASK #1: PHYSICAL NEEDS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Physical Needs Assessment
Please rate the PHYSICAL NEEDS below by the priority in which the district should address them (H = High Priority, M = Medium Priority, L = Low Priority), and then circle your 3 highest priorities and report those to the group.

Functional/Curricular/Program Needs Assessment
Please rate the FUNCTIONAL NEEDS below by the priority in which the district should address them (H = High Priority, M = Medium Priority, L = Low Priority), and then circle your 3 highest priorities and report those to the group.
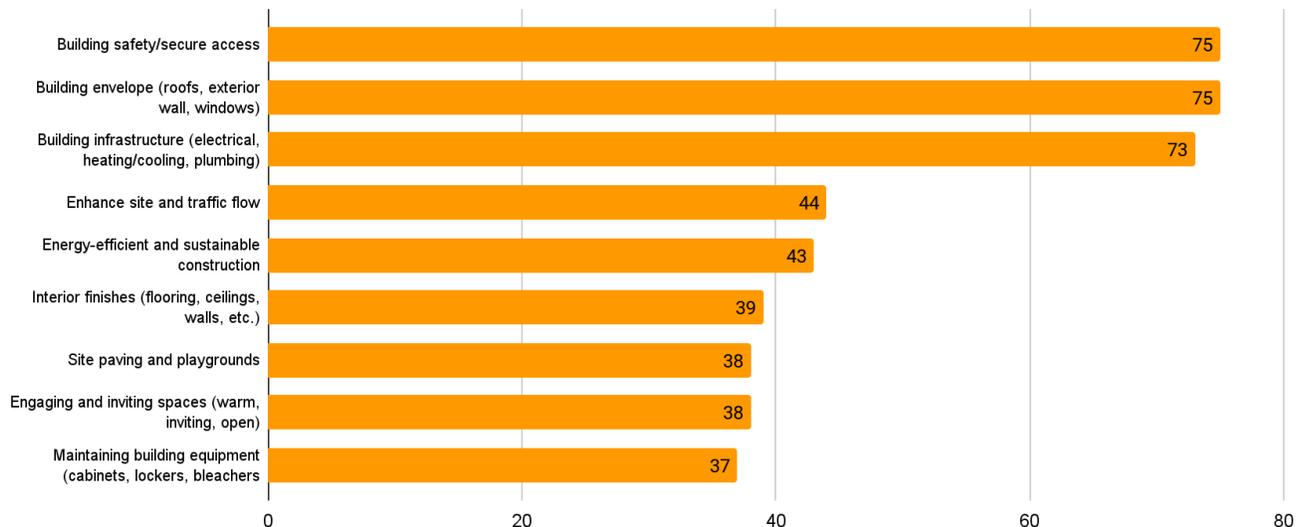
Physical Needs Assessment Responses
In the area of physical needs, the items that stood out as the top three highest priorities and the number of groups selecting them were: building safety/security, 25 groups; building envelope (roofs, exterior wall, windows), 24 groups; and building infrastructure (electrical, heating/cooling, plumbing), 22 groups.

Input from the 25 groups indicated the following physical needs were medium priority areas: site paving and playgrounds; maintaining building equipment (cabinets, lockers, bleachers); interior finishes (flooring, ceilings, walls, etc.); engaging and inviting spaces (warm, inviting, open); energy-efficient and sustainable construction; and enhance site and traffic flow. Five groups or fewer selected the following as low priorities: site paving and playgrounds, maintaining building equipment; interior finishes; energy-efficient and sustainable construction; engaging and inviting spaces; and enhancing site and traffic flow.

The priorities ranked from highest (1) to lowest (9) were as follows:
1. Building safety/secure access
2. Building envelope (roofs, exterior wall, windows)
3. Building infrastructure (electrical, heating/cooling/plumbing)
4. Enhance site and traffic flow

5. Energy-efficient and sustainable construction
6. Interior finishes (flooring, ceilings, walls, etc.)
7. Site paving and playgrounds
8. Engaging and inviting spaces (warm, inviting, open)
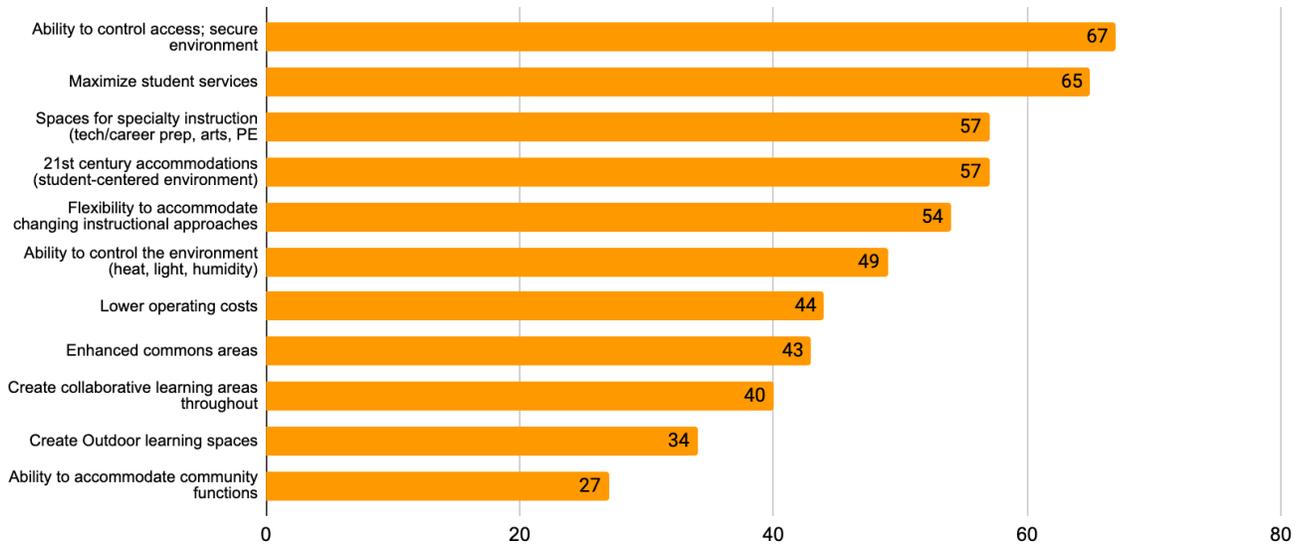9. Maintaining building equipment (cabinets, lockers, bleachers)

Functional/Curricular/Program Needs Assessment Responses
In the area of functional/curricular/program needs, the items that stood out as the top three highest priorities and the number of groups selecting them were: Ability to control access/secure environment, 18 groups; maximize student services, 14 groups; and spaces for speciality instruction (tech/career prep, arts, PE), 12 groups.

Input from the 25 groups indicated the following functional/curricular/program needs were listed as medium priority by fewer than half of the groups: Flexibility to accommodate changing instructional approaches; spaces for specialty instruction; ability to control access/secure environment; ability to accommodate community functions; 21st century accommodations (student-centered environment); ability to control the environment (heat, light, humidity); lower operating costs; maximize student services; enhanced commons areas; create collaborative learning areas throughout; and create outdoor learning spaces. Fourteen groups listed the ability to accommodate community functions as their lowest priority, and seven listed creating outdoor learning spaces as their lowest priority. Other areas listed by fewer than five groups as low priorities were: Flexibility to accommodate changing instructional approaches; 21st century accommodations; ability to control the environment; lower operating costs; enhanced commons areas; and create collaborative learning areas throughout.

The priorities ranked from highest (1) to lowest (11) were as follows:
1. Ability to control access; secure environment
2. Maximize student services
3. Spaces for specialty instruction (tech/career prep, arts, PE)
4. 21st century accommodations (student-centered environment)
5. Flexibility to accommodate changing instructional approaches
6. Ability to control the environment (heat, light, humidity)
7. Lower operating costs
8. Enhanced commons areas
9. Create collaborative learning areas throughout
10. Create outdoor learning spaces
11. Ability to accommodate community functions

Category	Value
Ability to control access; secure environment	67
Maximize student services	65
Spaces for specialty instruction (tech/career prep, arts, PE	57
21st century accommodations (student-centered environment)	57
Flexibility to accommodate changing instructional approaches	54
Ability to control the environment (heat, light, humidity)	49
Lower operating costs	44
Enhanced commons areas	43
Create collaborative learning areas throughout	40
Create Outdoor learning spaces	34
Ability to accommodate community functions	27

TASK #2: INFORMATION FOR NEXT MEETING

As we prepare the informational presentation for our next community engagement session, give some thought to information you want presented in that meeting regarding our efforts to develop a long-range facility improvement program. Reach consensus on five things you would like to learn at our next meeting. Or to think about it in another way, the information you would like included in the presentation.

Information for Next Meeting Responses
The groups listed several items as information they would like to see presented at the next community engagement session as D7 continues to work with its community to develop a long-range facility improvement plan. Themes among the feedback provided included:

- A timeline for facility updates;
- Costs, including budget for the projects, how the facility projects will be funded and the cost difference/benefits of maintaining existing buildings versus building new ones;
- Prioritization of projects;
- Will improvements be made at each school (playgrounds and gyms)?;
- Plans for certain buildings, including empty buildings, Lincoln Middle School, Hamel and Midway (proximity/transportation);
- Land/location options for growth/locations being considered for new buildings;
- Clarification on terminology/more information on student services, changing instructional approaches and career/technical education; and
- Demographics and projections for growth.