



*Lake Mills Area*

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Advisory  
Team (CAT)

May 17, 2023

FOR STUDENTS. OUR COMMUNITY.



# INTRODUCTIONS

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**TONYA  
OLSON**  
District  
Administrator



**TASHA  
NAYLOR**  
Director of  
Business Services



**AMY LITSCHER**  
LMASD School  
Board President



**DREW  
HOWICK**  
Founder & CEO  
Howick  
Associates



**DEBBIE  
BREWSTER**  
DHB Consulting,  
LLC

Quick Introductions of new resource people/administrators/school board members in attendance.

# May 3rd Meeting: Themes & Feedback



## Drew & Debbie Facilitate

- history of facilities helpful
- appreciated table discussions with variety of people
- meeting room/sound - limited options; made minor adjustments for tonight; see how tonight goes and look for other options, if available
- Mix up tables for tonight's meeting per feedback
- Added break

# Table Introductions:



(1) Name

(2) What is your relationship to the district?

(3) Why did you volunteer for this committee?

# AGENDA

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- Ground Rules for Success
- Question/Response Document
- Learning Topic, Part 2: Facilities History (4K, Early Childhood, Head Start, Grade Configurations, and required programming)
- Future Meetings & Next Steps
- Closing Comments, Check-out, Adjourn



# GROUND RULES FOR SUCCESS

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## **LMASD Collaborative Advisory Team**

We will:

- ★ Come prepared for meeting
- ★ Start and end on time
- ★ Have a clear agenda with specific outcomes
- ★ Stay on task with the agenda topics
- ★ Presume positive intentions
- ★ Listen with an open mind and be receptive to new ideas
- ★ Be respectful of other people's opinions & ideas
- ★ Encourage everyone to share their perspective ("share the air")
- ★ Only use cell phones in an emergency



## QUESTION & RESPONSE DOCUMENT

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- See Q&A document for up-to-date responses
  - ◆ Covered during CAT Team Meetings
  - ◆ Information/links in the document
  - ◆ Possible future discussion
  
- Quick Answers for Tonight
  - ◆ Tours of the buildings will be available in late sum and fall.
  - ◆ Why? Referendum failed—This group's charge to determine what is the right plan for facilities.
  - ◆ See [Referendum 2022 Archive](#) for past info
  - ◆ Questions about early learning programs will be discussed tonight (4K, early childhood, head start)
  - ◆ [Prospect Elementary flyer from 2012](#)



- Tours will be offered in August-Sept. (possible meeting locations with tours before meetings)
- Why did the last referendum fail? (many different perspectives; moving forward with new ideas and possible solutions; may be helpful to know more later when solutions are being discussed)
- Include deferred maintenance items
- Handouts: Prospect Elementary
- Reminder of referendum website



# HISTORY OF LMASD PART 2: Operations & Programming

(Early Childhood, Head Start & 4K)

Also known as everything you've ever wanted to know about our youngest learners



# Current Structure

## Current



LAKE MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\*Serves all K-4 and half of 4K students due to space limitations

Also serves:

- Early childhood
- Before and after school care for 4K-5



LAKE MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



LAKE MILLS HIGH SCHOOL



ROCK LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER

- Headstart



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- Remaining half of 4K

We also lease space at RLAC and the Leader Building for the Lake Mills Rec Program, but we will discuss that in the next session. We do not lease space at RLAC for Headstart as that program is a federal program that we do not oversee. It is run by Jefferson County and CESA 2.

# Grade Configurations

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## *Elementary School*

- ❖ Early Childhood - 1 section
- ❖ Two of the four sections of 4K
- ❖ Kindergarten-4th (Built as a 5-section school with no EC/4K space)

## *Middle School*

- ❖ Grades 5-8

## *High School*

- ❖ Grades 9-12
- ❖ Transition Program (ages 18-21),
- ❖ LEAP Program (At-risk Program for grades 11-12)



6 sections of 1st grade, class sizes of 25 in 3rd grade (5 sections)

Middle school–5th grade run as homerooms-traditional elementary set up, MS–5 sections Moved to MS in 2009/2010

High school-typical set up, one lunch period, can't fit all students in cafeteria

# Programming Offerings

The right to a Free Appropriate Public Education is an educational entitlement of all students ages 3-21 in the United States who are identified as having a disability, guaranteed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

K-12 Instruction	Education for kindergarten through 12th grade. Grades K-6 require a minimum of 1050 hours of instruction. Grades 7-12 require 1137 hours.	Required for LMASD to offer	Funded for families by the state.
Early Childhood	Program designed for 3-year-old students with special needs to be able to learn in an inclusive preschool environment alongside typically developing peers. Requires an Individualized Education Program (IEP).	Required for LMASD to offer	A required program in the public school system for students with a disability.
Headstart	Federal program for children under the age of 5	Separate federal program	Funded for low-income families by the federal government. Not part of the public school system.
4K	Optional 4-year-old kindergarten, half day. Next year it will be five days per week. Requires 437 hours of instruction.	Optional for families	Funded for families by the state at a .6 FTE.
Transition Program	Individualized education services for student with an IEP who stay in high school after their peers graduate. Students continue to build their skills with community partners as they transition to life after age 18. This is a required program for students ages 18-21 who qualify.	Required for LMASD to offer	Funded through state and federal funds.

## [Special Education Categories](#)

# THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## A bright start

The brain grows most during the first 3 years of life. Pruning of nerve connections begins after 12 months, when synapses that aren't used disconnect and wither.



This means that much of the effort in nurturing and education must be put forth before children reach their fourth birthday.



Children who get the attention they need early in life do better in school, and are likely to have higher long-term earnings, a better social status, and a happier life.

# Early Childhood

- **Not 3-year-old preschool!**
- Program designed for 3-year-old students with special needs to be able to learn in an inclusive preschool environment alongside typically developing peers. Requires an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Designed to meet the developmental needs of a toddler with a disability as identified by the Individualized Education Team in 1 or more of the following:
  - Physical development
  - Cognitive development
  - Communication development
  - Social or emotional development
  - Adaptive development
- Staffing: Special education teachers, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, vision therapists, etc.



There were trailers outside Prospect Elementary for EC when the elementary building was first opened, we transported our early childhood students (a required program for children ages 3-5 with disabilities) to the Johnson Creek School District for programming. Since then, we have brought this program back to the elementary school as well.

Adaptive development refers to how a child adapts to the environment and the ability to do things independently. Some of the skills associated with adaptive self-care include drinking from bottles/cups, feeding, dressing, toileting, and avoiding common dangers. (Occupational Therapists). Share needs: wheelchair, nonverbal, toileting. Best practice is to learn from peers—communication. This year: 11 students plus Peer Partners.

## Table Discussion:



**20:00**

- (1) What are your reactions to what you've heard?
- (2) What questions do you have about this topic?
- (3) What else would you like to know about this topic?

Open Q&A with time allowed



BREAK!

# Head Start

- Federal program for children ages 3 to 5 years old from low-income families. Goal is to promote school readiness by providing early intervention. Give students a “head start!”
- Children and families who are homeless, in foster care, or receive [TANF](#) or [SSI](#) are also eligible for services.
- Eligibility is determined by Head Start program staff. Families may be eligible if they are at or below the federal poverty level.
- More information can be found at [Head Start in Wisconsin](#) on the DPI website or at [WI Head Start Association](#).
- Located at RLAC. Not affiliated with LMASD, but we have students in the program who attend 4K the other half of the day with us.



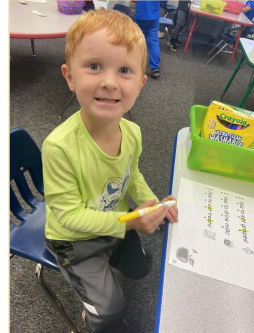
TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
SSI: Supplemental Security Income (for children with certain disabilities)

The goal is to work with at-risk families to remove their barriers to success and to cultivate children’s social, physical, emotional, and cognitive development so they have the abilities necessary to succeed in school and life. Not only do we want Head Start children to enter school on equal footing with their peers, we want them to be prepared, ready, and on the right path for life.



# 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

- [Everything you ever wanted to know about the history of 4K in WI](#)
- While 4K programs were in the state of WI, the 4K start-up grants in 2007-2008 expanded 4K across the state
- Statewide data:
  - 126 districts offer a 5-day/half-day program
  - 120 districts offer a 5-day/full-day program
  - 106 districts offer a 4-day/half-day program
  - 70 districts offer a 2 or 3-day/full-day program
- Next year, we will offer a 5-day/half-day program



## ***What is our history with 4-year-old kindergarten?***

The District partnered with several community sites in the past to offer four-year-old kindergarten. At one point, the District held five 4K classes across three different community sites to serve families and maintain class sizes of 13-21 per section. Because of that, the elementary was not built to accommodate the 4K enrollment. As time passed, some of the learning center partners discontinued their business, and subsequently, two of the 4K sections were moved to the elementary school. We still continue to rent space at the United Methodist Church space for two additional sections this year. However, our 4K class sizes are now approaching 23-25 students each, which is significantly higher than our preferred class size of 18. Update: DPI took full day 4K off the table for discussion.

# 4K Contract History

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Lake Mills United Methodist Church  
2006-2023 (\$10,878.60/ year rent)

Kuhl Corner Campus  
2007-2018

First Class Preschool & Child Care Center  
2006-2007

Prairie Life Learning Center  
2006-2010

Two sections of 4K were moved to the ES  
in 2018 due to lack of community partners.



# Community Sites vs District Sites



## Rationale and Best Practices for Public School 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

Cost of Services increase when there are multiple sites

- Transportation
- Speech
- Occupational Therapy
- Safety

Typical space layout

Class sizes typically smaller

### **Not opposed to community sites but there is currently no the opportunity for a viable community partner.**

Provides equity since it is available to all children in a community; the child does not have to be labeled as low income or with a special condition to be enrolled.

Affordable to parents regardless of financial means as cost distribution across community.

Many families would like school-based services for their children.

Availability of older children as peer models/tutors/coaches.

Sense of continuity for child as they move into the next grade level.

## Area Comparisons

2022-2023 School Year: 84 students

Hans: 21/20

Bergenquast: 20/23

(Ideally would like to keep at 18. Last year, class sizes were at 25.)

Historically, 4K class size ranges from 80-110

Typically, our kindergarten classes will be larger.

Cambridge: 15 students per section

Jefferson: East AM: 19, East PM: 8, West AM: 17, West PM: 11, Sullivan AM: 18

Watertown: 18-20

Waterloo: 19-20

Johnson Creek: 15-16 with a full-time aide.

Fort Atkinson: 6-8 with no aide, 12-16 with a teacher + aide

Marshall: 17-20 is their goal, but this year their class sizes are 19, 20, & 21. They offer a full-day 4K program.

St. Paul's: 18 with a full-time aide

LMASD 4K class size ranges from 80-110



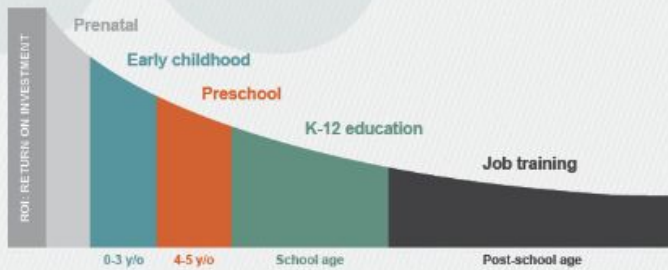
“Thinking about early childhood, it’s not just a question about getting kids to read a little faster or stay in school longer. It’s about providing a benefit for the entire economy. Not just the present economy—the economy going forward.”

— NOBEL LAUREATE JAMES HECKMAN

Unfortunately, students who enter school with a small vocabulary and students who don’t acquire vocabulary words as needed face an uphill battle, as it lowers reading comprehension and may lead to the “Matthew Effect” in which struggling students fall further and further behind.

“If you start in the prenatal years, in the earliest years, you get a substantial gain from these investments. Why is this true? Programs targeted to the earliest years have the greatest productivity—if you invest strongly in the child’s skill base, this allows for higher returns later on.”

— NOBEL LAUREATE JAMES HECKMAN



## Discuss:

(1) What are your reactions to what you just learned?

(2) What questions do you have about this topic?

(3) What else would you like to know about this topic?







What I found useful about tonight's information and discussion...

Some of my reactions to what I'm learning...

Questions or suggestions for future meetings...

Move to breaks out for 10-12 minutes with report out by facilitator.

Table facilitators compile notes/report out major themes; 10-12 minutes

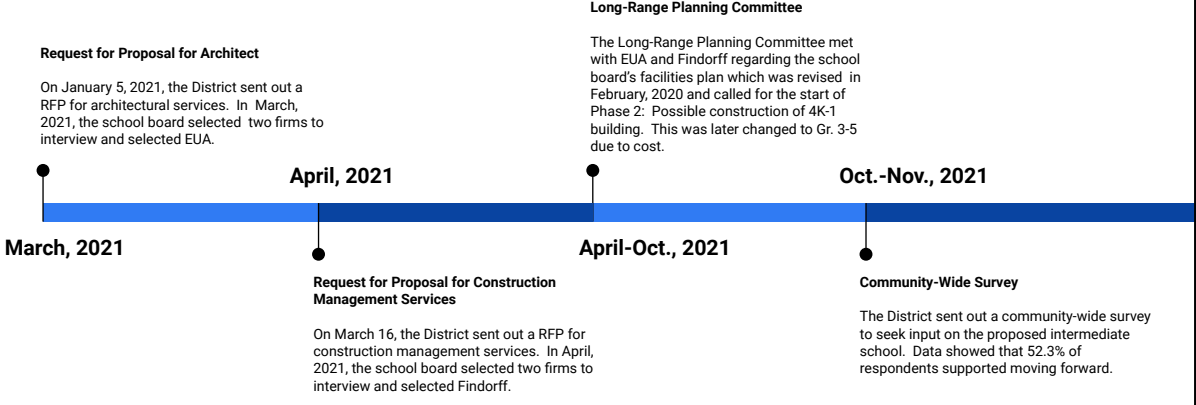


# THANK YOU!

Tonya Olson, LMASD District Administrator  
[tonya.olson@lakemills.k12.wi.us](mailto:tonya.olson@lakemills.k12.wi.us)



# Extra Info: WHERE WE'VE BEEN...



# TIMELINE, CONT.

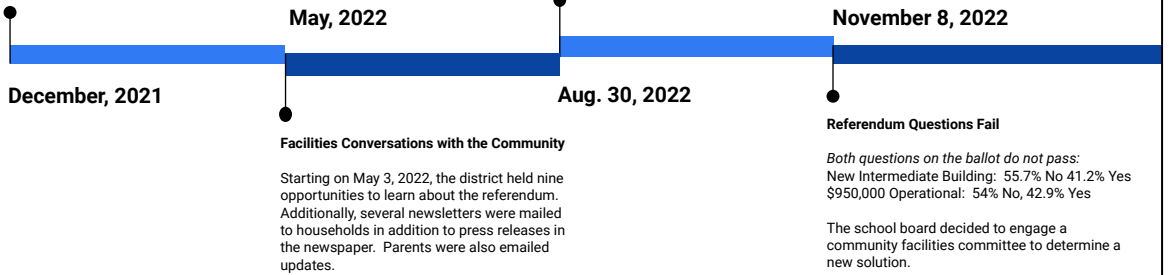
## Pandemic Woes

While it appeared that the referendum could have passed according to the survey, the school board decided to slow down due to the uncertainty of the economy and the ongoing pandemic. During this time, the cost for the project rose from \$36 million to \$44 million. The interest rate remained stable at 4.75%.

## School Board Approves Resolution for November 2022 Referendum

Two questions were approved for the November ballot: \$44 million for an intermediate building and \$950,000 to support the ongoing operation of the building.

Construction costs stabilized by this time which gave assurances that the project would come in at the projected budget. Interest rates remained relatively low at 4.75%.



### Facilities Conversations with the Community

Starting on May 3, 2022, the district held nine opportunities to learn about the referendum. Additionally, several newsletters were mailed to households in addition to press releases in the newspaper. Parents were also emailed updates.

### Referendum Questions Fail

*Both questions on the ballot do not pass:*  
New Intermediate Building: 55.7% No 41.2% Yes  
\$950,000 Operational: 54% No, 42.9% Yes

The school board decided to engage a community facilities committee to determine a new solution.