

## Facilities Planning Public Feedback Responses

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIaRkCo6nNCKDIMp6j6\\_oHY27cluKhBvOCuTZ3BfMHEUnhDA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIaRkCo6nNCKDIMp6j6_oHY27cluKhBvOCuTZ3BfMHEUnhDA/viewform)

as of 01/27/2025

Timestamp 1/24/2024 8:48:18

**What are your thoughts about the current state of any of our school buildings and other facilities?** They're not terrible by any stretch of the imagination, but there is serious room for improvement, especially at the Cassingham Complex. (I can't really speak much about the Montrose building except that the gym needs replaced or significantly overhauled.

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

Enough room and the right types of spaces for everyone to pursue the education they want and need. Space that encourages creativity, critical thinking, and autonomy. A design that is not confined by historic or currently popular classroom set up. Space, throughout all our buildings, at all locations, that will enable students to prosper and fall in love with learning.

**Additional Comments:** While the kickoff meeting had about 100 things that made me think we're going about this process the right way (including the energetic and positive leadership of Jason Fine), two things concerned me. 1) What I perceived as an overemphasis on the parking challenges was troubling. Of everything on that list, parking should be the least of our worries. Every square foot dedicated to parking is a square foot not being used for learning and teaching. In any design, renovation, or construction process, we start with a wish list, and then start ranking priorities and compromising. As we start to rank the many items discussed during yesterday's meeting (and the many topics and features that will come up in future meetings), I sincerely hope that parking moves down to the bottom of the wish list. Yes, we can't forget about it, but please do not let it become more important than it should be. This is Bexley. We have limited space. Let's not waste it on parking. People can park on the street. People can walk. 2) The formation of five building committees worries me a little. (And I'm probably just thinking too hard about this detail.) Yes, our current setup of the district has five schools, but they're one system. I hope that breaking this conversation into five groups does not mean that we won't have people looking at the overall makeup of the campuses and our school structure. If we are going into this with no decisions already made, we should probably include that we have not blindly committed to following the same structure of the schools that's been in place for decades. If the best decision is to have three middle schools (which I don't think it is), I'd hope we'd be open to that. If the best decision proves to be building a sixth-grade building somewhere (which I'm not suggesting), I'd hope we'd be open to that. If the best choice is to build three separate buildings in place of what is now a single building on Cassingham Road (which I have no idea if that's a good idea or not), I'd hope we'd be open to that. If the right choice is to switch to only two elementary schools and use the Cassingham campus for only HS

and MS (which could be a terrible idea), I'd hope we'd be open to that. I've probably rambled on long enough here, but I want to add one more thing: At a minimum, I believe there needs to be significant coordination between Cassingham, the middle school, and the high school.

**Timestamp** 1/24/2024 12:52:57

**What are your thoughts about the current state of any of our school buildings and other facilities?** they are dated and too small. We need expansion of school buildings and campus fields.

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** technology, updated buildings, athletic fields and parking!!! Also a designated, clear carpool line for the Cassingham buildings.

**Additional Comments:** It would seem to make sense to move the middle school to the montrose building and build a new elementary school somewhere on Main as the easiest way to find more space with the least disruption.

**Timestamp** 1/26/2024 18:34:37

**What are your thoughts about the current state of any of our school buildings and other facilities?** Maryland: My kids attend and the roof issues have been a mess forever! I also think that the building is not laid out in an efficient way for modern education, as well as the slightly larger class sizes that we now have. There is a lot of space that just isn't being used well. The building is \*terrible\* for accessibility for anyone in a wheelchair. Staff restroom access is also not great. Pros: The building footprint itself has adequate space. I think Maryland has the best gym facility of the elementary schools. We don't seem to have as much of a parking problem as other schools. I happen to like that many of the classrooms have direct access to the outside (makes dismissal/arrival easier). I also think it's great that many of the K and 1st classrooms have their own restroom. That would be a great feature to expand to all K/1 classrooms in the district. High School: I don't like that high school students don't have access to the cafeteria to actually enjoy their lunch time. There are also not any common areas where students can gather. It makes the school not feel like a welcoming space for students. The Cassingham Complex, in general, seems overcrowded, which is concerning because there doesn't seem to be a lot of geography to expand the facility.

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** We need facilities that can be adaptive for the needs of 21st c education and can comfortably house our growing student population.

**Timestamp** 2/11/2024 15:04:23

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** A mix of indoor and outdoor facilities for sports and creative other uses, like outdoor classrooms, meeting areas, and courtyards.

**Additional Comments:** I love that we are a walking community (and sometimes biking). We do NOT need larger parking lots. We should encourage the use of space for other more valuable reasons. We should work with the city to continue to develop crosswalks and safe journeys for walking and biking students and parents. I love the new crosswalk developments on Roosevelt near the high school. Instead of more parking perhaps there is a better site plan for parent drop-off of children. Like a designated lane for drop off.

**Timestamp** 2/13/2024 11:56:58

**What are your thoughts about the current state of any of our school buildings and other facilities?** I truly value the "charm" and small school feel of Maryland. I think the set up encourages community and togetherness in many ways, however, there are many logistical and structural struggles that impact everyday life. I also believe there is great opportunity to increase the accessibility for students as well as the potential for more and better used group/individual work spaces.

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** We need to have flexible spaces as well as large enough rooms to allow for developmentally appropriate collaboration and play. Easy access to restrooms is a must and can eliminate logistical struggles and transition time.

**Timestamp** 2/14/2024 10:13:08

**Additional Comments:** I would love to see all of the bathrooms be gender neutral. They have this at the Upper Arlington HS and it is amazing. It's a way for our school to be a more inclusive community.

**Timestamp** 2/23/2024 14:31:09

**What are your thoughts about the current state of any of our school buildings and other facilities?** Lack of accessibility in both Maryland and Cassingham buildings is huge challenge. Specifically for those in our special education populations or limited mobility students. The

elevator placements and the environmental barriers (stairs for example) are a huge challenge when navigating the buildings. Classroom teachers also tend to overly decorate their rooms which can pose a huge distraction for many students, not just in the special education population. We know the teachers mean well, but it is often a huge distraction without them knowing. It is hard to approach this topic with many teachers.

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** Access and collaboration among all buildings to come together to fit the unique needs of the buildings. Growing special education population calls for more collaboration between buildings.

**Timestamp** 3/12/2024 16:19:45

**Additional Comments:** Hi there! I attended the 12 March morning sesh at BPL. I worry that our consulting group doesn't grasp the specificity of our community - they seem to be framing their schtick as if we were a suburban school longing for vast parking lots, total security from assault-rifle maniacs, and lots of room for bussing drop-off points. I know our BCS administration can keep them on point, but maybe we should make the case earlier and stronger that we have a (mostly) walking community and high community trust - just so the consultants can get on the right page with us a little more promptly. Also, I think they may also be thinking that Bexley wants to climb in the school rankings for educational success, but... we'd in fact be disappointed to duplicate the successes of Dublin or Upper Arlington. One wonders whether all that extra legroom that the suburbs have in their schools is functionally counter-productive! This basic misreading of local context (as it seemed to me) makes suspicious minds wonder whether our planning consultants might also have a financial stake in the contracting that might follow from this facilities planning process. Hats off to the finance guy, though, who spoke about bond issues. Super clear. Thanks for that!

**Timestamp** 4/10/2024 14:42:10

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** Access 1. better way to drop off kids into cassingham elementary 2. better building security 3. not sure if the AC is adequate at schools. I feel it is better to concentrate on the basics -- clean, secure and safe facilities in favor of futuristic classrooms. I also feel strongly against moving kids into different buildings during the construction. People bought their houses based on school locations and it would be extremely inconvenient for those who currently walk their kids to school.

**Timestamp** 5/26/2024 16:52:29

**Additional Comments:** May 2024 options review, Main Campus: great concepts! Recreating courtyards a very strong idea but path to achieve will be challenging and complex. Prefer a

hybrid answer btw the concepts; very rough high level cut at phasing: 1) do prep work for new building site and moving SB field off campus 2) construct Cassingham rear addition 3) transfer ES library to new addition and shift HS library to MS/ old ES library 4) do HS courtyard project then move HS to the new addition 5) in later phase, do new MS building on SB and demo current MS building but keep front connection between Cassingham and HS. 6) provide link between new MS and HS to art wing, create interior courtyard Other thoughts/ observations: 1) tearing down newest wing to create open space a really tough sell 2) removing all 40+ spaces behind HS is also hard; maybe take 12 spaces behind HS to do courtyard project 3) no parking in front yard. This must truly be a pedestrian space with as minimal car/ pedestrian conflict as possible. 4) eventually may need to work with the city to have assigned on street spaces for staff, and student parking is move further out

**Timestamp** 8/15/2024 16:21:55

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

-Bexley Cassingham complex is a top ranked school in the state. It is the pride of the city and the residents and alumni take pride in its redbrick collegiate traditional structure. We implore you not to change the streetscape from Cassingham. -Maintain tradition of synergy of Cassingham Complex being connected vs. separate buildings ( NO plan D's). - Middle school students take AP courses and use HS classes and Gym etc. -Parent with multiple grades drop off better from single Cassingham entrance. Would lose in all D options. - Greenspace for the community and central Bexley residents is important and the Cassingham complex supports that throughout the year and especially in the summer, - - Keep Stanwood Road Greenspace vista as a welcoming complex. The impact of changing the traffic flow and open greenspace space along Stanwood would detrimentally affect the local neighbors ( and property values) of the Cassingham Complex.

**Additional Comments:** Options but forward at the school board meeting (8/14) do not match those on the website? WHY? Why can we not see option C, D2 & D3? - Have you looked at how Worthington is currently remodeling their campus? The beautiful classic structure along the main road is not changing (cleaning/fixing brickwork & windows), but the back is being expanded/modernized in 'a like" designing but bigger windows etc. Similar to the new OSU medical school campus at Hamilton Hall. - Option D on all plans will lose what residents like about the Cassingham Campus and create the most disharmony with the dense packed residential neighborhood it sits in. At the school board meeting it was presented that people are already voting on options and that D2,D3 and C were top choices? Is this a weighted selection? If only now voting from those 3 then Option C would be best. -Why are the residents and abutters to the campus not being met with? If it were an house extension on such a scale the city would require abutter notices to be sent out. -When Capital University wanted to move the football field lights there was a lot of city discussion on how the lights would affect local residents. and rightfully so. Why is there no discussion of this when moving the tennis court and football lights in this case? Thank you for considering my input.

**Timestamp** 9/10/2024 6:17:45

**Additional Comments:** I realized I never actually submitted my comments after the last Cassingham facilities meeting. Hopefully this input is still helpful: The options to completely replace the Cassingham complex buildings should be given serious consideration. The team should continue to develop and expand on these benefits. I think it would be helpful to know how the new structures could be laid out and how the design could incorporate current aesthetics and features of existing buildings, rather than a fully modern design. This could lend to the core concerns of preserving the current facades. There were a lot of options showing different field configurations. From my standpoint, the track should be accommodated in the final configuration. There are fields at the other elementaries, tennis courts could fit in smaller spaces, but a track seems like the most difficult to relocate elsewhere, especially if the space for a football field is already provided. I also think the district has done a great job making this information accessible to the public and allowing for regular feedback. However we discussed there is still a lack of awareness of the process by some community members. Is the design team assisting in outreach or has the district considered hiring a separate public relations firm for the next stages? Funding these improvements is going to be a difficult lift and it will be important to get information out in clear and concise format. Thanks again for allowing me to be a part of this process.

**Timestamp** 9/14/2024 7:19:12

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** Based on this decision which I am totally against I WILL DEFINITELY BE VOTING AGAINST THE NOVEMBER SCHOOL LEVY Bexley is Bexley because we are a walking close knit community and our schools have always been top notch as supported by its number 1 and 2 state ratings the past two years. Class sizes were larger back in the 70's than they are today. There is no need for this. We walk and congregate at the main campus football field, tennis courts and softball field before and after school and on weekends. This will totally disrupt our one of a kind community

**Timestamp** 9/14/2024 14:45:04

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**  
Accessible for all Bexley students.

**Additional Comments:** I understand the need for additional outdoor space, but is there anything closer to Bexley? We live in south Bexley, and the most "efficient" route to the potential outdoor complex is via 70, 71, and 670 (8 miles). Before the purchase goes through, has anyone done environmental analyses on the site, ESPECIALLY an air quality assessment? The

smokestack at that Calgon Carbon plant is always going, and if my daughter and her classmates are potentially going to spend hours practicing and playing sports up there, I want to make sure that it won't have long-term health effects.

**Timestamp** 9/14/2024 20:53:30

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**  
Responsible growth

**Additional Comments:** Feel free to reach out as I am very very familiar with that area.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** I worked at that nursing home. We had numerous issues with car break ins during the day, not just night shift. Someone got their tires stolen off their car during the afternoon. My worry is the kids who are leaving evening practices safety. Also since it was Columbus PD, we rarely saw an officer to assist. Patients' families would also get approached for money in the parking lots. I would not be comfortable with my daughter going there alone or leaving alone. Safety would be my priority over a sports complex that not all Bexley students will utilize and yes I saw the possible natural classroom line.

**Timestamp** 9/16/2024 10:50:12

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** I think it is a proactive move and the District was right to move quickly, but I hope the 75-day due diligence period truly will be used to consider all potential issues, and expenses, moving forward. I've seen complaints about flooding at Wolfe Park affecting sports teams, but this property appears to abut Alum Creek just as Wolfe does, so what kind of flood prevention measures might be needed and at what cost? Security is another concern, as are transportation to/from the main campus and traffic issues with Cassady only having single lanes in each direction and an already horrible intersection at Cassady & 5th Avenue. I also agree with those in the community who suspect that athletics, once again, are being prioritized and driving this proposal at the potential expense of other programs. We are looking at 5 straight years of tax increases. I do not relish the idea of the District coming back for more, particularly if such a request is to cover aspects of an expansion that weren't adequately identified during the "due diligence" process.

**Timestamp** 9/18/2024 8:29:09

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** This proposed property is immediately adjacent to the Calgon Carbon

industrial factory. The email announcing the location of the complex is somewhat deceptive as the aerial photograph blocks the view of the factory with a gray rectangle pasted over the factory site. What steps have been taken to ensure that the outdoor air quality at this location is suitable for children exercising? Particulate air sampling, at a minimum, should be conducted as part of environmental due diligence prior to going through with the purchase.

**Timestamp** 9/19/2024 17:43:07

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

Adequate classroom space and a larger cafeteria would be amazing at the complex. Having a sports complex that can accommodate the band too is so important. Our marching music program is suffering and not on par with others largely due to a lack of dedicated practice space for summer camp and weeknight practices.

**Additional Comments:** I noted that renting the CSG pool wasn't mentioned in the email blast. Is a Natatorium completely out of the discussion? Central Ohio lacks pool space and it could be a revenue opportunity for the district.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:**

This is a smart purchase! Please consider bike paths and safe route access for those who typically walk to practices at the complex. It's nice that the Alum Creek trail is there, but more might need to be considered to make this more accessible.

**Timestamp** 9/19/2024 22:33:23

**Additional Comments:** In reviewing the county auditor's website it appears this property was transferred earlier this year for \$2.2 million. Why does the school district feel a \$6,3 million value is reasonable 6 months later? Do we know who the people behind 935 Cassady LLC are? Are we comfortable that there isn't any self dealing going on? Doesn't pass the smell test on the surface, but I am willing to be educated on the process and people involved for the sake of transparency

**Timestamp** 9/19/2024 22:42:20

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** To have buildings that function as modern educational setting. That are in good shape. That meet the needs of our growing student population.



**Additional Comments:** What uses other than sports did you consider for this land? How about classrooms/labs designed to promote STEAM? Do you plan to build a pool? Do you plan to give access to the public that you're asking to pay for it?

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** I think it sucks. We know we need to pour millions into our existing buildings. So we pull out \$3M from our P.I. Fund and borrow another \$3M against future tax income? Where do we get the millions to develop this land? How do we guarantee safety in an area known for drug houses? How do we pay to maintain these facilities? How do we pay for the cost of transportation? AND WHY AREN'T WE USING THIS \$ TO FIX OUR CURRENT AGING BUILDINGS???. This is the wrong time to divide our \$ and energy in two.

**Timestamp** 9/20/2024 9:20:08

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** This seems like it will be a great opportunity for the districts and athletes, but many parents are wondering how athletes will get there. It is not the same as expecting athletes to get to Wolfe Park or Jeffrey Park themselves. There is a train track grade crossing, incomplete sidewalks, and a very busy and tight intersection on the way to this new tract of land. I understand that use of this new land is likely a few years off, but we could use some reassurance that this is a major consideration and the district will have a plan to at least offer a bus to the new facilities after school for practice (even if parents still need to pick up after practice). One of the major reasons we chose Bexley is that our kids would be able to walk/bike to many of their activities. Board members may have seen the recent Bexley Buzz post on the topic, with a few parents saying "teams will just figure it out." I think with this new opportunity, we need to do better than "just figure it out."

**Timestamp** 9/20/2024 11:48:41

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

Fiscal Responsibility. One of the first answers to the FAQ about Facilities Planning explains that the population for Bexley is expected to stay stagnant for the next decade; I would argue for the foreseeable future. Bexley is a landlocked city, which is fully developed and limited to no excess land. That does 2 things, it ensures that there will not be a population spike and simplifies the forecasting process. We know what our student population will be in Bexley year-to-year and we know it will be in 10 years (especially with falling birthrates and 2 prestigious prep schools already within Bexley), and therefore, we are stable and we will continue to be so and we should plan accordingly. We should focus on the reimagination of the schools and the land they currently encompass, while ensuring we maintain the highest level of education and educators; we do not need to irresponsibly buy non adjacent land just because we have the money.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** Irresponsible. 75 days of due diligence is nice, but the citizens need to understand what this land will be and, most importantly, how much it will take to redevelop it into the 'outdoor complex' for which it is monikered. I am not listing rhetorical questions, but listing concerns about logistics and the true cost-benefit for spending \$6 million + redevelopment. 1. Logistics. It is not the most easily accessible area, which would mean additional bussing, walking or parent shuttle. 2. Safety. Aligning with #1 above, that 5th and Cassady corner is not some neighborhood four-way stop. Are we looking to assist in some sort of redevelopment of the intersection with the city of Columbus? Or am I too anxious in my thinking? 3. Safety again. It is not within Bexley police jurisdiction, so do we need to have outsourced security for whatever events or schooling is happening? 4. Cost. I realize large swaths of land do not become available often, but what are we really getting out of it? a. Sports complex? There is land and areas around the city for our teams to practice, and they have been doing it now. b. Are we hosting tournaments to pay for the use of the land? c. Outdoor classrooms? Is it adding to our students' education? Couldn't we use the many parks we have or Wolfe Park or Franklin Park? d. Maintenance cost? Including the security mentioned above? Will it pay for itself or another burden on the district/city? This endeavor feels like a pipe dream that came true, but it truly feels like we are grasping at something that is unattainable, and maybe unnecessary. Just because we had the idea and we set aside money for something like this, it should be almost perfect, this is anything but and would be a significant drain on financial resources that would be better used in the building redesigns.

**Timestamp** 9/20/2024 13:18:20

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** We need space to equitably suit the grade level teams in elementary and content area departments in the middle and high school. The buildings should accommodate for better collaboration using the physical space, like having small group rooms. Considering the Cassingham Complex is serving so many students, I think a better management of the interior and exterior is needed. For example, lunch and recess at the elementary is so packed because the cafeteria is being shared by so many students. We also need a better solution to the parking at the Cassingham Complex.

**Additional Comments:** The schools need to consider population growth as the development on Main Street is completed and other developers look at how they can create more affordable housing in Bexley.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** I think it is a bad PR move to spend \$6 million on an undeveloped piece of land in the same year the district is asking for an expensive levy and threatening 30-60 teachers' jobs if it fails. A full facility plan should have occurred before making such an expensive purchase. I think it makes sense to move admin offices there, but it is pretty wild that the land was bought without specific intention.

**Timestamp** 10/8/2024 23:34:05

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex:** The Franklin County Auditor's website shows that, earlier this year, on March 4, 2024, the property at 935 Cassady was purchased for \$2,225,000 (28.36 acres and a two story Nursing Home). The purchaser in March 2024 was a Limited Liability Company named "935 Cassady LLC" (formed August 25, 2023). Is "935 Cassady LLC" the seller in the Purchase Agreement entered into by BCSD? While \$6.03 million is below the Auditor's Appraised Value, at Wednesday's meeting could you please discuss the reasons for the purchase price differences - \$2.2 million in March 2024 vs \$6.03 million in September 2024. Thank you

**Timestamp** 10/23/2024 12:25:34

**Additional Comments:**

- How did the BOE, Bexley Schools or Bexley City learn about the availability of the land?
- It has been discussed that the land is ""worth"" \$10m and the owner is selling for \$6m. Why do you believe the owner would leave \$4m on the table?
- The owner of the property is an LLC. Is the LLC, member, manager benefactor, family member, affiliated business or other receiving any implied or expressed benefits or concessions from the City, School or other?
- Who from the BOE, Bexley Schools, Bexley City or Chamber or other were involved in the presentation and/or negotiation of the contract?
- If the facilities plan in the spring calls for a teardown or full reconstruction of the Cassingham Complex will our children be bused to this new site for school during the renovation process?
- Are there any other implied or expressed uses of the land or buildings on the land other than strictly for the use of Bexley Schools? i.e. any other City uses.

I look forward to the answers and appreciate your time."

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I have more questions than answers, and transparency is important to me and other tax payers/voters.

**Timestamp 11/20/2024 10:16:55**

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

BUY THE LAND. This is a very rare opportunity. Upper Arlington passed on buying land along the Scioto River decades ago for future recreational use. That area is outside city limits and now is developed with houses, apartment, and office uses.

**Timestamp 11/20/2024 11:30:51**

Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:

Overall upgrades, more instruction and athletic space

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I think this a great project and am in support of it.

**Timestamp 11/20/2024 11:53:42**

Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:

Space for our students to grow in and out of the classroom.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

As long as the land is environmentally safe, I think that this is a good purchase for the school district.

**Timestamp 11/20/2024 17:26:25**

Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:

The plan to build a new Middle School on the Cassingham site softball field, move the softball field to Montrose, and renovate/reconfigure the rest of the Cassingham complex is the safest, most economical option. It reserves roughly \$50 million in funding availability under the District's current bonding limit.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

The Cassady Ave property is a bad idea, due to 1) its ultimate development cost, which pressures the District's bond limit, 2) the continued environmental concerns with the abutting industrial property, 3) poor infrastructure support for safe walking and biking to the property; 4) unclear path forward with the City of Columbus to build sidewalks, repurpose/demolish dilapidated properties, and grant the District a tax exemption.

**Timestamp 11/20/2024 20:09:14**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

The learning facilities in Bexley should reflect the high cost of living here- I expect that students and teachers are in buildings that appropriately accommodate the class sizes. It's wild that fifth graders in cassingham are housed in the middle school. The offices for school board could be flexed elsewhere as our priority is the kids

**Additional Comments:**

The funeral home on Livingston that was intended to be built into apartments has failed multiple times. The district should look into securing that land for offices for the district. I would rather bus kids to the JCC or other nearby fields than spend millions to develop new athletic spaces. We need to focus on rebuilding the old school buildings first.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I think this is a mistake. \$6 million just for land that is not even in Bexley is a wild price without even having a plan for what that would be for. It feels irresponsible to pay so much for land that still needs to be developed. We just passed a huge operating levy and more is coming for the school buildings- spending \$6 million without a plan is an awful idea and rubs me the wrong way.

**Timestamp 11/20/2024 20:37:56**

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I am fully against this purchase. The neighborhood is not safe. It has an abysmal crime rating. There is no guarantee the plant neighboring will meet EPA standards and that even if it does, that it is healthy for the children. Have any tests been done to check for any toxic waste on the site. What has been done to calculate how much money will be needed to convert the land to usable sports facilities? How will you keep the students safe there? How will we pay for the transportation and security needed? Will the district be liable if any student, ours or another district's, should happen to be a victim of a crime committed on the property? The district cannot claim to not know the inherent risks of that happening. Purchasing this property for this amount shows no fiscal responsibility.

**Timestamp 11/20/2024 20:44:54**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

The maintenance and upkeep of existing buildings and facilities.

**Additional Comments:**

I will not vote for any levies that include money for the purchase on Cassady or for new buildings.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

It is unneeded, does not fit with a walkable community, is in an area of high crime and completely ridiculous.

**Timestamp 11/20/2024 21:56:52**

**What are your thoughts about the current state of any of our school buildings and other facilities?**

It's more about the quality of the people (teachers) than how new and shiny the buildings and facilities are.

**Additional Comments:**

Let's find a different solution to our desire for more sports facilities (something closer, safer, less toxic) . . . and leave the school tennis courts where they are.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

Do not purchase it. Use the money in some other way to address the community's needs — or don't spend all that money.

**Timestamp 11/21/2024 0:05:53**

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

Good luck putting another levy up for voters to fund this after the recent one that just passed. The fear tactic of cutting jobs can't be used to get support for this initiative. While supposedly a "good deal" on the land, it is fiscally irresponsible to purchase it without foresight into either how you'll fund the property nor the renovation needs nor the bussing and security costs needed to get student there safely/maintain this property. After this recent levy, very concerned about the

burden you're putting on tax payers even without this project. This purchase expounds that concern - and creates questions on competencies of whoever oversees budgets and finance for the school district

**Timestamp 11/21/2024 12:56:49**

**What are your thoughts about the current state of any of our school buildings and other facilities?**

Fiscally responsible and reasonable.

**Additional Comments:**

We will organize.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

Not necessary. Tax burden. We can't afford it as we just approved operating levy and capital for classrooms are a priority over extra circular activities.

**Timestamp 11/21/2024 14:10:40**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:** I believe we need to keep our green space as is at the Cassingham complex. I believe we should preserve the Bexley charm and remodel and repurpose spaces in our existing building. The greenspace is used by all of Bexley.

**Additional Comments:**

I firmly feel that something is being withheld regarding this land acquisition. I feel the city is involved and it intends to push its agenda to expand the size of Bexley. I feel the Public is being misled and outright lied to.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I disagree with any use other than additional sports or extracurricular activities. I would disagree with the purchase if the Cassingham complex were to lose any greenspace that ALL the community enjoys. I would absolutely fight any other use of the space and would be vigilant in ensuring the space isn't used to bus our kids for traditional schooling at any point including while any improvements, remodeling or demo of the Cassingham complex is taking place. We pay Bexley taxes and we expect and have the right to expect to stay in Bexley for school.

**Timestamp 11/21/2024 22:04:47**

**Additional Comments:**

Having lived in Bexley for over 25 years, I have voted to approve any levy to improve the city and the school system. This property does not seem to expand what I would hope Bexley would want as a premier location for our children. I am not in favor of this expansion at this specific site.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

When I heard about the possible purchase of the land north of 5th, I was concerned. Traveling this area several times a day, the safety of students and staff will be an issue. Unfortunately, individuals in need of financial assistance, are always on the corner of 5th and Cassidy and a number of times, have aggressively approached my car. The liquor store directly on the east side of Cassidy is not what I hope any parent would want their child exposed to. The area surrounding the property on the east side has continuous police events.

**Timestamp 11/22/2024 11:47:49**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

I believe space at all of the schools and a safe and spacious leaning environment

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I am not in favor. You have asked us again and again for \$ through levy's to keep up with the schools. We always vote yes. However, this is going to cost the district and tax payers more money in the long run. You need to outsource to other places in the neighborhood that are in or around the area such as the JCC or other venues or put this in the plans when you rebuild the cassingham complex.

**Timestamp 11/22/2024 17:49:22**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

Phase 2: A track needs to be onsite and available to students. Many students with disabilities or other unique needs benefit from walking. It is one of the best antecedent strategies for preventing and managing behavior. Without a track on site, students will be forced to walk through the crowded hallways, where there is less privacy to re-regulate, or off school property (on sidewalks) which is not safe or inclusive. Why spend a bunch of money in phase one making the building more physically accessible via ADA if we are only going to revert our intentions in phase two by essentially disregarding the social, emotional, and behavioral health



and needs of our students with disabilities? Physically accessibility is one piece of the puzzle in meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

**Timestamp 11/24/2024 16:01:41**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

Restoring and updating current buildings, classrooms, facilities instead of buying/building new ones

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I have a lot of concerns about the inflated sale price from the previous purchase price, the cost needed to develop and maintain the new development, safe access for students who don't drive and should not walk or bike there, environmental concerns based on the other neighboring businesses, etc.

**Timestamp 12/5/2024 21:21:22**

Additional Comments:

I imagine this is old news, but recommend discussions with leaders at Laurel School and Hathaway Brown School in Cleveland, OH who both developed accessory athletic sites from their academic campuses.

**Timestamp 12/10/2024 9:07:01**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

I believe that people and staff are more important than the buildings themselves.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I'm extremely frustrated to hear how much money is being spent on this land acquisition. Your team just requested millions of dollars for our schools in a levy and yet you have money sitting in a fund to buy land that is going to be used for sports. I do not want to hear anything about an additional levy or money requested to develop this land in the future.

**Timestamp 12/10/2024 9:58:14**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

I think it is important to modernize facilities and reduce reliance on other organizations' facilities.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I am in support of this purchase, although I strongly believe Bexley schools should consider constructing a natatorium on this land. Although natatoriums are expensive, BHS has amazing women's/men's swim and dive teams that would benefit greatly from the existence of such a facility. These teams would likely attract even more promising swimmers and divers if BHS had its own facility. A middle school swim team could even be established! Right now, BHS relies on paying to use CSG's pool for practice and home meets. This limits the number of meets BHS can host, and perhaps even more important, it greatly limits available practice times for the team. The team often has to practice later in the evening than is ideal (or very early in the morning, as during Covid), which is hard on the team members and makes it difficult for them to balance schoolwork and athletic participation. Comparable (in terms of academics) schools like UA HS have natatoriums. A pool could be used for other things as well - phys ed classes (learning to swim is a critical lifesaving skill) - recovery from injuries in other sports - and as an indoor pool resource for the community (Bexley only has a public outdoor pool, and given its location it is not possible to put a dome over it in winter - it is my understanding that this has been explored). Swimming is a healthy, lifelong sport that carries with it far less risk of injury than other sports that receive more district support. I think we should not miss the opportunity to truly and completely upgrade our athletic facilities by constructing a natatorium and providing greater access to safe, healthy, and competitive sport(s) for our children!

**Timestamp 12/13/2024 8:36:02**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

My number 1 goal is that Cassingham Elementary School functions like an elementary school and not an extension of the middle and high school. These students need playground and field space for recess, their own cafeteria or time alone in a shared cafeteria, all classrooms and intervention space with exterior windows and classrooms need to be clustered by grade level versus stretched out the length of a hallway that is as long as a city block (intervention rooms close to associated grade level) for collaboration. The current plan does not include any of these items.

**Additional Comments:**

I am not confident our community will support another tax increase. What will we do with the purchased land and current facilities challenges in the event we don't get community financial support? What is the contingency plan? It is not efficient to continue to repair buildings with operating funds but what if that is our only option?

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I am concerned about the amount of "usable" land on the site. Between the road, existing building and grade/slope to a ravine, the usable land is much less than the presented total land purchase. What will the cost of bussing be to transport students for practices. I do not think it is acceptable to have upper classman driving under classman as the preferred transportation model. Nor is it acceptable to have parents drive students during regular work hours. Will this added cost impact pay to play fees?

**Timestamp 12/20/2024 11:05:59**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

Maintaining green space for play/athletics, facilities for the arts (band, orchestra, theater, etc) in all levels K-12, Special Ed rooms as necessary (I am not so familiar with this area but am aware that space is lacking for their needs), and security of the school buildings and sites.

**Additional Comments:**

I understand our current buildings will need work regardless of the land purchase but are any changes to the current facilities plan being made in light of the new land purchase? I feel like some changes may be made moot depending on decisions for the Cassady Ave land. It feels like we are just barreling through with the current facilities plan, which was made before this land purchase, without adjusting. And this feels very short-sighted.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I believe that with the purchase of the Cassady Ave land the high school and its athletic facilities should be moved to that site. This would eliminate the anxiety of some and the cost of transporting students to and from athletic practices. Additionally it would allow for growth of the Cassingham Elementary and Bexley Middle schools as well as give them access to athletic/outdoor space on the current complex. While I am sure this would get pushback, it is a forward thinking move that would allow for future growth.

**Timestamp 12/20/2024 23:19:25**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

The historic architecture and nature of the Cassingham Elementary and Highschool complex. Academics trumps athletics considering the school has partnerships with other community facilities. The main complexes being centrally located.

**Additional Comments:**

"I cannot stress how important it is for whatever decision being made that the architecture remains loyal to what it currently is. Gahanna is currently rebuilding their High School and it simply does not feel like a place of learning. I was there outside of the school and it felt like the building itself was more for show than it was education. It felt and looks like an bougie office building. The small ornate details really make the building charming and enjoyable to be in. The alma mater sums this up perfectly: "...To thee whose hallowed halls we tread...." Bexley is a historic city with a revered school system. A completely new school in a community who has houses built well over 100 years ago does not mesh. I also feel like the school should consult architects and designers from Bexley and people who live in the community. People from Chicago have no emotional connection to the sites and are just doing their jobs. The issues presented to the school require a careful and caring hand that the community can trust especially considering the individual financial burdens the school places on the community members.

A final note: Whatever is decided upon, the BHS Schottenstein theatre has become out of touch with the standards a true theatre needs and was never built to the correct height to accommodate full stage scrim and cycloramas that make use of the fly and rigging system. (Perhaps the Schottensteins would be so generous to donate to completely renovate the space instead of just cover up the existing theatre like how it currently is. 😊)"

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

It makes sports 100% car dependent which is a horrible idea for such a walkable community. The surrounding area certainly does not have the Bexley charm and can feel quite dangerous.

**Timestamp 12/26/2024 11:45:34**

**Additional Comments:**

"Dear Dr Fine and Ms Powers, I have attended many of the sessions over the last year updating us on the planning for new school facilities. I appreciate how much effort the school is putting into transparency and community engagement and I wish more people were showing up to get involved in the sessions. Since the last session I attended on 11/20, I have shared with many people and heard there thoughts and there is once concern that consistently is coming up so I wanted to pass along to you directly.

While we love the idea of how much new indoor space a new Middle School building would get us, what we keep coming back to with the Phase 1 Cassingham Complex plan is that this eliminates the majority of outdoor/open play space at the school (from images it appears to be made as much as a 2/3 reduction in outside play space). We would only be left with the playground structure and area between arts wing and elementary school. I think a general consensus from all educators is that outside free play for kids/recess is an integral part of the school day and taking away an area for them to have unstructured play in an open field is worrying. We live near the school and from my walks past with my dog this field seems to be fully used during recess and I am struggling to envision all those kids packed into the 1/3 or less sized space which does not have open space to just kick a ball and run around. My son, now in

8th grade, certainly spent almost 100% of his recess time on that field. In addition, this is the one and only open field in Central Bexley and is used by the community all the time for kids to meet up and play (and I can again attest that it is used all the time from my own kids and also from often passing by!). Central Bexley has no other parks or open space to go to instead.

While I understand every plan will have many pros/cons and trade offs, this feels like a hugely significant trade off for the city of Bexley, especially kids who attend Cassingham and residents of Central Bexley. I am not sure many people have fully registered that a proposed plan would take away such a significant amount of our outdoor space and worry this news will not go over well when realized by community members and is too big a trade off for future students. I do understand you all are doing all you can to give people a chance to contribute ideas and see the plans.

Anyway, passing along these thoughts as part of your feedback process. Appreciate you listening. Thanks for all you are doing for the project and Bexley Schools!

**Timestamp 12/26/2024 11:46:27**

**Additional Comments:**

Good morning Jason, I've been thinking about the schools and the planned expansion of the sports fields to North Cassady (which I fully support). It's unfortunate CPS didn't decide to close Broadleigh Elementary 6-12 months earlier. I just drove past it and it is a beautiful piece of land just outside BEXLEY (approximately 1/2 mile from Maryland Avenue Elementary). I don't know if you recall but the land where Africentric High School stands used to be a heavily wooded area with I believe apartments on some of the land. It's likely too late but just wanted to bring this up - I realize BPS as well as all school districts have limited resources. Happy Holidays to you and your family - see you in late January at the Finance meeting if not sooner.

**Timestamp 1/8/2025 12:59:42**

Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:

"I'm writing to provide feedback on the most recent proposals for facilities planning. I am pleased to see the District's attention to cost. I have been concerned with the potential for incredibly high costs and, in turn, higher taxes for families. This will result in raising the invisible wall that exists in Bexley and will further prevent more diverse families (both racial and socioeconomically diverse) from moving to our neighborhood. It does not reconcile with the city's One Bexley initiative and rhetoric which many of us believe in wholeheartedly.

The proposed middle school building completely eliminates the green space at Cassingham. This is problematic for several reasons:

- Cassingham students access to green space is crucial for recess and currently is used every school day all-year for sports and games ( a quick survey of CS staff will prove this statement is true despite statements to the contrary in meetings) in addition to the blacktop area playground.

- This is inequitable with the other two elementary schools who currently already have natural green space (i.e. grass vs. Cassingham's inadequate turf) and will continue to have such space available post renovations. Central Bexley families use this space after school, during the summer and on weekends for a variety of purposes.

- Many of us chose to move to the community understanding we were accepting smaller yards compared to comparable central Ohio school districts but getting essentially a community park in the heart of the neighborhood in place of yard space. The proposed middle school, in it's current form, takes away this value proposition from Central Bexley residents

I support a new middle school but it must be created with equity in mind for Cassingham students and Central Bexley residents, ensuring fair treatment compared to North and South students and residents."

**Additional Comments:**

Public digestion of information/ feedback time needs to be prioritized during meetings vs yet another overview of how we got here. The how we got here info can be a pre-read (or briefly point people to the website for a reminder) and instead the public should see new updates and have plenty of time to digest the info and voice feedback. I appreciate we are implementing change management techniques and trying to bring people along but this can occur much more succinctly.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

Overall, I am concerned with where money is proposed to be allocated. If we only have so capital to spend, academic space must be prioritized. Most of us moved to this District because of the excellent academic environment. We did not move here for athletics (though I appreciate most of our kids will participate in athletics, including my own). I am concerned if we are going to prioritize building out the space on Cassady vs. pouring into enhancing academic space. I realize it may not be an either / or choice, but if we are prioritizing work, academic space should undoubtedly be the priority

**Timestamp 1/8/2025 14:41:24**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

Whatever maximizes educational opportunities for the students. I believe the emphasis should be on making sure classrooms are adequate and the best we can reasonably afford.

**Additional Comments:**

I am very concerned with the rebuild of the middle school and how it impacts and reduces the green space for Cassingham students. This will impact all of the Cassingham students who rely on green space for recess and sports but also all residents in Central Bexley as it is the only "green" (albeit faux green) space in central Bexley. Many of us residents who live in very close

proximity to Cassingham have very small yards which was okay when purchasing our homes because we had Cassingham and the green space right there. If this changes, we have small yards and no field. My concern mostly lies with the impact on the students for recess and extracurricular activities (not just organized sports).

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I welcome the Cassady Ave project as long as it is done in a reasonable and affordable way. I do think we should have top of the line facilities but I don't think it should be at the sacrifice of cost of affordable living in Bexley.

**Timestamp 1/24/2025 16:37:40**

**Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities:**

My children attend Cassingham Elementary so my comments are limited to the probably on that complex as I am less familiar with the needs at the other two elementary buildings. I believe much greater consideration needs to be given to outdoor green space at the Cassingham complex. Yesterday was the first facilities meeting that I was able to attend and I found it interesting that both Montrose and Maryland have proposed dedicated outdoor learning spaces and Cassingham does not. I think that needs to be reconsidered as an important item to be included for Cassingham elementary. I think the schematics shown for the outdoor space at Cassingham were unfortunate. I appreciate the challenges presented by the site in light of the current building layout, but I think better concepts need to be thought through for functional outdoor space at the Cassingham complex. There was a suggestion made that the football stadium turf is a good space for children's outdoor play and learning; my understanding from my children and from my own observations when volunteering at Cassingham for recess assistance is that such space is not actually available due to conflicts with sports teams, bands, etc. There needs to be dedicated space.

Also, the amount of parking spaces and associated costs seem unnecessary. That is an area of savings that I think is easy. I recognize that people complain about wanting more parking spaces, but this is a small, walkable community. When faced with where dollars must versus could be spent, this seems like something that should be reconsidered.

Kids in classes with daylight is a fundamental must. It is unfortunate that does not exist for all kids in that building today and I am encouraged that due consideration has been given to that item.

I understand the points made about cost escalation over time, but just because something is going to cost significantly more in the future is not a justification for moving to do it quickly now. I have serious concerns about the overall magnitude of these projects without clear understanding of the financing plans. It seems unlikely to me that levies that would be required to implement the full plans will be supported by the community. I think much more consideration needs to be given to establishing a financing plan and communicating that out to the community

before any hard decisions are made about how to move forward. Otherwise, I believe the plans presented will result in "forcing" people out of this community, which is obviously not the intent of anyone involved.

**Additional Comments:**

I appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in the process as I know the end goal is to make our community great by supporting our youth in the best way possible. Please consider ways to improve the costs outlook as to not make this financially unachievable from a practical perspective.

**Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex.**

I believe that the costs presented at this meeting related to the acquisition of the land and the projected development and construction costs for the complex are unjustifiable with respect to youth sports. I cannot understand how the board and district could move forward with a \$6.5MM acquisition (for a parcel that sold for less than a third of that in the prior year) and then present a \$60MM+ project without indication of any financing plans while also stating no determination has been made as to whether or not a levy will be issued. That simply does not make sense to me. It seems obvious that this plan will lead to massive levies to the community, support for which I think is questionable at best in light of the enormous costs projected for the separate school buildings' projects, which I believe are much more critical to the development of our children than an impressive sports complex. At the absolute very least, consideration needs to be given to what occurs at the Cassingham complex relative to the plans for this new outdoor complex (i.e., Cassingham does not need new tennis courts if this new complex is going to exist, the current stadium at Cassingham could be deleted and moved to this new complex, etc.). There is no reason in this community to have brand new sports facilities at a new complex and brand new sports amenities at the Cassingham complex, particularly in light of the fact that the Cassingham complex is in need of improved outdoor space for both the students and the community generally (it is the only public greenspace in all of central Bexley).