

Facilities Planning Public Feedback Responses

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIaRkCo6nNCKDIMp6j6_oHY27cluKhBvOCuTZ3BfMHEUnhDA/viewform

as of 10/09/2024

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 10/20/2024 17:08:18

Tell us what you believe is important for future Bexley School buildings and facilities: Being able to operate facilities without the need for more money from residents.

Additional Comments: How is this going to operate if the levy fails? Already asking for money and then buying a complex is a hard sell for most resident.

Share your thoughts on the purchase of new land north of Bexley on Cassady Avenue for a new outdoor complex: Is the school going to provide a way to the complex with out the burden being pushed on to families?