



LYNDEN

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tradition + Pride + Excellence

Lynden School District Facility Planning - Sale of Surplus Property

November 2017

Greetings:

First, I would like to thank the Lynden Community for supporting the construction of two new schools. The “new” Fisher Elementary School opened for students in August and the “new” Middle School will open its doors to welcome students next year. Fortunately, bids for the Middle School came in very favorably and the savings combined with additional state matching funds were enough to add 4 classrooms to both projects. The additional classroom space will help accommodate some of the growth the Lynden School District has experienced over the past few years.

Repurposing of Current Middle School Facilities

The next phase of district facility work will be to repurpose the current Middle School to house district administration, early childhood classrooms, Family Community Services, Community Transitions and other district services. In addition, space will be available for extended school day activities and for community organizations to access as needed.

In order to repurpose the current middle school, additional resources are needed. Earlier facility plans identified these resources would come from the sale of surplus property and the District has identified two parcels to sell. However, recent community input to the District indicates there is interest in maintaining one of these parcels as an open space park.

- **Glennig Street Property** - Four acres located across the street from the MS may be offered for sale. However, it has been suggested that the District should continue to maintain this property as a park. The School District's mission is specifically related to education, not to operate parks and this property is not suited to be used as a future school site, so is considered surplus property. The School District will wait a couple of months to see if there may be a community group or other governmental agency who could come up with a plan to maintain this space as a park.

If anyone would like to share their thoughts about the proposed sale of this property, a meeting is scheduled on December 12th from 6:30-7:30 in the LHS Library. The School Board will revisit the proposed sale of this property at its regular meeting in January.

- **Middle School Playfields** - The playfields behind the current Middle School also falls into the surplus property category. With students no longer located at this facility the playfields are not needed for student use and will be offered for sale.

What about the gymnasiums and Judson Hall?

Judson Hall is nearing the end of its useful life and needs extensive remodeling or replacement. Until a specific plan is developed to address the needs at Judson Hall it will continue to be used for concerts, drama productions, and community activities. However, due to the age of this facility, a plan to either make improvements or replace it needs to be developed very soon. The gymnasiums will continue to be used for practices and games and community sport and recreational activities.

The school district is working hard to maximize available resources. Selling surplus property is one way to provide for district services and programs without asking tax payers for additional money. The District has experienced significant enrollment growth and we are working hard to provide for the education of all our students in a responsible and efficient manner.

If you would like to review our Capital Facility Plan, and other information about facility planning, you can find them at the District Planning link on the school district website.

Thanks for being great partners in educating our kids and supporting their growth and success.

Sincerely,

Jim Frey
Superintendent
Lynden School District