Lakeland Joint School District #272

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Board Agenda Item Request

AGENDA ITEM: **Discussion Item**

PURPOSE: Update from the Strategic Planning Committee

MEETING DATE: November 18th, 2026

PREPARED BY: Jake Massey

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY:

The Strategic Planning Committee met for the second time on Wednesday, October 28, at the District Office. Since our first meeting in September, the subcommittees have begun their focused work. This meeting centered on subcommittee updates and the next steps the committee would like to bring to the board.

Safety & Security Subcommittee:

- Reviewed the district against the Safety/School Climate Fidelity Checklist from our 2023 Strategic Plan
    - Strengths: regular District Taskforce meetings, secure school sites, comprehensive emergency drills, and a robust district security team
    - Areas for improvement: updated training aligned with NIMS protocols, and wellness planning for staff and students
- Next steps: because most objectives are being met, the subcommittee will continue to meet regularly, but infrequently
    - One possible update to the 2023 Strategic Plan is removing the NIMS language and leaning into our local resources

School Choice Subcommittee:

- Time horizon: 2–3 years, with the goal of exploring and ultimately opening schools of choice within LJSD boundaries
- Current work:

    - Identifying choice options already available in Kootenai County
    - Researching models such as Project-Based Learning, Expeditionary Learning, Classical Education, STEM, and Performing Arts
- Next steps: continue research, with the goal of gathering community feedback on possible options

Public Relations Subcommittee:

- Focus: reaching our whole community, not just social media users, and building goodwill toward the district
- Ideas so far:
    - Connecting with local realtors
    - Hosting free community events around the district, sponsored by local businesses
    - Offering free community nights at sporting events
    - Building a physical presence in local stores
    - Updating the district logo (approved by the board on October 21)

Online School Subcommittee:

- Time horizon: *this school year*, with the goal of opening an online school by fall 2027
- Current work: gathering input through an online school survey and establishing criteria for evaluating online school options
- Next steps: request board approval for the district to issue an RFP for online school platforms (see the separate item on tonight's agenda)

Levy Subcommittee:

- The subcommittee is working through four phases:
    - Phase 1: Establish "headwind" costs and discuss district priorities with or without a levy (e.g., pay matrices, launching an online school)
    - Phase 2: Determine what gets cut without a levy. This will need to go deeper than what the levy supports at face value.
    - Phase 3: Determine what gets funded if the levy stays the same, either the same total amount or the same tax rate. This would still mean cuts.
    - Phase 4: Determine the cost to keep all programs and staff in place, including estimated inflation over the next two years. This would require a levy greater than the current $7.52 million.
- The subcommittee has also helped shape how we talk with our community about the levy. Key points include highlighting the benefits of small neighborhood schools, explaining how Idaho schools are funded, and sharing real community statistics (business growth, crime rates, sense of community, etc).
- Next steps: district administration will share draft levy options with the board at the December meeting.