



**ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
411 SOUTH 5TH AVENUE
VIRGINIA MN 55792**

**Special Meeting
Monday, May 22, 2023 at 5:30 PM
Rock Ridge Administration Building, 1405 Progress Parkway,
Virginia, MN 55792**

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of agenda.
3. Presentation of information on closing of VHS, showing the necessity and practicability of closing the school. 2
4. Input from the public.
5. Adjournment.

SCRIPT FOR CLOSING VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL

School Board Chair:

We are here to conduct a public hearing on the proposed closure of Virginia High School by Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools. I will be serving as the facilitator for tonight's hearing.

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.51 requires school districts to conduct a public hearing before they can permanently close a school. Pursuant to this law, anyone interested in presenting testimony regarding the proposed closing has the opportunity to do so. Both the District and members of the public may present evidence that supports their position.

The purpose of today's hearing is to provide a description and location of the school, Virginia High School, 411 S. 5th Avenue, Virginia, MN 55792, that the District has proposed to close, as well as the rationale behind the proposed closure. The hearing also provides the members of the public the opportunity to testify about the proposed closing.

Finally, today's hearing provides members of the School Board the opportunity to consider the testimony and evidence before the regular school board meeting where they will decide whether or not to permanently close the school.

Before the public testimony portion of the hearing, the District administration will present the rationale behind the proposed closing.

If you would like to speak after the District's presentation, please sign up on the speaker roster that is located on the table by the door. I will call speakers to testify in the order that they appear on the speaker roster.

Today's hearing involves Virginia High School. At this time, Superintendent Dr. Noel Schmidt will present the District's reasons for proposing to close the high school.

(Superintendent goes through presentation)

[AFTER SUPERINTENDENT HAS FINISHED HIS PRESENTATION]

At this time, members of the public are invited to speak in favor of or in opposition to the proposed closing of Virginia High School. As I mentioned at the beginning of the hearing, I will call speakers to testify in the order that they appear on the roster. If you would like to speak and have not already done so, please print your name on the speaker roster that is located on the table by the door.

When you are called to speak, please state your name and address. In order to keep things moving, I encourage speakers to limit their presentation to 3 minutes.

In order for the recorder to accurately record testimony, I ask that only one person speak at a time.

[AFTER THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY HAS BEEN COMPLETED]

The recording of today's hearing, as well as all of the exhibits received during the hearing, will be considered by the School Board. In addition, the School Board invites the Administration and members of the public to submit proposed findings and conclusions for the Board to consider. The proposed findings and conclusions must be provided to Stacie Lamppa, school board secretary, no later than noon on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Copies of the Administration's proposed findings, once they are submitted, as well as copies of the exhibits submitted during today's hearing will be available upon request in the Rock Ridge Schools District Administrative Building, located at 1405 Progress Parkway, Virginia, MN, 55792.

You may submit a letter containing your testimony to the School Board any time before its June 12, 2023, meeting. You may also speak at that meeting if there is anything else you wish to add.

Completed Information, Dialogue, and Listening Sessions

Eveleth-Gilbert High School Student Council, High School, March 7, 1:00 p.m. **15 attendees**

Eveleth-Gilbert High School Teachers, High School, March 7, 2:00 p.m. **25 attendees**

Eveleth-Gilbert Junior High School Student Council, Junior High School, March 8, 1:30 p.m. **12 attendees**

Eveleth-Gilbert Junior High School Teachers, Junior High School, March , 3:00 p.m. **12 attendees**

Virginia High School Teachers, (Two groups) High School, March 14, 2:15 p.m. **45 attendees**

Eveleth-Gilbert Recreation Board, Hippodrome, Eveleth, March 14, 5:00 p.m. **9 attendees**

Morning Rotary, Perkins, March 27, 7:00 a.m. **10 attendees**

Virginia School Parents, School Board Room, March 27, 12:00 noon **7 attendees**

Virginia AFSCME, School Board Room, March 27, 3:15 pm. **5 attendees**

Virginia School Parents, School Board Room, March 27, 4:30 p.m. **1 attendees**

Virginia School Parents, Parkview Cafeteria, March 27, 7:00 p.m. **3 attendees**

Virginia School Parents, Roosevelt Media Center, March 28, 10:00 a.m. **5 attendees**

High School Student Council, Location T215, March 28 11:50 a.m. **17 attendees**

Roosevelt Elementary Teachers. Roosevelt Media Center. March 28, 2:00 p.m. **30 attendees**

Virginia School Parents, Roosevelt Media Center, March 28, 5:00 p.m. **5 attendees**

Virginia Public Employees, City Hall, March 29, 8:00 a.m. **4 attendees**

Virginia Public Employees, City Hall, March 29 10:00 a.m. **14 attendees**

Virginia Public Employees, City Hall, March 29, 12:30 p.m. **5 attendees**

Washington and Laurentian Manor Residents, Washington Manor, March 29th, 2:30 p.m. **9 attendees**

Parkview Elementary Teachers, Cafeteria, April 4, 2:55 p.m. **32 attendees**

Open Virginia Community meeting, Virginia Board Room, April 10, 12:00 (noon) **9 attendees**
Open Gilbert Community meeting, Franklin Elementary, April 10, 2:00 p.m. **0 attendees**
Open Eveleth Community meeting, Eveleth Board Room, April 10, 4:30 p.m. **5 attendees**
Lutheran Church, Eveleth-Gilbert, April 10, 6:30 p.m. **24 attendees**

Open Eveleth Community meeting, Eveleth Board Room, April 11, 8:30 a.m. **0 attendees**
Virginia Community Rec, Virginia Board Room, April 11, 10:30 a.m. **6 attendees**
Noon Rotary, Natural Foods Virginia, April 11, 12:00 (noon) **17 attendees**
Columbia, Rochleau, and Pine Mill residents, Columbia, Rochleau Community Room, Virginia, April 11, 2:30 p.m. **3 attendees**
Open Virginia Community meeting, Virginia Board Room, April 11, 6:30 p.m. **1 attendee**

Open Eveleth Community meeting, Franklin Elementary, April 12, 8:30 a.m. **2 attendees**
Open Virginia Community meeting, Virginia Board Room, April 12, 10:30 a.m. **1 attendee**
Open Virginia Community meeting, Virginia Board Room, April 12, 12:00 (noon) **0 attendees**
Virginia Community Foundation, Senior Center, April 12, 4:00 p.m. **17 attendees**
Open Eveleth Community meeting, Eveleth Board Room, April 12, 7:00 p.m. **8 attendees**

Laurentian Chamber of Commerce, Mesabi Trail Station, April 18, 7:30 a.m. **17 attendees**
Mesabi Range College Teachers, 11:00 a.m. **10 attendees who stayed the entire time**
Eveleth-Gilbert Franklin Parents, Gilbert Elementary, April 18, 5:30 p.m. **11 attendees**

Mesabi Range College Teachers, Eveleth, 11:00 a.m. **11 attendees who stayed the entire time**
Eveleth-Gilbert, Franklin Teachers, 2:00 p.m. **21 attendees**
Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia Lions, Perkins, April 25 6:30 p.m. **11 attendees**

[439 attendees in 40 sessions after the completion of this session.]

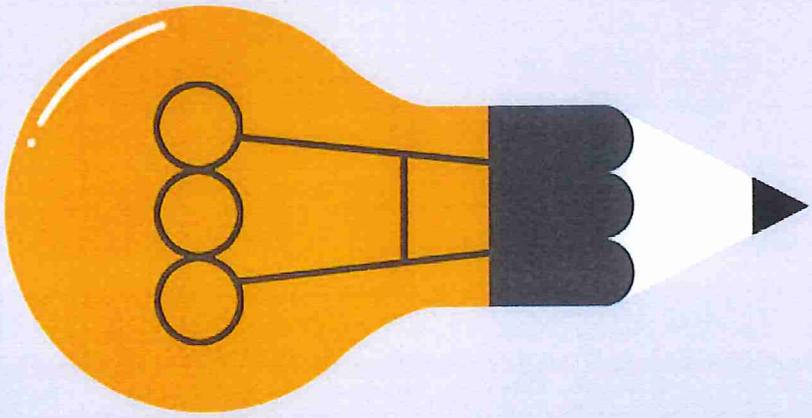
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF

*Children
Families &
Learning*

GUIDE FOR
PLANNING
SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS IN
MINNESOTA

UPDATED
JANUARY, 2003

DIVISION OF PROGRAM
FINANCE



Eveleth-Gilbert Schools and Virginia Schools

Information, Dialogue and Listening Sessions





Building/Facility Ages

Virginia

Virginia School District				
Facility	Yr. Built	SqFt.	Age	
Madison	1925	24650	92	
Madison	1953	18450	64	
Madison	1955	27200	62	
Madison	1996	12344	21	
Technical	1910	75081	107	
Technical	1918	85000	99	
Technical	1920	60000	97	
Technical	1973	26775	44	
Technical	1998	35200	19	
Roosevelt	1928	81568	89	
Roosevelt	1988	68520	29	
Park View Learning Center	1995	66592	22	
Park View Learning Center	2016	25750	1	
Miners Complex	1979	18620	38	
Bus Garage	1971	12480	46	
Maintenance & Supply Building	1965	15960	52	

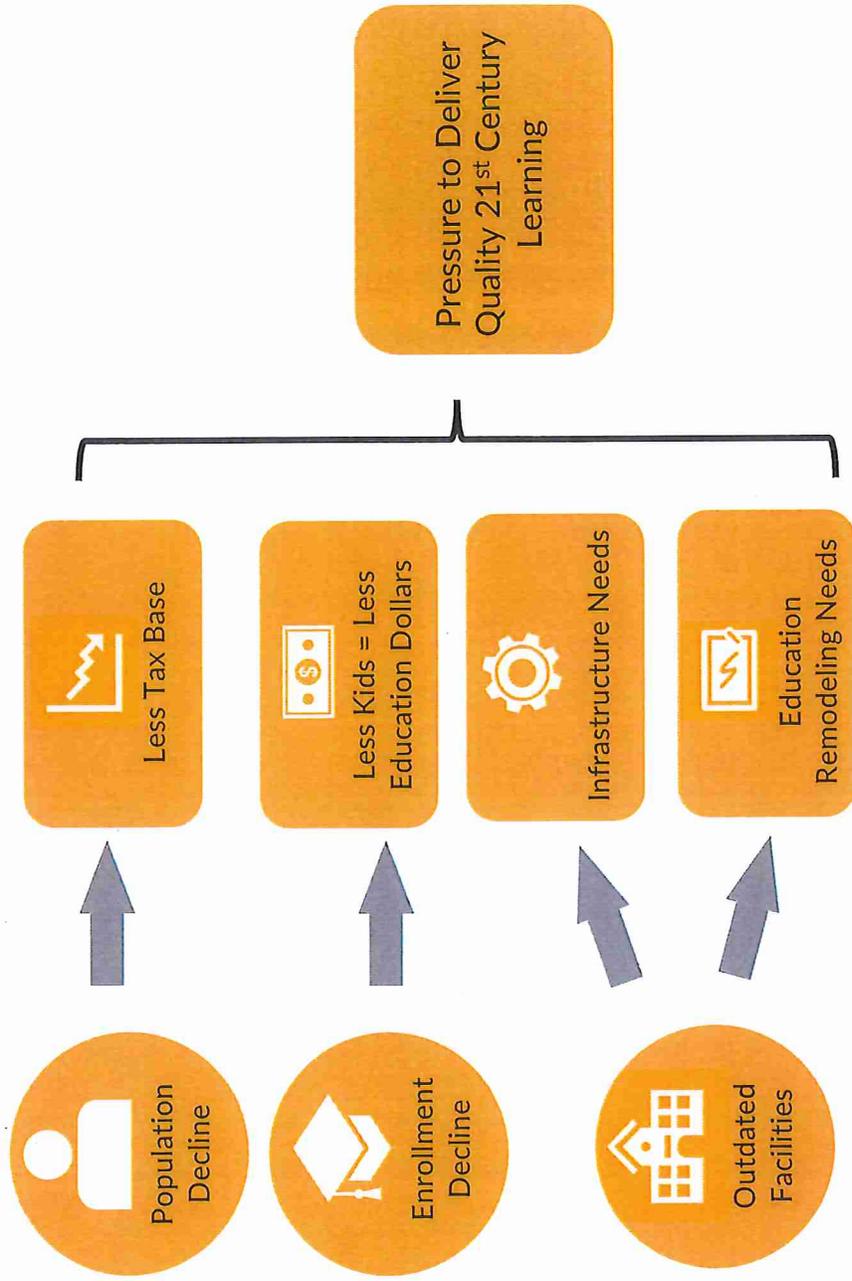
Eveleth-Gilbert

Eveleth-Gilbert School District				
Facility	Yr. Built	SqFt.	Age	
Franklin Elementary	1921	94400	96.0	
Franklin Elementary	1997	1080	20.0	
Eveleth-Gilbert Senior High	1916	110621	101.0	
Eveleth-Gilbert Senior High	1926	73611	91.0	
Eveleth-Gilbert Senior High	1972	1664	45.0	
Eveleth-Gilbert Senior High	1992	59295	25.0	
Eveleth-Gilbert Senior High	1999	8638	18.0	
Gilbert-Eveleth Jr. High	1911	46650	106.0	
Gilbert-Eveleth Jr. High	1917	37596	100.0	
Gilbert-Eveleth Jr. High	1953	13070	64.0	
Gilbert-Eveleth Jr. High	1962	15220	55.0	
Gilbert-Eveleth Jr. High	1969	16250	48.0	
Gilbert-Eveleth Jr. High	1990	11100	27.0	
Nelle Shean Elementary	1924	44400	93.0	
Old Music Hall	1921	2806	96.0	
Old Music Hall	1930	1403	87.0	
Manual Arts Training	1914	33000	103.0	
Old Eveleth Junior High	1909	38589	108.0	

Source: MDE Age and Square Footage Report



Building/Facility Ages



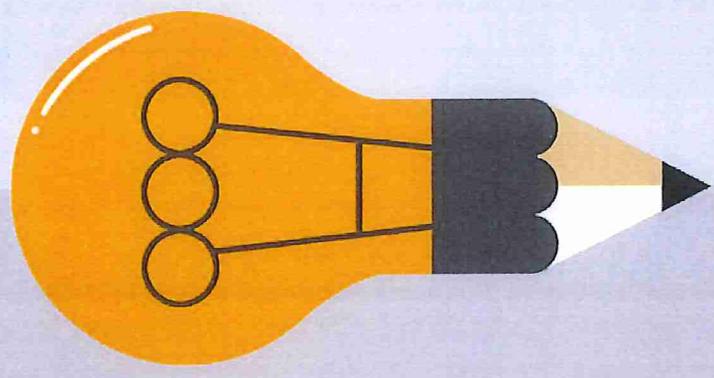
Words of Advice

- Get the information out to all
- Rely on experienced facility managers, contractors, engineers and architects.
- Shoot big. Think long-term.
- Tri-City Lakers
- If talking new facility – consolidation?
- New facility that is efficient and in a neutral site – easy for buses
- A new building – open, bright and modern
- Don't skimp on SPED. Space and flexibility – not just severe needs or mild!
- Open mind
- Think about long-term maintenance and energy efficiency.
- Listen to planning committees!
- Communicate! Cold call 50+ random people not here and get them involved in a committee.
- Think spaces with multi-use opportunities.
- It is usually cheaper to build new than use ancient buildings.
- Provide information, costs for buildings, issues – why we would need a new facility.
- Make sure the students have a strong voice.
- Keep asking the students for their input. Don't forget about their voice.
- Look at the big picture and the end result. This is for the kids first and foremost!
- What will we do if we have to close a facility?
- Find land in between districts, if possible. Build it. They will come.
- Keep publicizing all results.
- Renewable energy
- Don't criticize any current facility.
- It is okay to close schools and/or repurpose them.
- Advice to facility committee – Be looking for large land opportunities now before they disappear.
- To avoid resentment: New name (not blended), new colors, new mascot
- New facilities over renovations
- Think of the future, not the past. Don't worry about a few hurt feelings.
- Put kids first!!!
- Don't plan for "just good enough" or "right now". Plan for a flexible future.

Eveleth-Gilbert-Virginia Schools

Educational Academies Task Force Summary Presentation

September 5, 2018





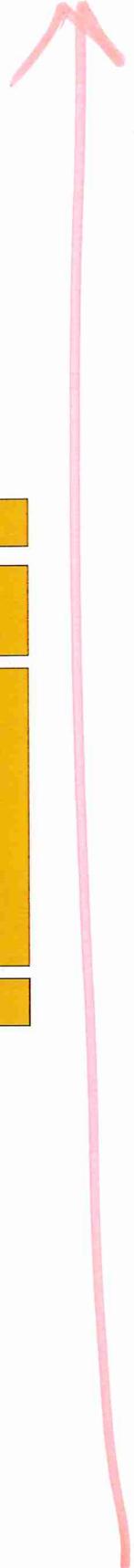
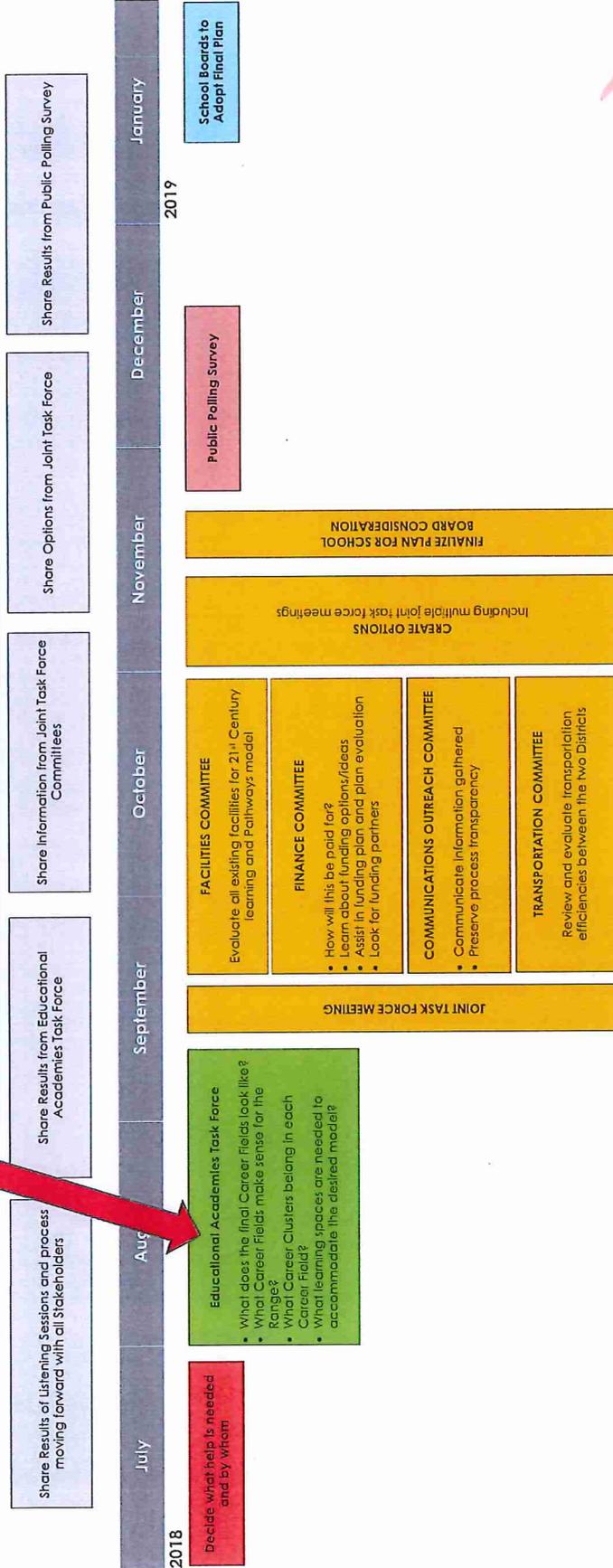
Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia Schools



Potential Timeline

We ARE Here

Review Process and Information with Local Elected Leaders

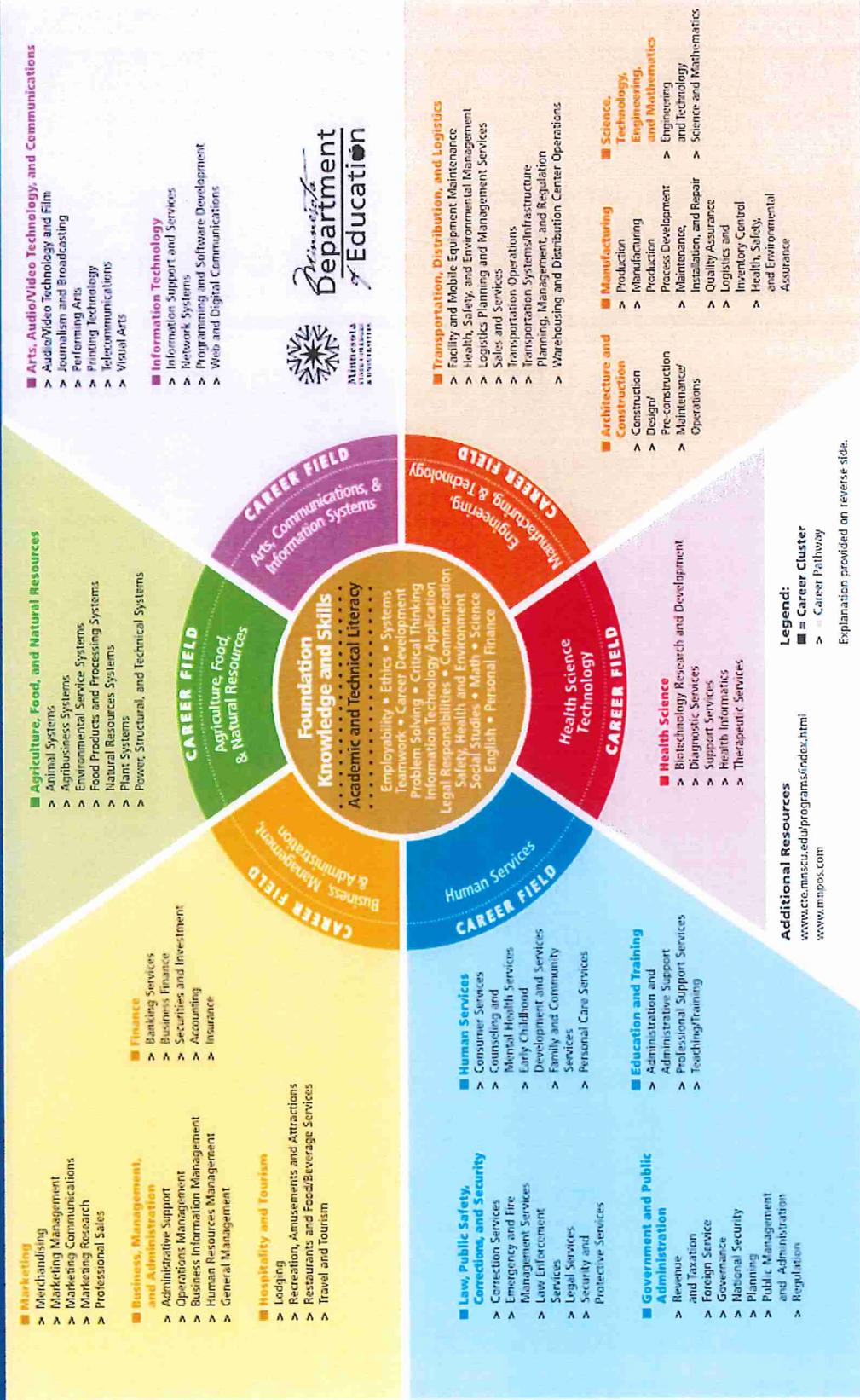




Where We Began



Minnesota Career Fields, Clusters & Pathways



Large Group Presentation/Discussion on

- 50-60 community members attended our meetings
- Small breakout groups discussed options
- Large group gathered for sharing and debriefing

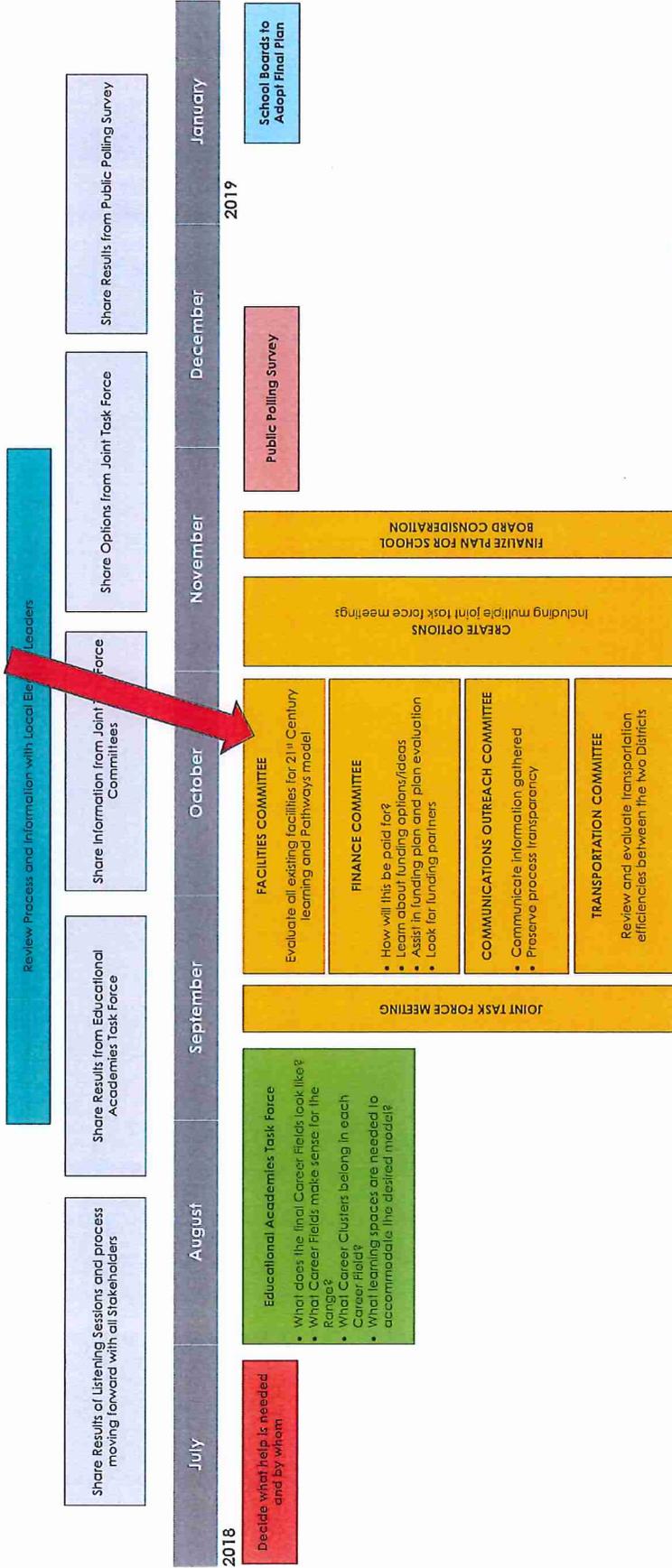


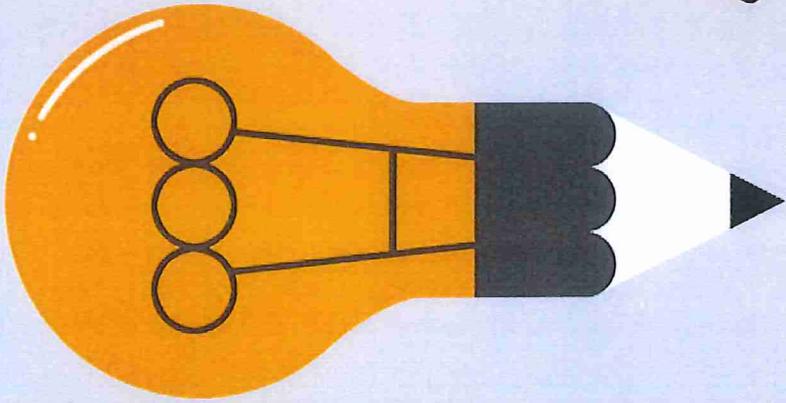


Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia Schools

Potential Timeline

WE ARE HERE!





Joint Task Force Committee

Joint Academies Style HS



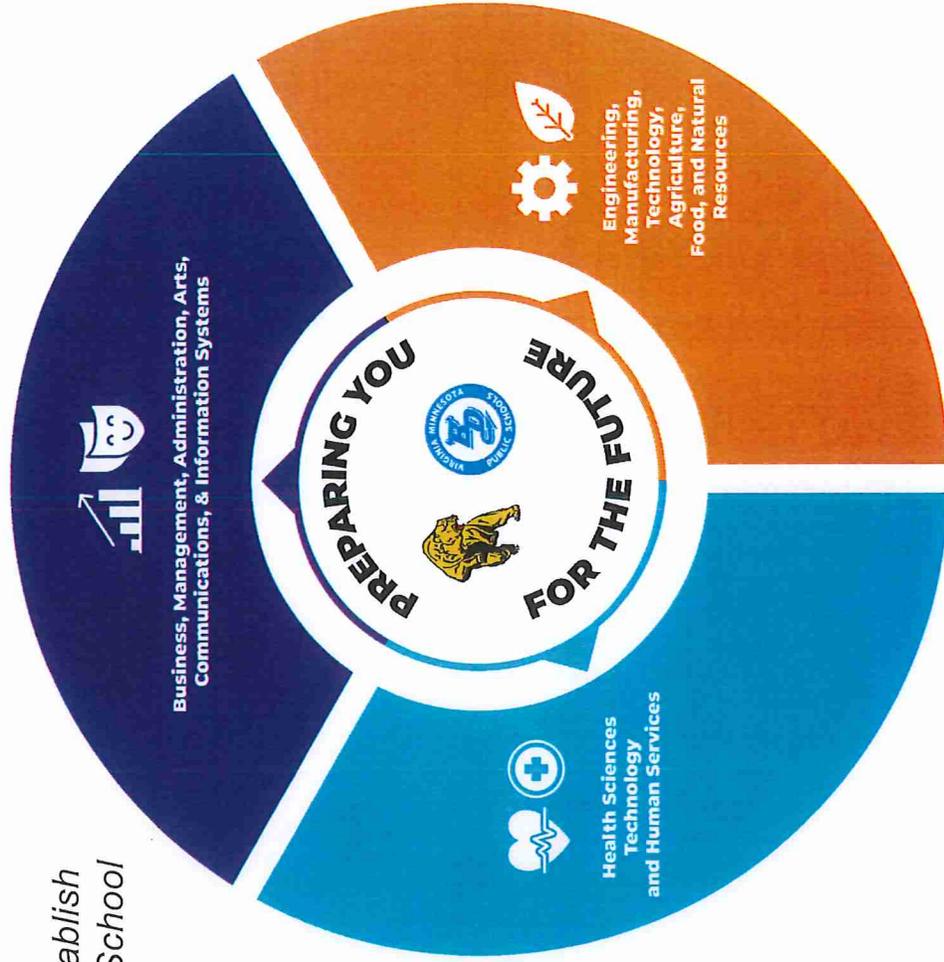
September 19, 2018



What did the Educational Academies Task Force Provide for us?

60 Citizens from Eveleth-Gilbert & Virginia Districts to establish the educational structure for a Joint Academy Style High School

<p>August</p>	<p>Educational Academies Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the final Career Fields look like? • What Career Fields make sense for the Range? • What Career Clusters belong in each Career Field? • What learning spaces are needed to accommodate the desired model?
---------------	---





INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Information Support and Services
- Network Systems
- Programming and Software Development
- Web and Digital Communications

MARKETING

- Merchandising
- Marketing Management
- Marketing Communications
- Marketing Research
- Professional Sales

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, AND ADMINISTRATION

- Administrative Support
- Operations Management
- Business Information Management
- Human Resources Management
- General Management
- Entrepreneurship

FINANCE

- Banking Services
- Business Finance
- Securities and Investment
- Accounting
- Insurance

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

- Lodging
- Recreation, Amusements, and Attractions
- Restaurants and Food/Beverage Services
- Travel and Tourism

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

- Revenue and Taxation
- Foreign Service
- Governance
- National Security
- Planning

ARTS, AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Audio/Video Technology and Film
- Journalism and Broadcasting
- Performing Arts
- Printing Technology
- Telecommunications
- Visual Arts

Business, Management, Administration, Arts, Communications, & Information Systems

HUMAN SERVICES

- Consumer Services
- Counseling and Mental Health Services
- Early Childhood Development and Services
- Family and Community Services
- Personal Care Services

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Administration and Administrative Support
- Professional Support Services
- Teaching/Training

LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, AND SECURITY

- Correction Services
- Emergency and Fire Management Services
- Law Enforcement Services
- Security and Protective Services

HEALTH SCIENCE

- Biotechnology Research and Development
- Diagnostic Services
- Support Services
- Health Informatics
- Therapeutic Services

Health Sciences Technology and Human Services

ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

- Construction
- Design/Pre-Construction
- Maintenance/Operations

AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Animal Systems
- Agribusiness Systems
- Environmental Service Systems
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Natural Resources Systems
- Plant Systems
- Process, Structural, and Technical Systems
- Mining

TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND LOGISTICS

- Facility and Mobile Equipment Maintenance
- Health, Safety, and Environmental Management
- Logistics Planning and Management Services
- Sales and Services
- Transportation Operations
- Transportation Systems/Infrastructure Planning, Management, and Regulation
- Warehousing and Distribution Center Operations

MANUFACTURING

- Production
- Manufacturing Production Process Development
- Maintenance, Installation, and Repair
- Quality Assurance
- Logistics and Inventory Control
- Health, Safety, and Environmental Assurance

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH

- Engineering and Technology
- Science and Mathematics

Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology

Eveleth-Gilbert Questions

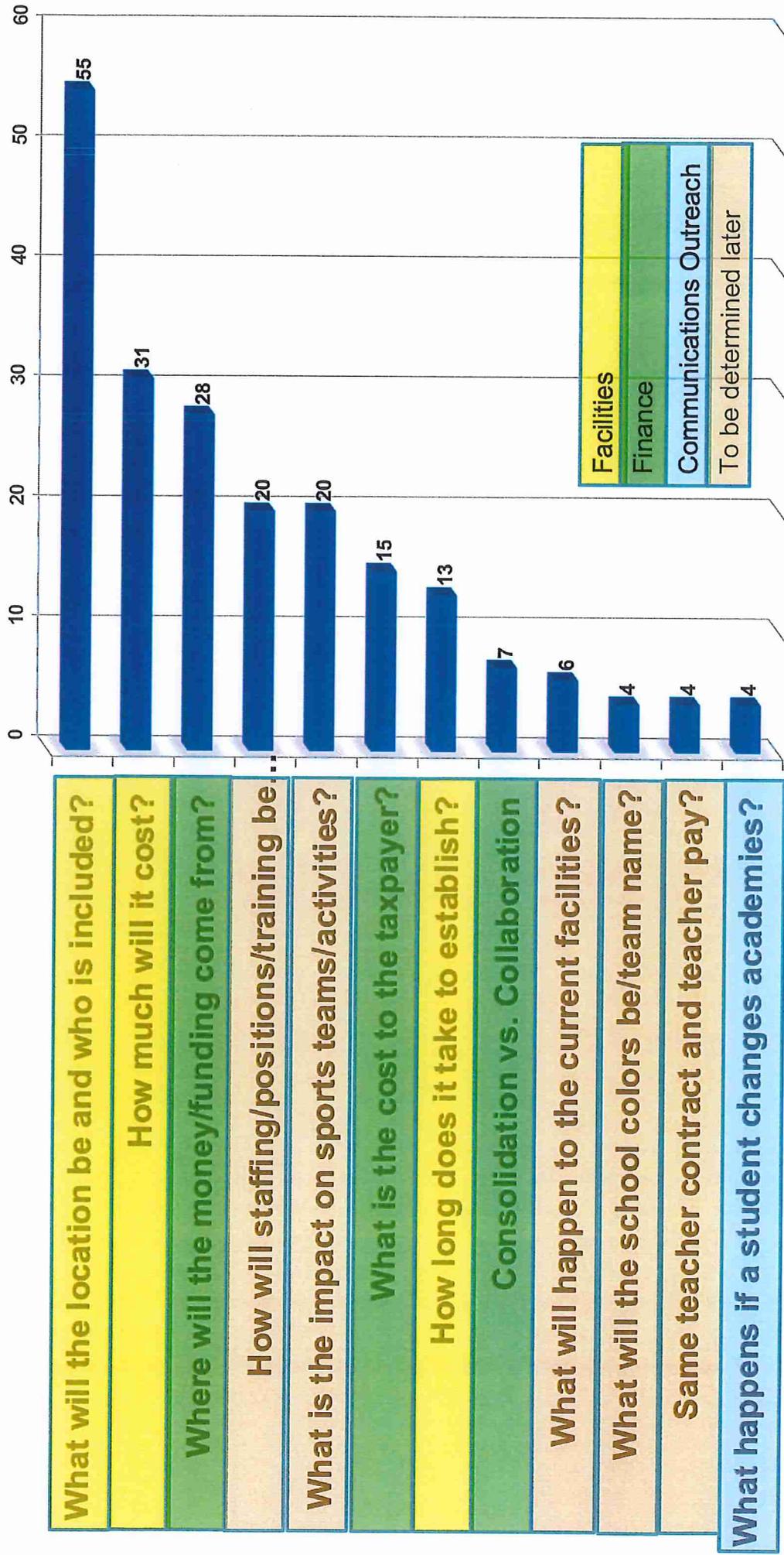
- Where will it be built/located? 27
- What is the impact on sports teams? 14
- What would the cost be? 11
- Cost to taxpayers/community? 11
- Funding? Where does the money come? 10
- Consolidation vs. Collaboration 7
- When would it begin? 5
- What will the school colors be/team name? 4
- Same teacher contract and teacher pay? 4
- Would we need more teachers or less. Priority from which? 3
- Can we start with existing facilities? 3
- We need more specific information? 2
- What about other school districts? 2
- Do local... 2
- What happens to buildings that are closed? 2
- K-8 – where will my kid go? 2

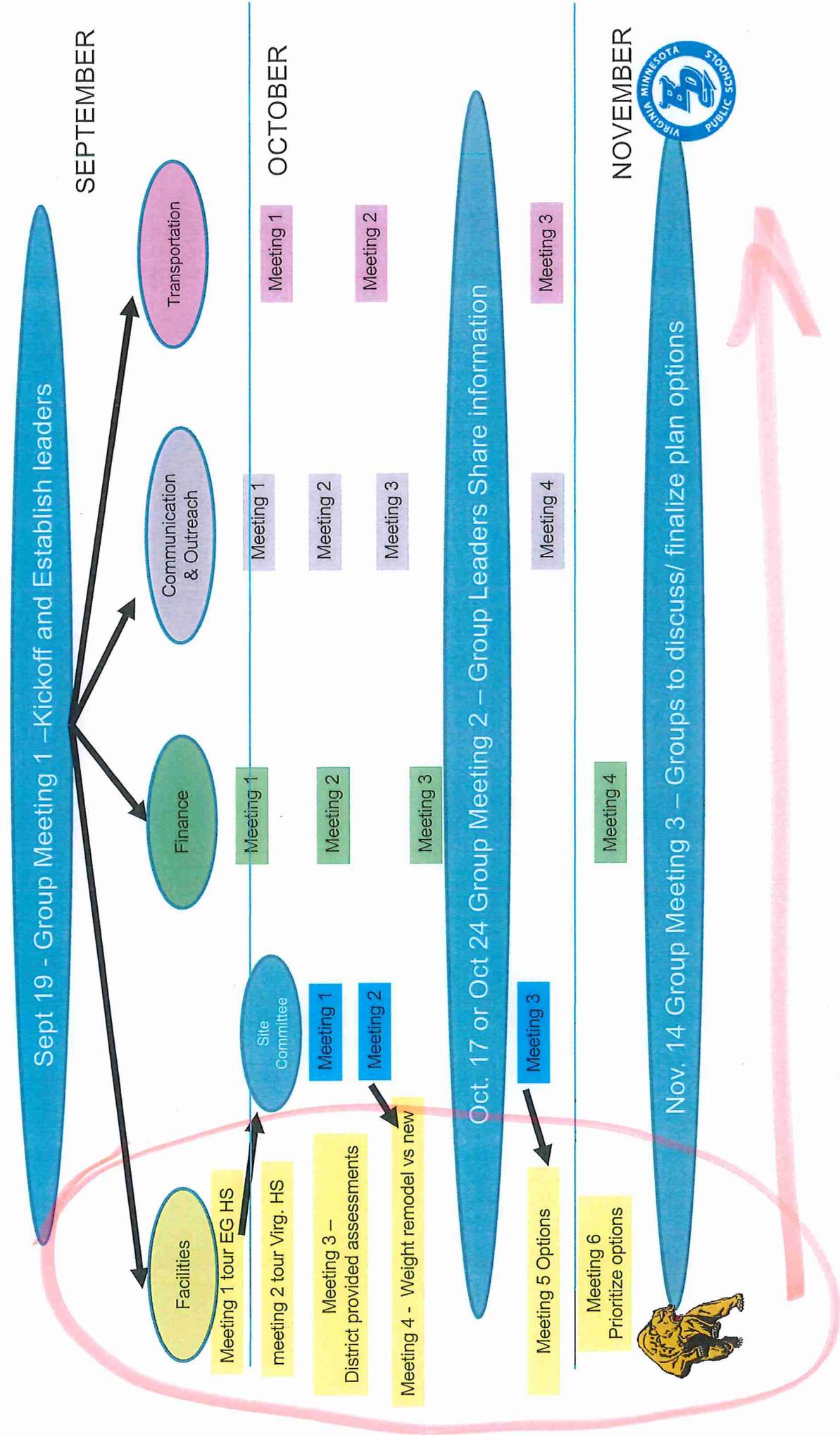
Virginia Questions

- What will the location be and who is included? 28
- How much will it cost? 20
- How will staffing/positions/training be determined? 20
- Where will the money/funding come from? 18
- How long does it take to establish? 8
- What is the cost to the taxpayer? 4
- What will happen to the current facilities? 4
- What will happen with activities? (musicals, sports, Student council etc.) 4
- What would happen if a student changes academies? 4
- How does CIS/AP/Reach/AVID courses fit academies? 3
- Combining sports with the enemy 3
- How does this impact us at the elementary level? 2
- What / how beneficial the investment was to the students/community 2
- Why? 2
- Are we moving to consolidation? 2
- How would you stand out when applying to colleges? 2
- Will sports/activities still be available to all kids? 2

Questions Received from our Spring 2018 Listening Sessions

Combined Questions To Be Answered





Budgeting New Construction: Square Foot per student

Minnesota Department of Education Guidelines for traditional

School:

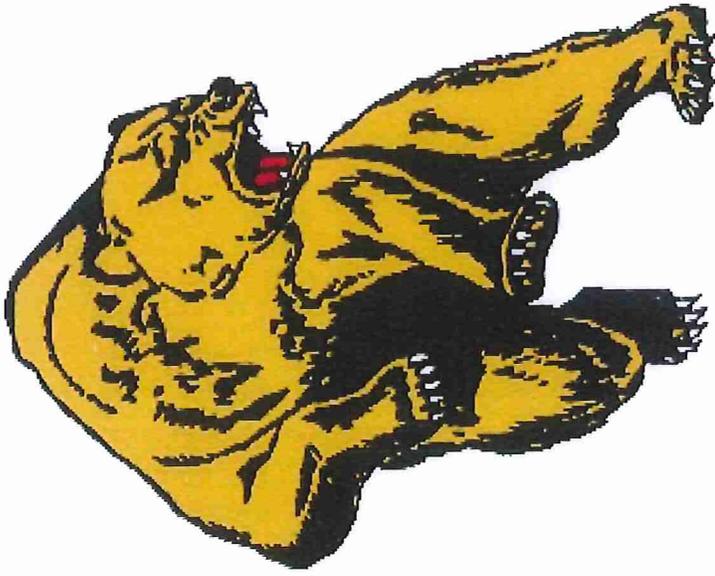
TABLE III
GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE
PER STUDENT GUIDELINES

SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY SF	MIDDLE LEVEL SF	HIGH SCHOOL SF
STUDENT ENROLLMENT			
LESS THAN 500	125 - 155	170 - 200	200 - 320
500 - 999	110 - 135	160 - 190	190 - 220
1000-1500	100 - 135	150 - 180	180 - 200
1500-2000		140 - 170	170 - 190
2000 PLUS			150 - 180
FOR POOL, AUDITORIUM, OR COMMUNITY USE / PARTNERSHIP SPACES ADD SQUARE FOOTAGE AS APPROPRIATE			

Note Elementary sqft
per student less than
high school

Summary of Options

Possible combinations/scenarios for E-G-V from 10/3/2018 Meeting										
#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	
2. new buildings- 5-8 & 9-12	1 new building, 9-12 w/ability to expand (7&8?)	1 new campus, K-12 all new	1 new building 9-12, ask MIB to join and MIB becomes 7-8 school	1 new building 9-12, 2 new 4-6 intermediate schools in E-G and in Virg	1 new building 7-12, 1 new 4-6 intermediate school	1 new building 7-12 in Gilbert, use existing land and land to North	1 new 1-12 building, use Parkview in Virginia as area Prek-K	1 new 7-12 building, K-6 in Virginia, K-3 in Eveleth, 4-6 in Gilbert	Do nothing	
New 9-12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
New 7-8	X	X	X (w MIB)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
New 5-6	X	X		XX	X	X	X	X		
New 4		X		XX	X	X	X	X		
New 1-3		X				X	X	X		
New K		X				X				



Reporting Back

Eveleth-Gilbert / Virginia Finance Committee

October 24, 2018

ics | CONSULTING, INC



Comparative Tax Burdens

Virginia School District No 706

Total School Property Taxes, Payable 2018, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of \$100,000



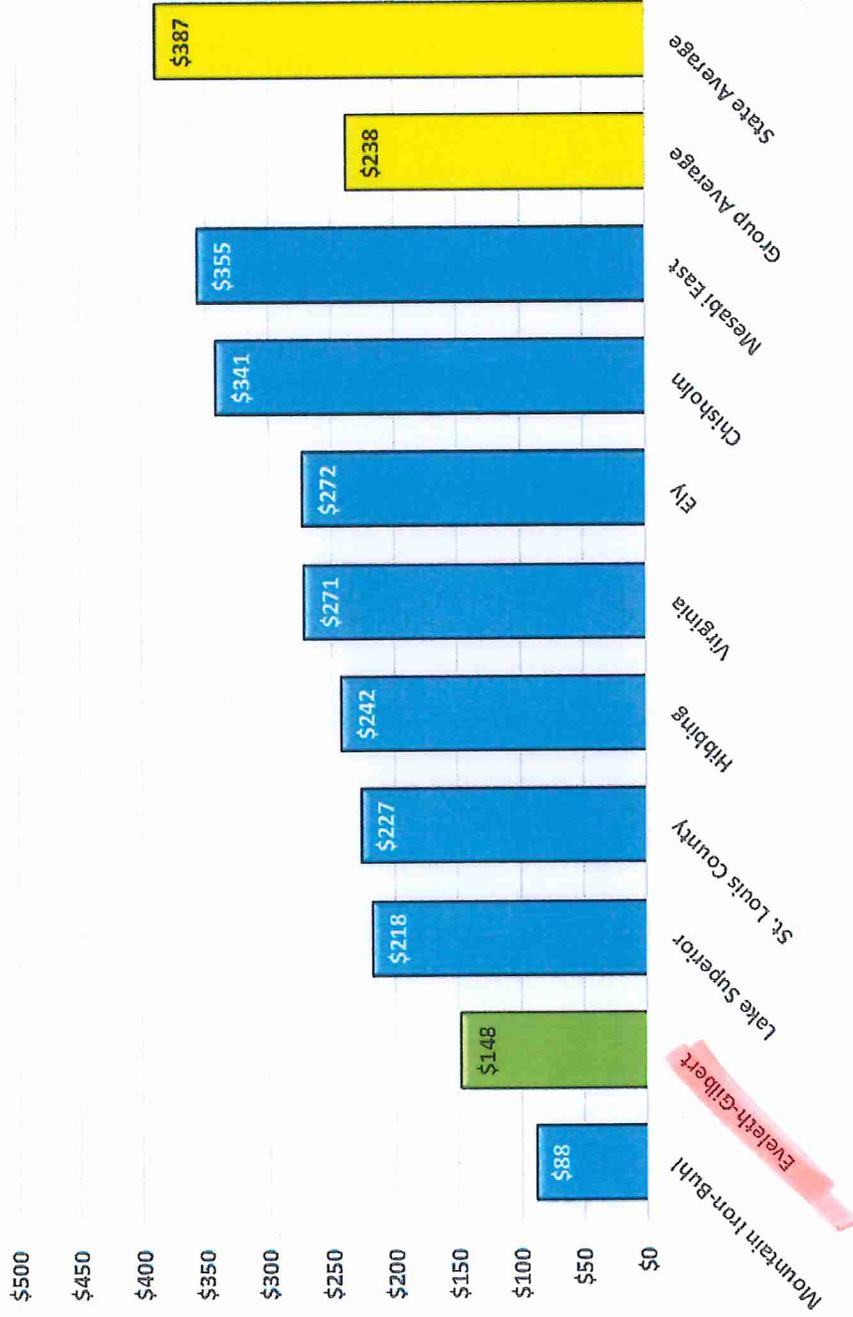
Source: Pay 18 School Tax Report



Comparative Tax Burdens

Eveleth-Gilbert School District No 2154

Total School Property Taxes, Payable 2018, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of \$100,000



Source: Pay 18 School Tax Report



Taconite Districts, Property Value per Pupil

Equalization Aid

	2017	2017-18	1st Tier		2nd Tier	
	Certified ANTC	Adj Pupil Units	Levy Share	Aid Share	Levy Share	Aid Share
706 VIRGINIA	6,474,204	1,887	75.0%	25.0%	41.5%	58.5%
695 CHISHOLM	2,925,035	800	76.1%	23.9%	42.1%	57.9%
701 HIBBING	11,430,660	2,570	91.7%	8.3%	50.7%	49.3%
2154 EVELETH-GILBERT	5,528,559	1,033	100.0%	0.0%	62.6%	37.4%
319 NASHWAUK-KEEWATIN	3,839,017	657	100.0%	0.0%	68.8%	31.2%
316 GREENWAY	7,495,291	1,149	100.0%	0.0%	75.9%	24.1%
2711 MESABI EAST	6,887,010	1,038	100.0%	0.0%	81.2%	18.8%
712 MOUNTAIN IRON-BUHL	4,827,209	520	100.0%	0.0%	90.1%	9.9%
318 GRAND RAPIDS	44,664,208	4,409	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
1 AITKIN	17,101,170	1,258	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
696 ELY	7,308,473	576	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
381 LAKE SUPERIOR	23,301,273	1,493	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
182 CROSBY-IRONTON	21,232,252	1,139	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
2142 ST LOUIS COUNTY	34,208,693	2,077	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
166 COOK COUNTY	16,396,121	494	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%

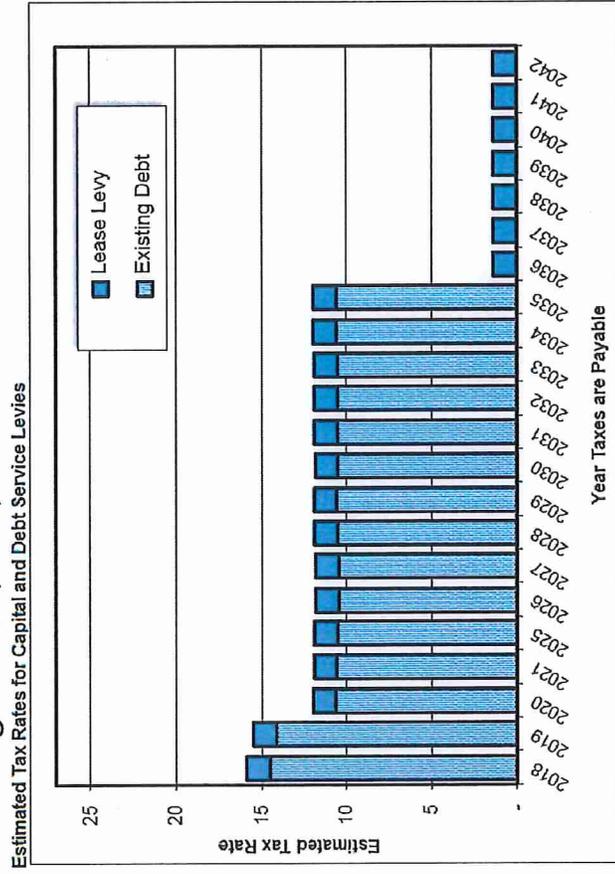
Source: MDOR Final School District Adjusted Net Tax Capacities
2017 Payable 2018 Levy Certification



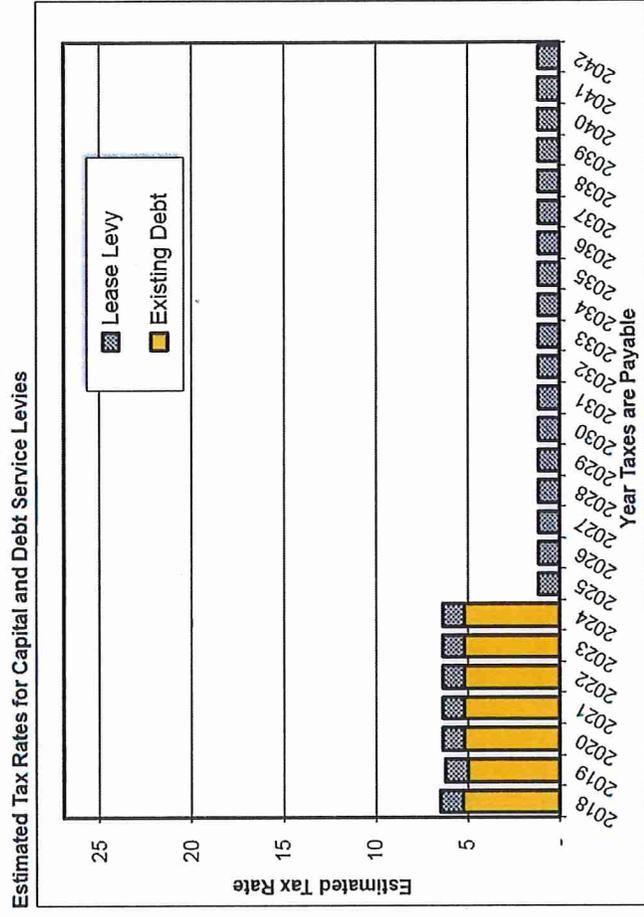
How Much Debt Does Each District Have?

- Neither district has Capital Debt, but both districts have bonds for Post Employment costs that are being levied

- Virginia \$7,605,000 OPEB Bonds



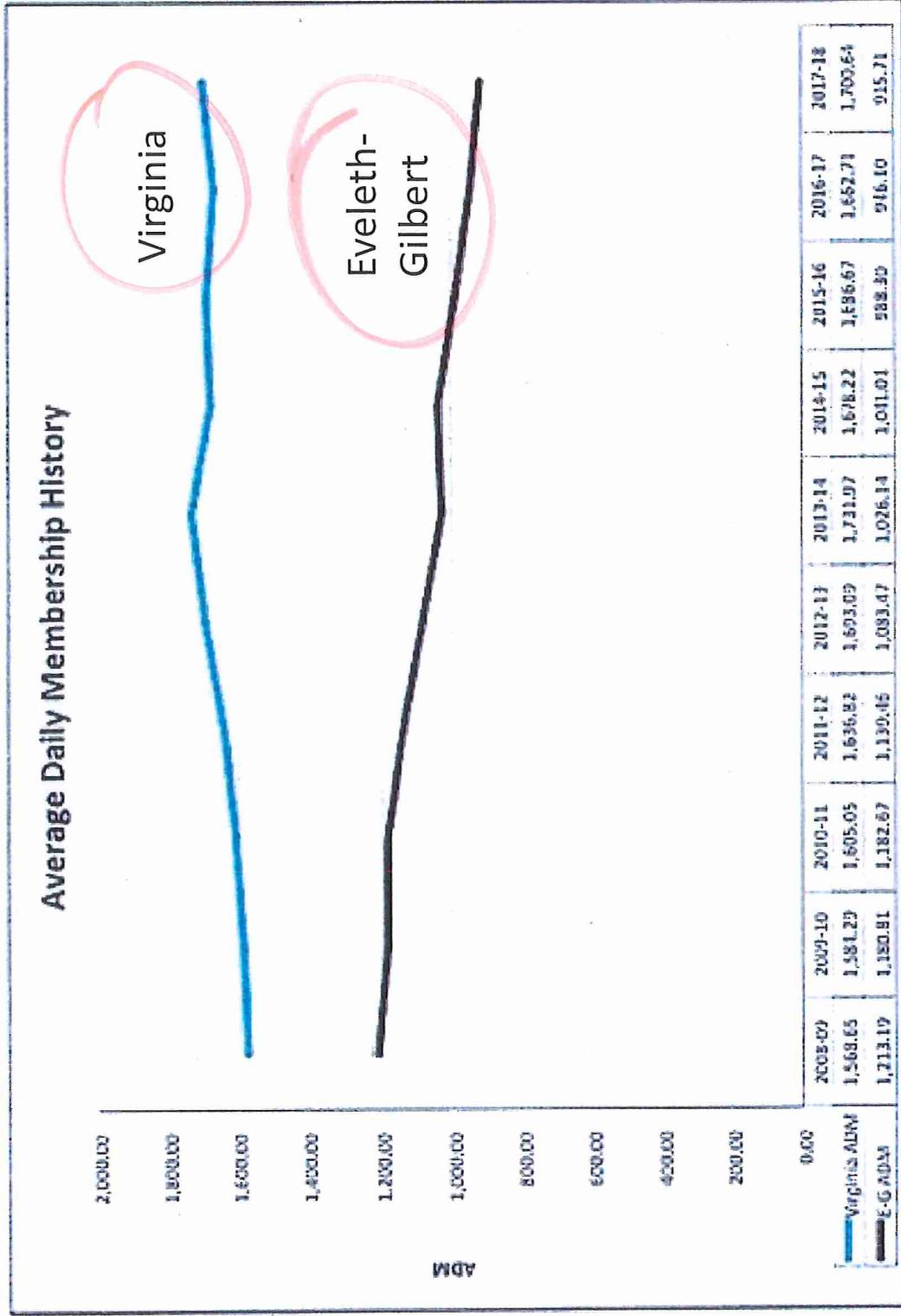
- Eveleth-Gilbert \$1,540,000 OPEB Bonds



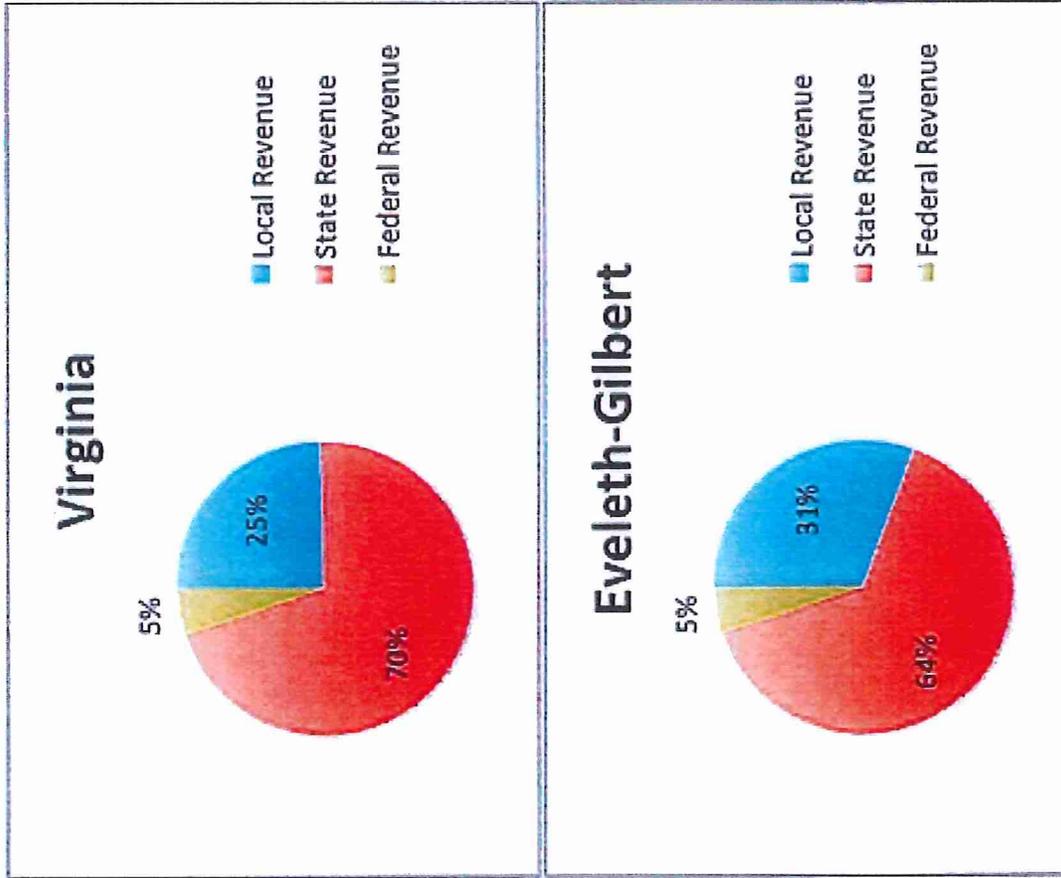
Meeting #2: How are the Schools Funded

- Most school funding based on pupil counts
- Some funding from State, some from local property taxes
- Both school districts are doing financially well and are well managed
 - Fund balances: Virginia: \$2.9 million, Eveleth-Gilbert \$5.2 million
- **Operations and maintenance costs are high compared to regional averages**
- No facility debt
- Being part of the taconite tax relief area provides added benefits

Enrollment History



Source of Funds



REVENUE

	Virginia	Eveleth-Gilbert	Region Avg
Local Revenue	\$5,877,068	\$4,139,493	29.9%
State Revenue	\$16,827,641	\$8,700,168	64.8%
Federal Revenue	\$1,200,107	\$675,385	5.2%
Total Revenue	\$23,904,817	\$13,515,046	100.0%
Revenue per ADM	\$14,263	\$14,643	\$15,719

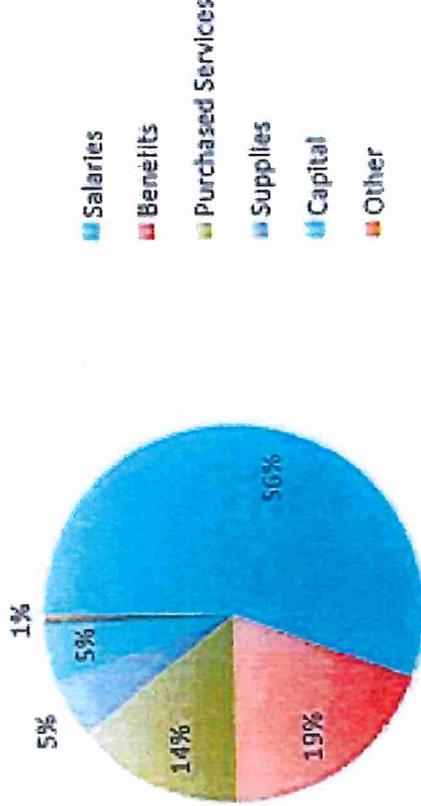


Use of Funds

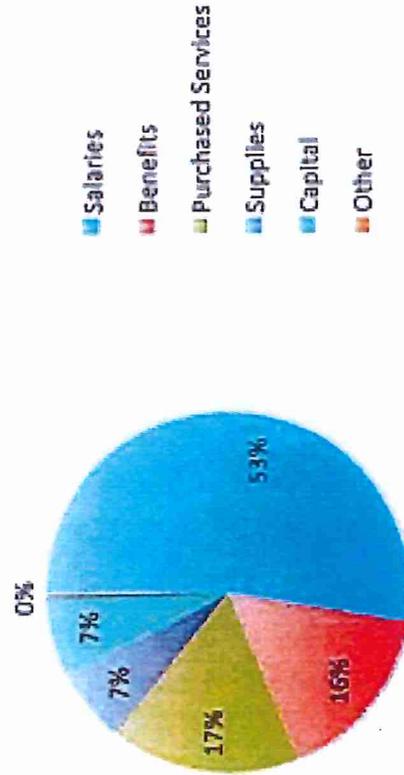
EXPENDITURES

	<u>Virginia</u>	<u>Eveleth-Gilbert</u>	<u>Region Avg</u>
Salaries	\$11,490,311	\$6,616,277	55.6%
Benefits	\$3,532,462	\$2,114,318	19.2%
Purchased Services	\$3,730,533	\$2,019,854	14.3%
Supplies	\$1,461,993	\$764,703	5.0%
Capital	\$1,566,341	\$483,457	5.4%
Other	\$69,916	\$15,942	0.5%
Total Expenditures	\$21,851,556	\$12,014,551	100.0%
Expense per ADM	\$13,038	\$13,017	\$12,645

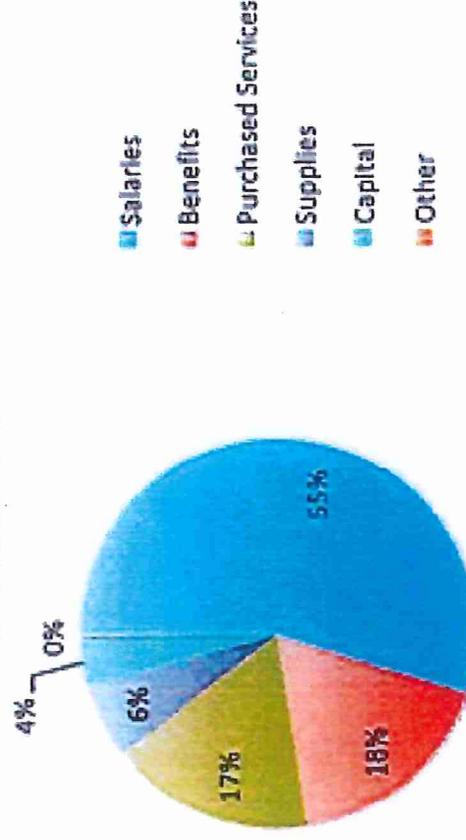
Region Avg



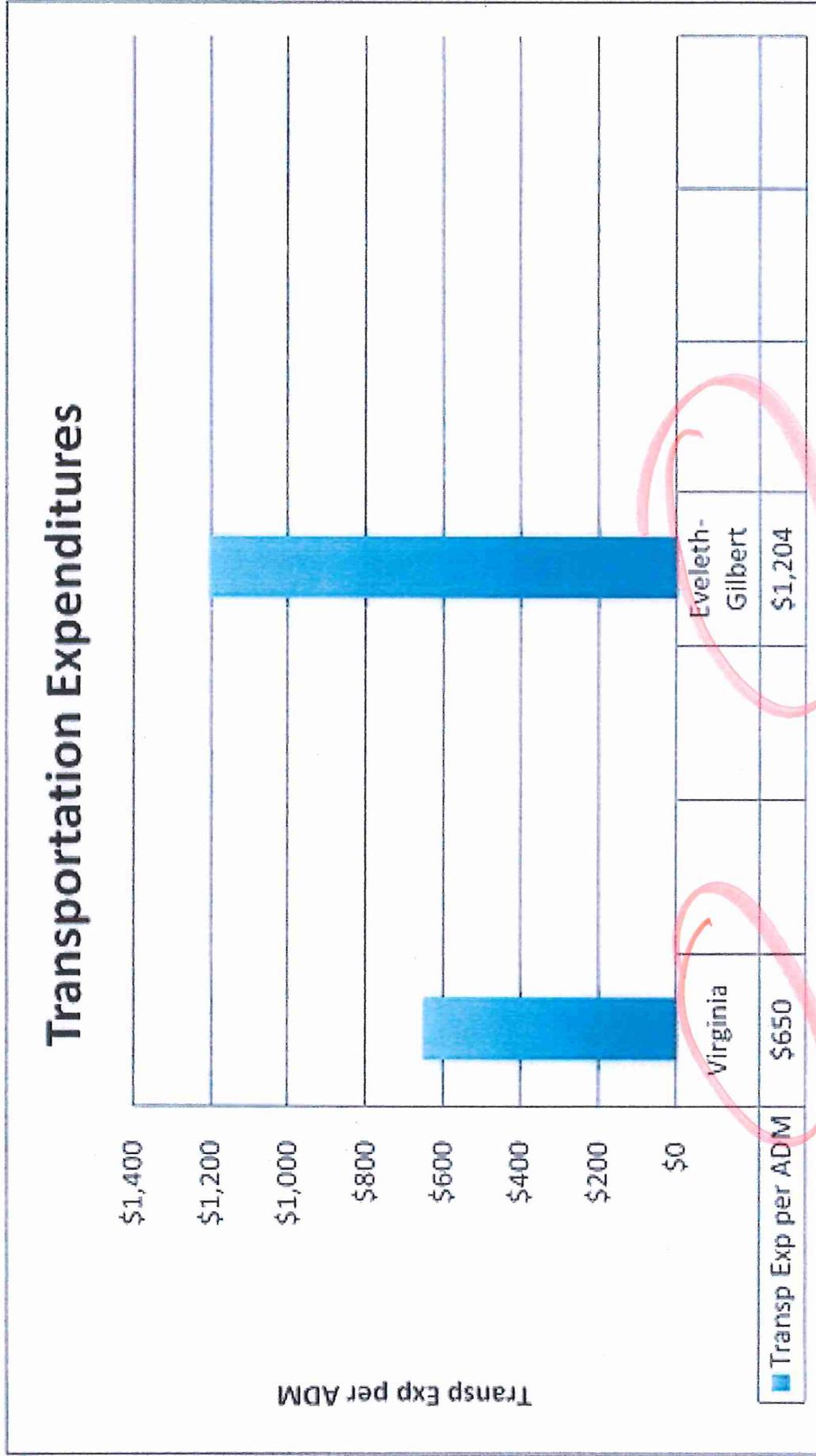
Virginia



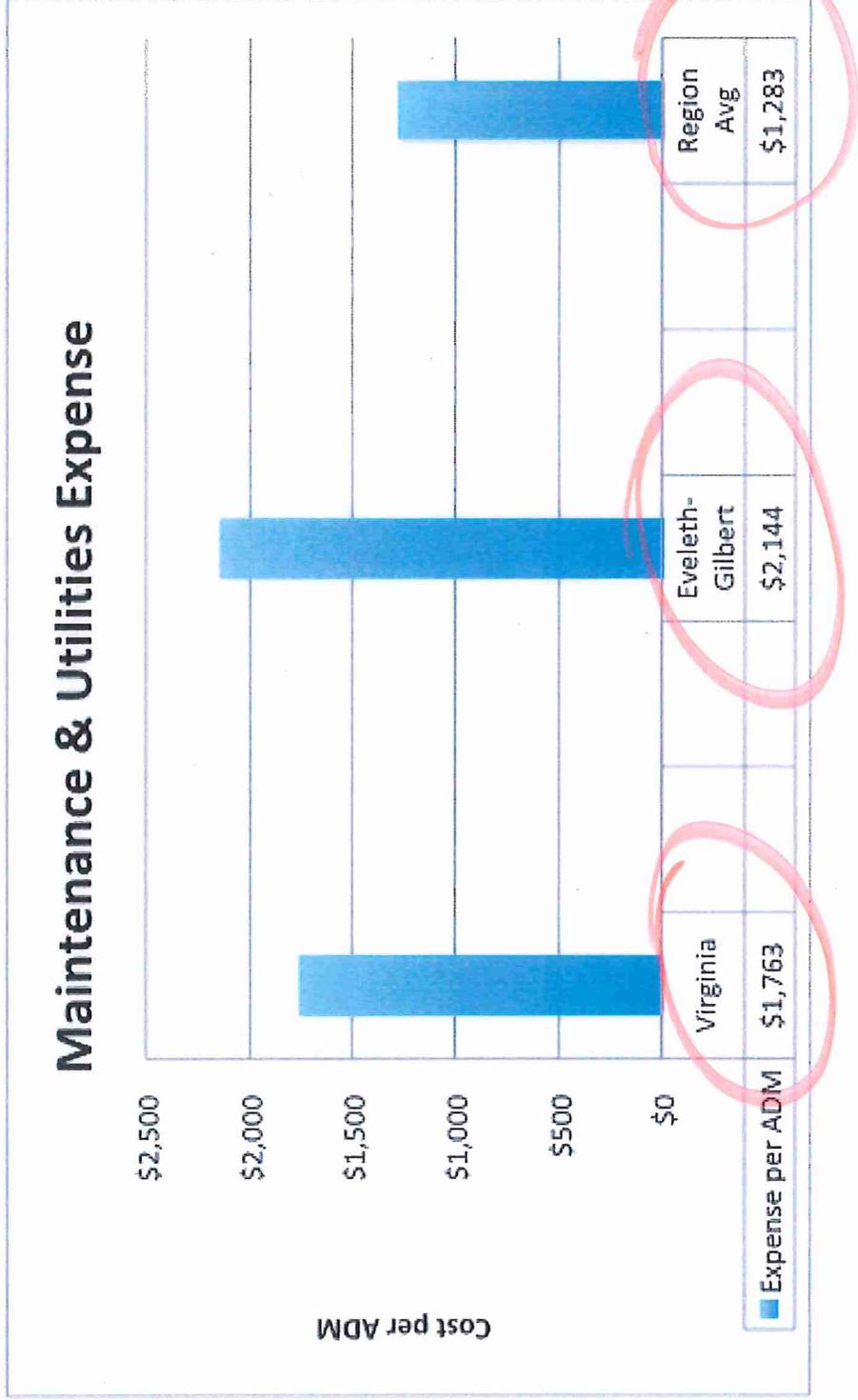
Eveleth-Gilbert



Transportation



Maintenance and Utilities



If the Virginia and Eveleth-Gilbert school districts had the average cost per ADM as the region, they could save \$1,600,000 on Operation Maintenance and Utilities. That savings could be used on curriculum and teaching students.



Meeting #3

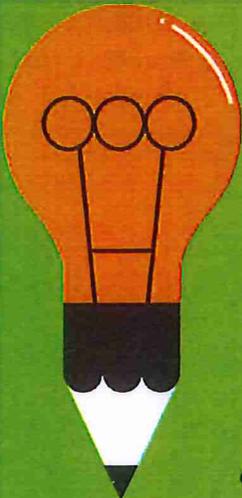
October 16

- State Equalization Aid (support for bond payments that reduces tax levies) percentages are greater in Virginia than Eveleth-Gilbert
 - Virginia's aid percentage is as high as 60%
 - Eveleth-Gilbert's aid percentage is only 38%
- Cooperation / Combination / Consolidation Options
 - General Fund Revenue
 - Operating Referendum Analysis
 - Tax Base Implications
 - Iron Range School Consolidation and Cooperatively Operated School Account



Managing Tax Impact

- The tax impact for either district funding these projects alone is not favorable
- How can State Equalization Aid and the Iron Range School Consolidation and Cooperatively Operated School Account be leveraged to help with the tax impact?
 - Which district issues the debt, or do the districts both issue, or does a cooperative entity issue the debt?
 - In a collaborative arrangement the IRRRB funds could significantly reduce the total tax impact, or equalize the tax impact between districts
 - IRRRB needs to be engaged to understand the needs/approach
 - Can a plan be developed that limits IRRRB impact to less than 55% of total cost after state aid?
 - Financial fairness in terms of tax impact and debt obligations needs additional discussion



Task Force Committees: Progress Updates



October 24, 2018

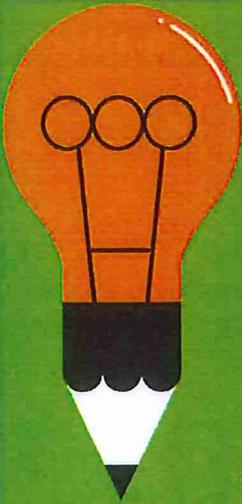


Agenda

Progress update from each Task Force:

- Transportation
- Communication / Outreach
- Facilities / Site
- Finance

Discussion / Next Steps...



FACILITIES / SITE
Task Force Update



October 24, 2018



Facilities Update

14

The Facility committee's job is to offer the "best" facility solution(s) to the group as a whole to be debated and evaluated.

- Keeping foremost in our minds, **what is best for our kids.**
- We need to develop a consensus to go forward.
- **We have high Operation, Maintenance and Transportation costs.**
- We have two School Boards that need to buy into the solution.
- Our Communities have the final say at the referendum. How do we get there?

15

Meeting 1, 2 and 3

- **Toured Eveleth HS, Virginia HS and Gilbert Facilities**
- **Homework: MDE Renovate or Build New Questions**
- **Straw Poll after each walk through. "Build New?" Yes or No?**
- Supplemental information presented/provided by District and Consultants
 - Samples of what spaces in a Academy style HS look like
 - **Principals presented Challenges their facilities create in delivering today's educational model**
 - Space by space comparison of what an Academy has vs. what the existing E-G-V facilities have
 - **Current operational cost review and comparison to State Average.**

16

Take away from Meetings 1, 2 & 3

- Straw Poll Results:

Build new? Yes or No?

Walk Through of...	Yes	No	Maybe
Eveleth HS	21	0	4
Virginia HS	23	0	0
Gilbert Campus	18	0	0

- MDE Renovate or New Questions: majority of responses to questions were "yes" which indicates the existing facilities are not adequate and replacement is more likely the best solution
- Space to space comparison: Academy style spaces are much different in size and quantity compared to the existing spaces in are our schools. Substantial remodeling needed.
- Substantial Deferred Maintenance existing and increasing
- Safety and ADA issues and challenges
- Existing sites are land locked and undersized
- Operational Costs are significantly above state average

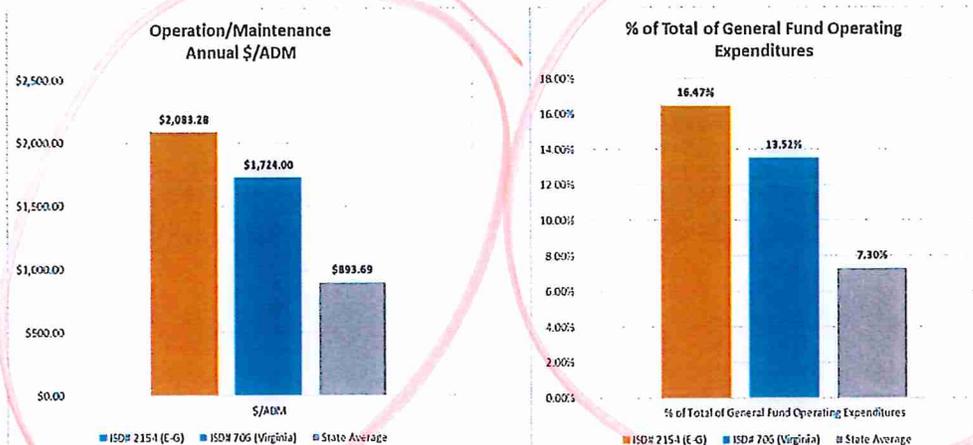
17

Take away from Meetings 1, 2 & 3

- Expansion in Virginia is not possible without significant costs to purchase land and buildings. Expansion in Eveleth is possible, but there would be significant impact on neighborhoods and expansion in Gilbert is possible but assets are poorest both in configuration and condition.
- Due to the advanced age of most of our buildings there are high costs associated with remodeling and significant risk that additional problems could be found further increasing costs.

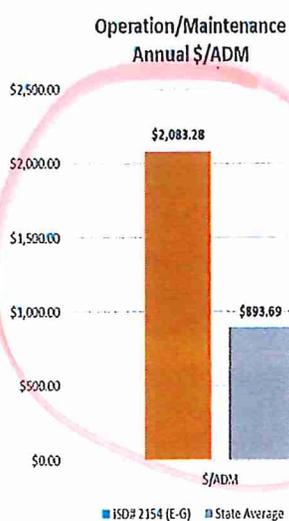
18

School Operational and Maintenance costs are very high!



ADM (Average Daily Membership)
FY2017 Data

School Operational and Maintenance costs are very high!



If Eveleth-Gilbert could get down to State Average.

Potential Savings

= **\$1,129,771**
(annually)

(\$1,189.59 x 949.6 ADM)

If Virginia could get down to State Average.

Potential Savings
= **\$1,422,877**
(annually)

(\$830.31 x 1,713.67 ADM)

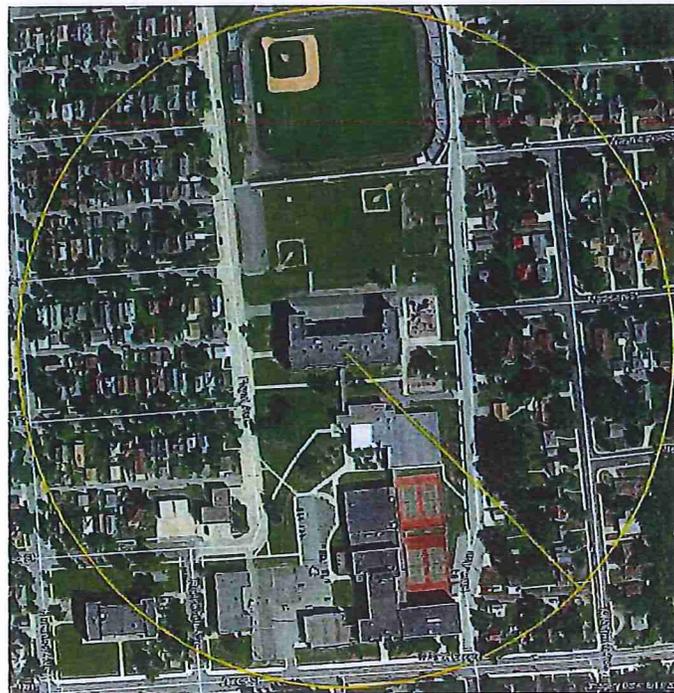


Virginia (45 Acre Circle)

Currently on 2 City blocks
of 3 acres each. To expand
most logical to go south.
20 Houses on Block 1, cost
to acquire +\$3M for each
block.



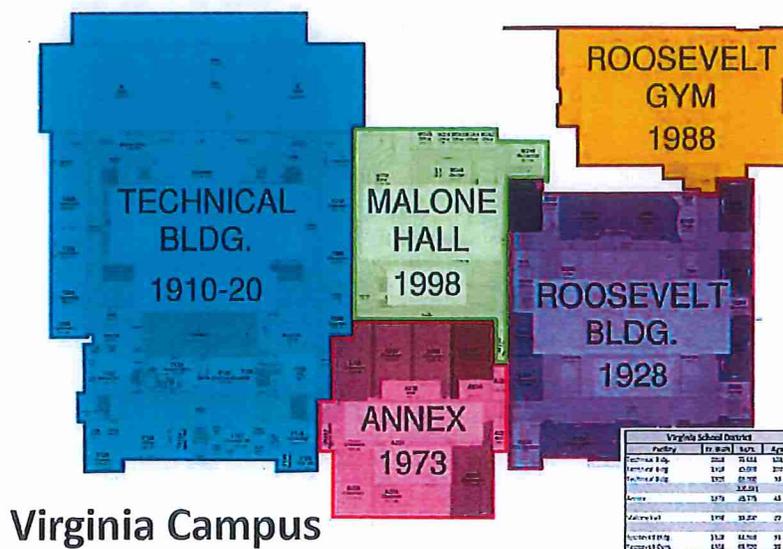
Eveleth (45 Acre Circle)



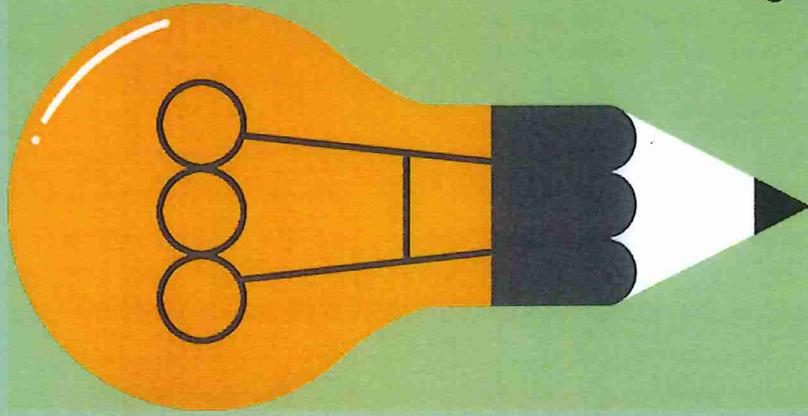
Gilbert
(45 Acre Circle)



Major portions of the school are greater than 90 years old and need significant repair and investment



Virginia Campus



Facility Task Force: Meeting #7

Putting all the Pieces Together!



November 7, 2018



Last Meeting:

1. Confirmed existing facilities are not viable for Academy style high school
2. 840 student Academy style 9-12 High School (Alexandria base model)
3. Add Connected 630 student 6-8 Middle School
4. Turf Football field with track (seating for 2000 home and 500 away spectators)
5. Add pool (with 8 lanes and diving well and locker rooms)
6. Add Additional Educational spaces:
 - Added approximately 15,000 sf for Industrial Tech area to Alexandria Industrial tech program, FACS area (life skills) and for more Music classroom space and additional practice areas

Confirmed Existing Schools not Viable

- Sites not large enough
- Unanimous vote by the group to NOT use any of the existing facilities
- MDE Renovate or build new checklist results

FACILITY: EVELETH-GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL

Renovate an Existing School or Build a New School?

The answer to this key question is not clear and simple, and it requires a detailed and time-consuming analysis of many factors. The commissioner must consider both the economic and the educational advisability of a proposed school construction project; hence, both an economic and education perspective on what is best educationally for students and economically for taxpayers of the community and the state are necessary.

The more "yes" answers there are to the following questions, the greater the likelihood that a school facility in its entirety is not adequate for current student, staff, program and community needs and needs to be replaced:

QUESTION	Yes	No	NOTES/COMMENTS
1 Does the school district have too many school facilities for the numbers of students?	X		E- has high peaks of student in state, lots of long hallways and empty rooms, empty classrooms in use.
2 Are there student safety issues (e.g. student and bus drop-off) on the school site?	X		Surrounded by city streets, kids dodging between cars, parking not adequate, no proper drop off area.
3 Is the school site too small to meet current needs for parking and outdoor activities?		X	Need to take down unused buildings. No HS student parking. Outdoor facilities too small and need work.
4 Is it very difficult or impossible to solve school site issues by closing streets and/or purchasing adjacent properties?		X	Residential area, tough to close streets without business, need to take old buildings down, streets can't be closed. Need site costs to compare.
5 Are their major exterior issues such as leaking roofs, groundwater penetration, sagging walls, mold and brick in need of repair or replacement?	X		1977 building has issues, ground water and humidity issues in multiple buildings, many maintenance issues, sagging ceilings.

FACILITY: VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL

Renovate an Existing School or Build a New School?

The answer to this key question is not clear and simple, and it requires a detailed and time-consuming analysis of many factors. The commissioner must consider both the economic and the educational advisability of a proposed school construction project; hence, both an economic and education perspective on what is best educationally for students and economically for taxpayers of the community and the state are necessary.

The more "yes" answers there are to the following questions, the greater the likelihood that a school facility in its entirety is not adequate for current student, staff, program and community needs and needs to be replaced:

QUESTION	Yes	No	NOTES/COMMENTS
1 Does the school district have too many school facilities for the numbers of students?			in use, schools maxed out.
2 Are there student safety issues (e.g. student and bus drop-off) on the school site?		X	No parking, safety access is poor, access stairs, not the best. Excessive stairways and too many levels for students, parents, visitors and community users is not clear. Drop off areas for parents, buses, deliveries, staff, visitors and community users are not clearly defined.
3 Is the school site too small to meet current needs for parking and outdoor activities?		X	Site is inadequate, parking is a problem, no parking, no parking. Parking is a big issue, barely enough room for staff, playground surrounded by asphalt.
4 Is it very difficult or impossible to solve school site issues by closing streets and/or purchasing adjacent properties?		X	Could shut 4th street and Oh Ave?? Too many houses in the area, can't do it.
5 Are their major exterior issues such as leaking roofs, groundwater penetration, sagging walls, mold and brick in need of repair or replacement?		X	Plumbing, cock roaches are a problem, old asbestos, mold, roofs need repair, I wouldn't say major exterior issues. The technical building south wall experienced a structural failure 20 years ago caused by water filtration. The windows are about 20 years old and non operator windows was a complaint by staff.

FACILITY: GILBERT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Renovate an Existing School or Build a New School?

The answer to this key question is not clear and simple, and it requires a detailed and time-consuming analysis of many factors. The commissioner must consider both the economic and the educational advisability of a proposed school construction project; hence, both an economic and education perspective on what is best educationally for students and economically for taxpayers of the community and the state are necessary.

The more "yes" answers there are to the following questions, the greater the likelihood that a school facility in its entirety is not adequate for current student, staff, program and community needs and needs to be replaced:

QUESTION	Yes	No	NOTES/COMMENTS
1 Does the school district have too many school facilities for the numbers of students?	X		Yes, based upon MDE guidelines and current enrollment, too low enrollment, empty classrooms.
2 Are there student safety issues (e.g. student and bus drop-off) on the school site?	X		Handicap evacuation inadequate, lead paint and asbestos. Safety and convenient access to the school for students, parents and visitors not clear. Drop off areas not clearly defined. Bus area is the best of the 3 sites. Multiple grade entrances makes for a confusing building entrance for first time users.
3 Is the school site too small to meet current needs for parking and outdoor activities?		X	A parking assessment of staff parking, student parking, visitor parking, bus parking and drop-off areas is needed. School site is not adequate for all these purposes. A parking assessment of staff parking, student parking, visitor parking, bus parking and drop-off areas is needed. School site is not adequate for all these purposes.
4 Is it very difficult or impossible to solve school site issues by closing streets and/or purchasing adjacent properties?		X	Site has potential for repairs. Minimal lights were a concern on adjacent 10 plus acres. Land belted school is private.
5 Are their major exterior issues such as leaking roofs, groundwater penetration, sagging walls, mold and brick in need of repair or replacement?	X		Windows need replacement, staining of ceiling tiles were seen. Mold was observed in the ceiling wing second floor, more could be present behind tiles. Insulating would be recommended for portions of the building. Moisture intrusion was present in the wrapping of the gym floor.

Handouts available at end of meeting

What do we do with Existing Surplus Buildings?

Put buildings on market to be sold for possible reuse & / or redevelopment for 2 years after election date. If they don't sell – deconstruct buildings and work with local cities to discuss land options.

We included the costs to deconstruct in the project budget.

BUDGET = \$7,560,000

Operational & Maintenance Comparison (7-12)

	O&M Expense	ADM	O&M/ADM
Eveleth-Gilbert	\$1,040,951.40	392.28	\$2,653.59
Virginia	\$1,478,638.93	710.29	\$2,081.74
Combined	\$2,519,590.32	1,102.57	\$2,285.20
New 7-12*	\$1,220,000 to \$1,465,000		\$969 to \$1,163

Potential Savings of ~\$1.05M to \$1.3M

*New 7-12:

Considered a combination of Industry Standards for:

- Utilities (\$/sqft)
- Staff to maintain site/grounds (staff/acre)
- Staff to clean/maintain facility (staff/sqft)
- 275,000 sqft , 55 acres & 1,260 students

Note: Preliminary - estimates will be refined as scope is more defined

Conclusion...

1. Solid plan for new 6-12 (saving dollars by connecting)
2. Existing buildings shouldn't be used for secondary
3. Established amenities our communities'/school's desire
4. Plan for our elementary schools (using existing buildings)
5. We can save significant dollars in operations and maintenance by coming together

Statewide

Students Served: 871,417.90

Program Category	Site Expenditure Per District	District-Wide Allocated Per ADM Served	Total	Dollars	
				Per ADM Served	Percent Of Total
District Level Administration	300,278.14	498,225,147.22	498,525,425.36	572.09	4.67
School Level Administration	391,654,648.94	23,655,470.29	415,310,119.23	476.59	3.89
Regular Instruction	4,244,478,181.81	275,714,095.88	4,520,192,277.69	5,187.17	42.35
Career and Technical Instruction	118,754,895.89	17,021,622.15	135,776,518.04	155.81	1.27
Special Education	1,476,268,375.15	467,805,674.07	1,944,074,049.22	2,230.93	18.21
Student Activities and Athletics	258,589,956.92	13,465,613.63	272,055,570.55	312.20	2.55
Instructional Support Services	271,466,344.28	289,097,636.89	560,563,981.17	643.28	5.25
Pupil Support Services	224,882,044.11	91,593,544.29	316,475,588.40	363.17	2.96
Operation Maintenance	463,919,995.93	314,858,412.03	778,778,407.96	893.69	7.30
Student Transportation	14,265,931.26	607,206,517.16	621,472,448.42	713.17	5.82
Subtotal - General Fund Operating Expenditures	7,464,580,652.43	2,598,643,733.61	10,063,224,386.04	11,548.10	94.28
Capital Expenditures	178,447,456.70	432,061,091.45	610,508,548.15	700.59	5.72
Total - General Fund	7,643,028,109.13	3,030,704,825.06	10,673,732,934.19	12,248.69	100.00

District 2154-01 EVELETH-GILBERT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students Served: 949.69

Program Category	Site Expenditure Per District	District-Wide Allocated Per ADM Served	Total	Dollars	
				Per ADM Served	Percent Of Total
District Level Administration	.00	561,839.46	561,839.46	591.60	4.68
School Level Administration	436,709.55	.00	436,709.55	459.84	3.63
Regular Instruction	4,457,125.64	82,734.83	4,539,860.47	4,780.36	37.79
Career and Technical Instruction	140,433.03	.00	140,433.03	147.87	1.17
Special Education	1,205,915.61	197,044.50	1,402,960.11	1,477.28	11.68
Student Activities and Athletics	504,702.53	.00	504,702.53	531.44	4.20
Instructional Support Services	503,361.44	145,600.52	648,961.96	683.34	5.40
Pupil Support Services	146,145.59	62.00	146,207.59	153.95	1.22
Operation Maintenance	801,775.43	1,176,697.93	1,978,473.36	2,083.28	16.47
Student Transportation	.00	1,110,890.35	1,110,890.35	1,169.74	9.25
Subtotal - General Fund Operating Expenditures	8,196,168.82	3,274,869.59	11,471,038.41	12,078.70	95.48
Capital Expenditures	315,576.04	227,937.00	543,513.04	572.31	4.52
Total - General Fund	8,511,744.86	3,502,806.59	12,014,551.45	12,651.01	100.00

District 0706-01 VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students Served: 1,713.67

Program Category	Site	District-Wide	Dollars		Percent Of Total
	Expenditure Per District	Allocated Per ADM Served	Per ADM Served	Total	
District Level Administration	.00	860,666.92	502.24	860,666.92	3.94
School Level Administration	489,290.00	.00	285.52	489,290.00	2.24
Regular Instruction	8,541,615.38	24,114.22	4,998.47	8,565,729.60	39.20
Career and Technical Instruction	195,623.59	.00	114.15	195,623.59	.90
Special Education	3,222,976.14	423,168.94	2,127.68	3,646,145.08	16.69
Student Activities and Athletics	628,093.63	.00	366.52	628,093.63	2.87
Instructional Support Services	314,151.13	951,022.57	738.28	1,265,173.70	5.79
Pupil Support Services	317,674.13	369.49	185.59	318,043.62	1.46
Operation Maintenance	1,800,161.17	1,154,212.36	1,724.00	2,954,373.53	13.52
Student Transportation	.00	942,476.59	549.98	942,476.59	4.31
Subtotal - General Fund Operating Expenditures	15,509,585.17	4,356,031.09	11,592.43	19,865,616.26	90.91
Capital Expenditures	851,594.91	1,134,345.11	1,158.88	1,985,940.02	9.09
Total - General Fund	16,361,180.08	5,490,376.20	12,751.31	21,851,556.28	100.00



These are 2017 Numbers from the MDE site

Eveleth-Gilbert

Operation/Maintenance

Statewide 7.3% of overall budget, E-G 16.47% or

Statewide \$713.17 per student, E-G \$2,083.74 - That's a difference of \$1370.57 per student or

\$1370.57 x 949.69 (Average Daily Membership last year) = \$1,301,616.62 more we spent on O & M

Transportation

Statewide 5.82% of overall budget, E-G 9.25% or

Statewide \$713.17 per student, E-G \$1,169.74 - That's a difference of \$456.57 per student or

\$456.57 x 949.69 (ADM) = \$433,599.96 more we spent on Transportation than the ave school.

Virginia

Operation/Maintenance

Statewide 7.3% of overall budget, Virginia 13.52% or

Statewide \$713.17 per student, Virginia \$1,724.00 - That's a difference of \$1010.00 per student or

\$1,010.00 x 1713.67 (Average Daily Membership last year) = \$1,730,806.70 more we spent on O & M



This is a notification from Virginia Minnesota Public Schools

2 messages

Notification from Virginia Minnesota Public Schools <notification-do_not_reply@target1000.brightarrow.com>
To: nschmidt@vmmps.org

Wed, Mar 27, 2019 at
10:08 AM

March 27, 2019

To: Parents and Staff of Virginia Public Schools

The Virginia Public School Board recently adopted new guidelines for testing and reducing lead in Drinking Water. The Virginia School Board adopted, in June of 2018, the recently released document, "Reducing Lead in Drinking Water: A Technical Guidance and Model Plan for Minnesota's Public Schools." This document was created in 2018 by the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health. [The document can be found here](#). The document references a recommended action level of 2 parts per billion (ppb) of lead.

Virginia Public Schools hired IEA, Inc. (Institute for Environmental Assessment, Inc.) to test the water in Parkview Elementary School, Roosevelt Elementary School, the High School, and the Maintenance and Supply Building. In October of 2018, IEA began testing the water, utilizing an accredited laboratory and approved methods. In December 2018, a resampling of 45 locations was performed. In late February of 2019 additional testing was performed on water fixtures. IEA assembled a summary report, detailing the testing process and provided that to the district on March 26, 2019. [Their final report can be found here](#).

In summary, most water sources did not show levels of lead exceeding 2 ppb, which is a stringent action level adopted by the Virginia School Board. The old EPA standard was 20 ppb.

According to the Virginia Public Utilities, their most recent annual city water quality test is below the 2 ppb action level.

There is currently no known safe levels of lead exposure. Consequently, the recommended approach by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is to reduce the risk of exposure.

Here is what the Virginia Public school district has done/is doing to remedy the problem:

1. [Some water fixtures](#) which exceeded the stricter school-board approved district action levels are used for cleaning up and science experiments. (According to the EPA, human skin does not absorb lead in water.) Some of these sinks [have been disconnected from use](#) and [some have signage on them indicating that they are not to be used for drinking](#).
2. [Some fixtures which exceeded the action levels are in custodial closets in Roosevelt and the High School.](#)

Students do not have access to these custodial closets and the water faucets have signage on them indicating they are not for drinking.

3. Some fixtures in kitchens exceeded the action level. None of these will be used in the preparation of food; some have been disconnected and the others have signage on them indicating that they are not to be used for drinking or food prep.
4. Though there are drinking water locations available to staff and students, we will make water from other sources available for interested individuals.
5. Even though water testing is required every five years, we will re-test all our school water fixtures within the next 12 months.

All available reports can also be found on our website and paper copies can be found in all of our school offices.

The Virginia Public School Board takes the issue of lead in the water very seriously, which is why they have adopted the strictest recommended action level of 2 ppb.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 218-742-3901.

Sincerely,

Dr. Noel Schmidt

Superintendent

Virginia Public Schools

Noel Schmidt <nshmidt@vmps.org>

To: Larry Cuffe <cuffel@virginiamn.us>, Britt See-Benes <britts@virginiamn.us>

Wed, Mar 27, 2019 at 1:05 PM

Hi Mayor Cuffe and Britt,

FYI

Noel

[Quoted text hidden]

VES REVISED SITE PLAN



FRONT ENTRY

- Pollinator gardens
- Interpretive elements
- Seating

MONUMENT SIGN

OUTDOOR CAFETERIA SEATING

GATHERING PLAZA

- 4,500 SF paved area for gathering and circulation
- 2,900 SF lawn areas for informal outdoor classroom instruction or gathering
- Textured concrete to highlight plaza space and reinforce linear patterns of trees and sculpture

ABSTRACT TREE SCULPTURE

- Interactive sculptural element
- Tells story of Virginia's natural and cultural history
- Logs from local timber or harvested from lake
- Integrated with gathering plaza area and serves as play element, interpretive feature, and gateway element to central corridor

CENTRAL CORRIDOR

- Seating and interpretive along edges
- Opportunity for formal and informal learning spaces
- Space for community events
- Public art opportunities
- Boulders or bollards at edges of corridor at 5th and 6th Avenue for security and separation from roadway

FUTURE LEARNING PAVILION

- Concrete pad with space for future outdoor learning pavilion, adjacent to playground and building
- Pre-fabricated or custom structure, potential for electric/digital capabilities

FLEX LAWN AND GRASSY HILL

- 42,700 SF
- Large flat lawn area for recreation and sports
- Fits U-10 soccer field
- 150' x 80'; 8'-12' tall grassy hill for play and sledding
- Possible City sponsored Movies on the Green

LOADING/SERVICE AREA

- Only area of site with fencing to separate play from service area
- Vegetated buffer for screening
- Accommodates semi-truck for on-site access to loading dock

HARDSCAPE PLAY

- 5,500 SF
- Separated from gathering plaza
- Playful and expressive equipment
- Textured concrete to delineate game courts/ boundaries rather than painted lines

NATURE PLAYGROUND

- 9,000 SF
- Platform and net/climbing elements
- Jumping, tunnels, and balancing elements
- Boulder scramble hills with slides
- Natural materials and/or manufactured equipment

FOREST GROVE AREA

- Forested with mature trees
- Outdoor classroom "waysides" for learning opportunities
- ADA-accessible gravel trails with interpretive elements

NATIVE PRAIRIE AREA

- Mounded earthwork for varied topography, sledding and winter activities
- Outdoor classroom "waysides" for learning opportunities
- ADA-accessible gravel trails with interpretive elements

GREEN / PLAY SPACE
2.4 ACRES

2V #S in PINK