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1.1 What Is A Facilities Master Plan?

NMCUSD's Facilities Master Plan (the Master Plan) describes a roadmap for a series of building and renovation investments that will enable the district to support its educational mission across its campuses for the next five to ten years. This Master Plan is informed by a data-driven assessment of the district's current buildings and grounds which evaluates needs at each campus according to its ability to accommodate NMCUSD's educational programs, its projected enrollment, and its goals for community, identity, and school climate. Where gaps are found, the plan lays out a series of physical recommendations for improvement.

Facilities Master Plans are required by the state of California as a means of substantiating a school district's facility needs as well as demonstrating that the district has an achievable plan for addressing them. To inform the Master Plan process, districts are also required to prepare:

- Education Specifications or "Ed Specs" that link the planning and design of new or renovated facilities with the educational programs they support.
- A Demographic Study that provides data about the size, location, and composition of the district student population for the foreseeable future.

01

Modernizations & Improvements

Modernizing aging campuses and improving deficient buildings

02

Physical Alignment of Spaces

Constructing or modifying buildings to align with changing demographics

03

Optimize Operations

Investing in facilities to improve operations, such as food systems, energy efficiency, or transportation

1.2 What's Different About NMCUSD's Master Plan?

NMCUSD's Facilities Master Plan departs from a traditional building-centric master plan in that it is designed as a flexible framework rather than a 'cast-in-stone' plan. To ensure its continued relevance over time, the Master Plan includes a dynamic set of documents that can be updated by the district as new trends and priorities emerge and/or once phases of projects are completed. For community transparency, the plan is published as an interactive website complete with presentations, feedback forums.

1.3 Why Now?

While the 2013 measure H funds provided needed upgrades to address 'behind the walls' system deficiencies, those funds are near exhausted, and the district is still experiencing the negative impact of decades of underinvestment in its facilities and grounds. While important upgrades in recent years have been undertaken, many NMCUSD campuses are:

- operating at or over capacity
- mismatched for student age and curriculum
- lacking in science & STEAM spaces
- rich in land that is under-used for educational and recreational programming
- lacking in 'curb appeal' or vibrant image and identity

This is causing:

- parents to choose other schools and districts
- the community to distrust the district's ability to steward its facilities
- district leadership to re-evaluate how it meets its high goals within a challenging funding environment for new construction

A Master Plan gives the district a strong foundation and roadmap to correct these deficiencies and align improvement projects with available funding channels over the next five to ten years.

1.4 What Is The Scope And Timeline Of The Facilities Master Plan?



The Facilities Master Plan incorporates three progressive workstreams that began in 2019, were disrupted by COVID in the 2020-21 year, and then completed in 2022:

1. The Facilities Master Plan, which evaluates facilities needs and provides strategies at the district-level;
2. Ed Specs, which provide ingredients for educational space design at the room and space level, and
3. Campus concepts, which provide a blueprint for planning and design projects at the campus level

1.5 Who Participated in the Plan?

The Master Plan is the result of a collaborative planning process, guided by the insights of a host of stakeholders, including school staff, teachers, students, parents, and community members. Since 2019, the district's facility planning team has conducted:

- 3 Steering Committee Meetings
- 6 Focus Group Meetings
- Community-Wide Survey (staff, parents, students, and community members)
- 8 Site Committee Meetings/Tours
- Board Presentations
- 13 Facility Advisory Committee Meetings
- 36 Working Group Meetings

1.6 What Is The Vision For The Campus?

Imagine vibrant school campuses visibly bustling with activity where students, teachers, and staff feel equally at home within an engaging, welcoming learning community. This sense of community is rooted in a rich campus life with diverse indoor and outdoor learning programs, nature play, recreation, and spaces that are used by the whole community into the evening hours



Imagine everywhere you look, students and staff are greeted by celebrations of their culture, arts, interests, identity, and school spirit. This sense of school pride is immediately visible at the front door of each school site, where school colors, murals and marquees display student accomplishments, events, and community activities.



Imagine classrooms and labs that extend beyond their four walls into a diverse array of outdoor learning environments, including gardens, classrooms, gathering spaces, and recreation areas that encourage movement, exploration, and collaboration.



Imagine campuses where classrooms are fully equipped with the tools needed to support the district's rich STEAM-based curriculum. Imagine spaces that are flexible but intentional in the role they play to strengthen community life and support student success and wellbeing.



To propel this vision forward, the Steering Committee crafted a set of Guiding Principles for the Facilities Master Plan to be used as criteria for evaluating progress at each stage.



1.7 How Will We Achieve That Vision?

The district will proceed with an implementation road map comprised of bite-sized pieces that together build a longer-term vision. The Master Plan and related Campus Concepts outline a long-term vision with a series of smaller projects that can be started right away leveraging available funds, grants, and partnerships. While larger scale capital funding will be necessary to achieve some of the more significant facility improvements, the district wants to invest its available resources into projects that provide the highest impact at the lowest cost to the district. Wherever possible, we reach out to our community of partners to share in both the investments and the rewards of mutually beneficial programs and spaces.

