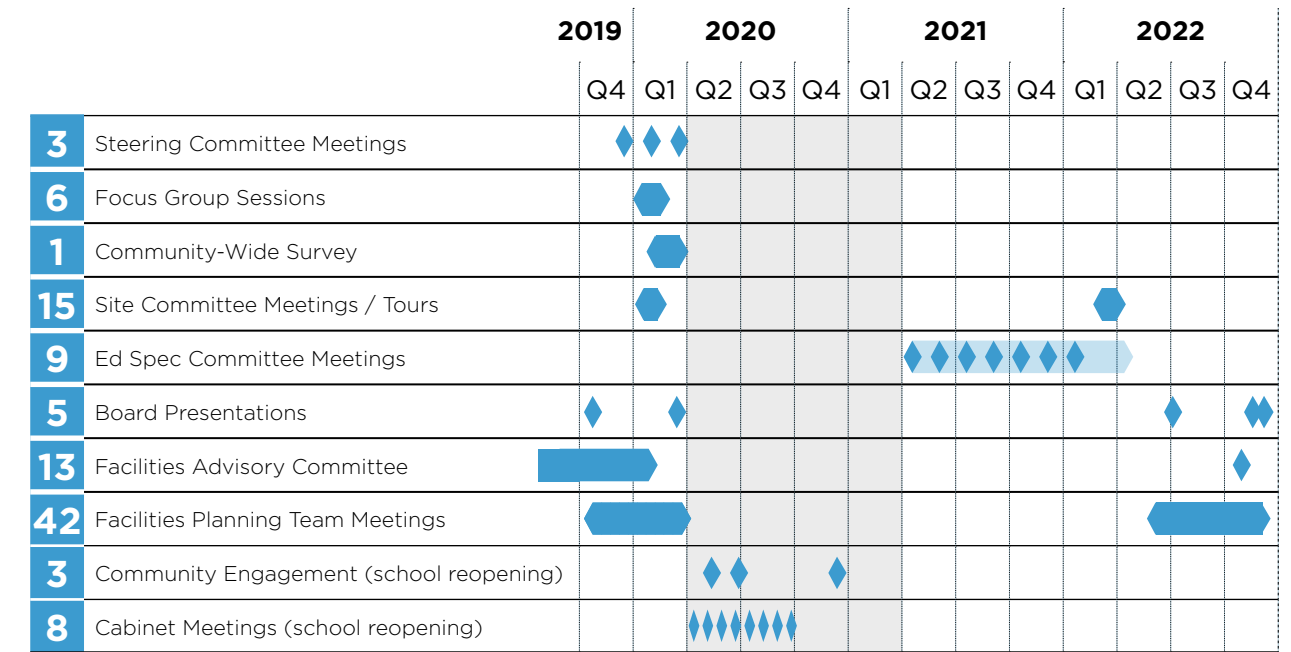


3. Stakeholder Engagement

- 2.1 Engagement Process
- 2.2 Forum and Survey Participation
- 2.3 Emergent Themes

3.1 Engagement Process



Engaging the students, teachers, families and staff of the District is an essential part of our planning process. We structured our engagements with a few key principles in mind:

- engagements must promote trust and transparency
- identifying and discussing areas of misalignment between groups is important to long-term success
- collective wisdom exists within all participant groups
- to make as many voices heard as possible, multiple engagement channels must be employed

Over the past three years, the master planning team employed numerous strategies to solicit input, feedback and co-create with a broad group of stakeholders across the District.

The **Facilities Planning Team** included the district’s Facilities Director, Chief Business Officer, and team members from MKThink.

A **Steering Committee** composed of executive and community leadership provided guidance to the Facilities Planning Team early on. Through three work sessions between late 2019 and March 2020, the committee helped set the direction for much of the Master Plan development.

The **Facilities Advisory Committee** and the **District Board** were engaged at key points in the process to ensure that the plans being developed were true to the District’s needs and mission and found acceptance among Board membership. It is the responsibility of the **District Board of Directors** to approve and adopt the Master Plan framework and select priority projects for funding and implementation. The Board will also be asked to approve subsequent updates of the plan along with any funding allocation for improvement projects.

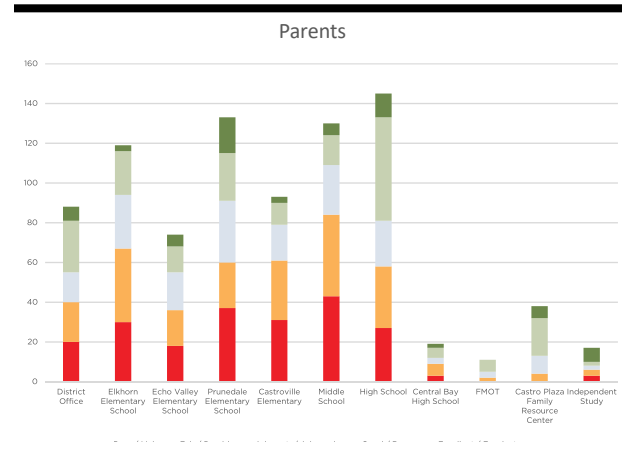


Focus Group with Teachers - Held on 03/03/20

In late 2019 and early 2020 planners conducted **focus group workshops** to understand how various groups used school facilities and what issues and opportunities they encountered. These workshops helped to identify key issues across the district.

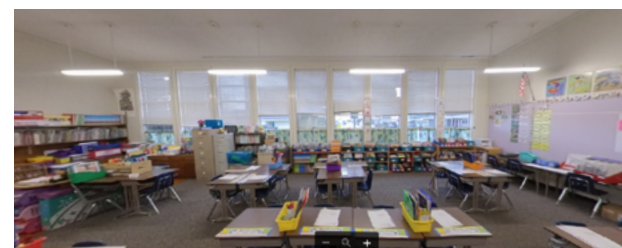
The team met with focus groups made up of:

- Teachers
- Certificated Staff
- Classified Staff
- Administrators
- Middle School students
- High School students



Online Survey - Snapshot of Results

To reach a broader population that could help validate the themes we had heard in the focus sessions, and to uncover other elements that may or may not have been voiced in these discussions, the team launched a **community wide online survey**. The bilingual survey was publicly distributed via the NMCUSD Facilities Master Plan website and “e-blasts” to the school community. It elicited over 800 responses from students, parents, teachers and staff.



Site Visit - Sample Photographs

Site Visits: In tandem with the focus groups, the planning team toured each district site and engaged with representatives of the school and district at each location. These visits were supplemented in March-April 2022 with a second set of visits that were more heavily focused on outdoor spaces.



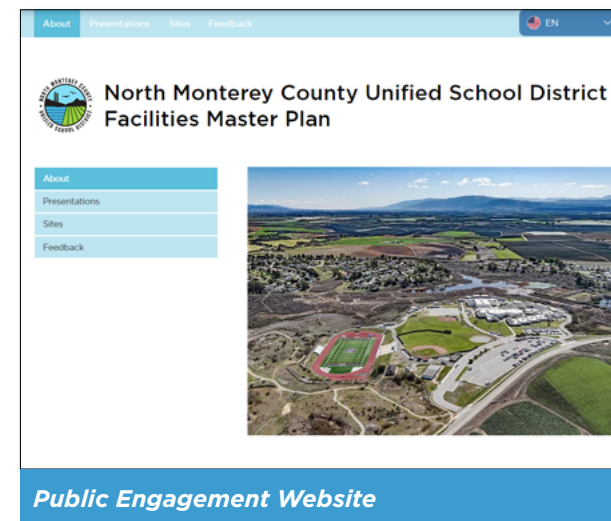
Safe School Re-opening - Thematic Committees

The pandemic disrupted the district’s operations and shifted attention to safe school re-opening planning. During this period, the master planning team guided key thematic **District pandemic response committees** through the development of a safe and flexible school re-opening plan. These sessions did not directly contribute to this Master Plan, yet they strengthened the connection between planners and stakeholders across the district.



Ed Specs Website

In April 2021, as NMCUSD emerged from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, planners engaged five different **Ed Spec committees** composed of teachers and administrators on a weekly cadence for over five months. Each committee co-developed spatial criteria for different types of learning environments which were then assembled and incorporated into the sections of the **Ed Specs website** as a living document for the district.

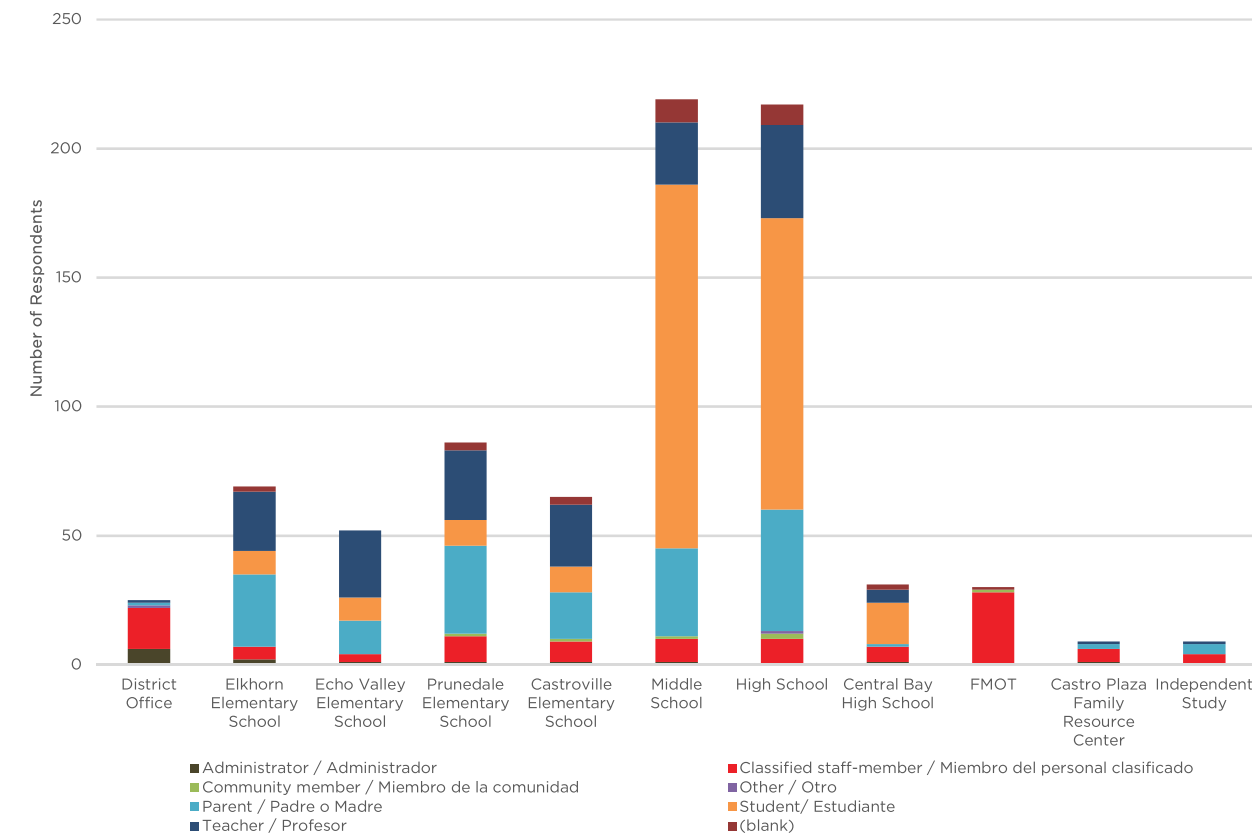
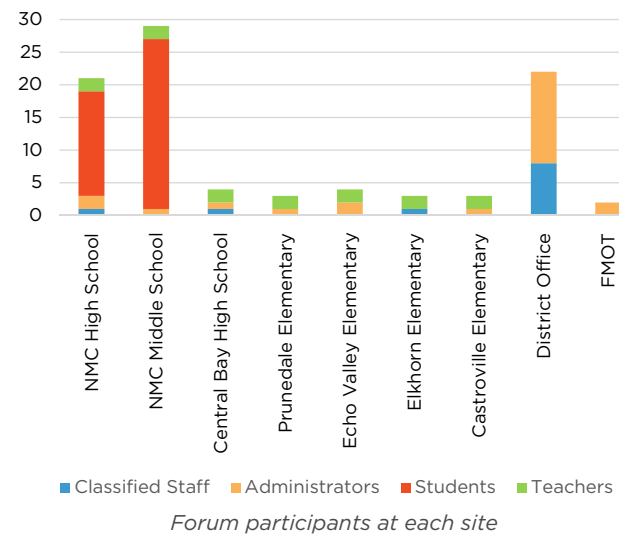


Public Engagement Website

An **interactive website** was established in early 2020 and served as a platform for communicating district and school level findings, and sharing planning progress with the community. The survey was distributed on the site. The site has grown to hold the Master Plan document as a living document. This approach will enable NMCUSD to engage its community in a continuous feedback loop to fine-tune and evolve future planning efforts.

3.2 Forum and Survey Participation

An important component of the engagement plan was to ensure student participation in both focus group workshops and the survey. Age-appropriate touch points were built into both parts of the process.



3.3 Emergent Themes

Several key themes emerged:



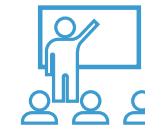
A. Transportation and Accessibility

Transportation and Accessibility came up as an area for concern on some sites. There are issues with the number of parking spaces at sites and the pickup/drop-off system which have led to safety concerns.



B. Sports Fields and Playgrounds

The sports fields at the High School are well liked by members of the district and are a source of pride. However, most other sites felt their sports fields and playgrounds were generally in poor or fair condition and needed expansion/improvements.



C. Classrooms

Classrooms at the district need improvements. There are a variety of concerns including the number of students per room, proper space free of disruptions, lack of 21st Century technology, and furniture. Some classrooms do not have the appropriate equipment to support the curriculum (such as gas lines in science rooms).



D. Gyms/Locker Rooms

The lack of proper gym and locker room facilities emerged as an issue especially for the Middle School. There were specific problems of gyms being too small, missing showers and changing rooms, and having old flooring.



E. Modernization

The need for modern, 21st century facilities was of general interest. Examples of the modernization upgrades needed include enhancing overall school appearance, replacing old furniture and portables, and flexible furnishings.

F. Outdoor Spaces for Learning

Throughout the engagements during the COVID-19 pandemic in preparation for school re-opening, stakeholders came to appreciate and seek the creation of strong outdoor learning environments that are well integrated with the district's indoor facilities.