Schools of the Future Community Forum: 6/16/18
Input

Summary of all tables
Question #1: What are your suggestions for modernizing and revitalizing our schools to create a high quality learning environment?

- Still need additional information – including west side schools' needs/costs
- Modernize schools; cutting-edge technology; Wi-Fi, social areas/learning commons (ie: Starbucks/McDonalds)
- Lighting upgrades
- Larger classroom settings/attractive and flexible classrooms
- Indoor air quality should be top priority
- Prioritize maintenance, address deferred maintenance needs
- Stay on Tallahassee about millage – back to 2.0 mills
- Restore currently closed rooms (mold)
- All schools should be rebuilt at existing sites
- Use current schools and portables during renovations and remodeling
- Consistent design
- Safety and security
- Don't repair/replace AC at places that won't be used
- Flexible spaces for classroom and for teacher collaboration
- Make buildings useful for learning (learning environments)
- Modernize every school – allow for expansion of programs
- Improve the site between Lincoln and Williams
- Roofs/AC's
- Modern furniture – furniture that is not one-size-fits-all
- Curb appeal – make kids proud of their school
- Healthy buildings
- Quality restroom facilities
- State of the art laboratories – computer and science
- Don't be afraid to tear down to replace
- Ethnocentric consideration for design
- Need <u>new</u> on east side – whatever it takes
- Lincoln and Williams need to be rebuilt
- Transparency, teachers, engage community in cultural education
- Capacity issues – look at efficiency – How do we attract people back to the east? Focus on east schools to help draw growth back to the east
- Solar and sustainable energy
- Re-vision cafeterias and media centers
- Look at K-2 and 3-5 middle (Irby & Alachua)
- Develop a model classroom and replicate
- Teacher/student ratio
- Be creative (schedules, before and after school, etc.)
- Comprehensive model (facilities, furniture, equipment)
  - ✓ This is what a classroom should look like
  - ✓ District-wide standard for each level
  - ✓ Quad layout

- ✓ Interactive and engaging environment
- ✓ Avoid too may separate buildings on a campus
- All schools treated equally
- 7-10 laptops per class
- Modernize curriculum
- ABA accessibility upgrades
- Natural lighting
- Use tax dollars appropriately
- Equal opportunity
- Mental health services access

Question #2 -   Given the lack of the available land, would you support replacing the majority of an existing school with a newly designed state of art school campus?

Based on a show of hands, a large majority of participants voted YES.

Table by Table Input
Question #1: What are your suggestions for modernizing and revitalizing our schools to create a high quality learning environment?
Question #2 -   Given the lack of the available land, would you support replacing the majority of an existing school with a newly designed state of art school campus?
Table
- We weren't given enough information to contribute any input – cost analysis capital outlay, building or renovating?
- Focus on East Gainesville
- West Gainesville information
- Ethnocentric environment

Table
- Suggestions to revitalize:
    - Indoor air quality to minimum standards (standards: roofing – HVAC – Mold)
    - Triage – prioritize maintenance
    - Increase millage rate and other funding
    - Restore currently closed off rooms within existing schools
    - Green measures with every project: lower operating costs, higher productivity, durable finishes

Table:
- Address high priority first:
    - AC and air quality
    - Energy efficiency (windows, doors, insulation, roofs)
    - Safety/security, but appear welcoming (parents and community)
    - Tech adaptable to advancements
    - Cafeteria options (outside, games, dining)
    - Mindfulness spaces (Yoga, meditation, outdoor)
    - Life-lesson learning spaces (cooking, vocational)
    - Teacher spaces for collaboration and community-building
    - Create building that teaches (energy efficiency, water consumption)

- Student-use digital recording space for developing lessons
- Studio and galleries

<div align="center">Answer to Question #2: YES</div>

<u>Table</u>
Suggestions:
- Williams Elementary in addition to Metcalfe and Howard Bishop – expand Williams since it is almost at full capacity with a gifted program so that more kids can participate in the gifted program and attend the school
- Improve infrastructure of space between Williams and Bishop
- We want more information regarding the west side schools to make better decisions
- Create areas where kids have learning-common areas for learning together – like Starbucks

<u>Table</u>
- Solar and sustainable energy wherever possible
- Cafeterias updated
- Media Centers
- Connected to eSchool
- More K-3 schools or spaces – 3-6 schools or spaces
- Technology designed to enable smooth upgrades
- Labs--STEM and Robotics
- Safety and ADA security/surveillance
- School populations kept to optimal level
- Academic study areas available for out-of-class research, homework, etc.
- School availability before and after regular class hours
- Staggered sessions, ESP in secondary schools
- Do we have a modern school that is working and can be a template? Is there a model elsewhere?

<div align="center">Answer to Question #2: YES</div>

<u>Table</u>
- Create a comprehensive model that would include facility, furniture, staff (including credentials), materials and equipment such as a standard blueprint
- The blueprint should be a district standard for how it is maintained
- Early learning needs to be included: pre-school
- Should be a blueprint for early education, elementary, middle and high
- Possibly a quad layout for elementary schools. Plus for quad is more interactive/engaging/safer/establish parent support/area to pull children to work with and teacher's space
- Staff areas need to be addressed too!

<div align="center">Answer to Question #2: YES</div>

<u>Table</u>
- Exactly what is the baseline for all schools' needs?
  - All schools need to be equal
  - New computer labs

- At least 7-10 laptops per class
- Modernizing the curriculum and teaching approach
- ADA accessibility upgrades
- Utilizing the current 1 mil tax dollars appropriately
- Exteriors need more lighting and to be refreshed
- Improve the technology infrastructure and make sure it works
- Media center re-visioning

<p align="center">Answer to Question #2: YES</p>

Table
- Engaging spaces are needed to help students no matter their learning styles, background, or past performance helping students feel welcome, included and supported. Students must feel safe and feel like they're able to pursue their education and increase their foundational skills, allowing them to be successful in life.
- Equal opportunity and access to the same level resources. A holistic approach to each child.
- Access to onsite mental health services for every grade level.
- Make the schools look more welcoming

Table
- Where has the money gone from previous initiatives?
- Culturally-responsive teachers
- Smart Boards
- Remove Lincoln and Williams off the dump site
- Parent/teacher relationships
- Transparent practices from administrators
- Project-based curriculum
- Laptops for all students
- Dimmers in lighting to moderate lighting
- Facility repairs

<p align="center">Answer to Question #2: NO, rezone</p>

Table
- New roofs, HARV
- Modern furniture
- Curb appeal – beauty
- Some may need total rebuild
- Healthy buildings
- Research-based practices
- Cutting edge technology – flexible for the future

Table
- Computer technology infrastructure
- Wi-Fi capabilities in every school
- All suggested/proposed repairs listed in the handout provided, plus lighting upgrades, comfortable seating, larger classrooms to accommodate the number of students at a given time, improved science labs accessible to all students, not just magnets
- Re-zoning to maximize space/enrollment

- Air quality
- Build multiple story schools to increase capacity
- Current schools hold significant historical value to the Gainesville community, so we need to be sensitive when considering replacing these school sites

Table
- Schools should be rebuilt on the same campus site where they currently exist:
  - Use portables as temporary offices and classrooms during construction
  - Schools that are not at capacity should be used to serve students whose schools are currently under construction. This is a similar plan used after Lincoln High School was closed and students did double sessions at Gainesville High
- Renovations should focus on technology and safety:
  - Developing classrooms according to the Universal Design Model
- We should focus more on Vocational Education, outside of the current professional magnet programs that are currently being offered

Table
- Improve technology for students (Wi-Fi)
- Improve restroom facilities
- A/C improvements
- Class reconfiguration, flexible class space
- State-of-the-art laboratories

Individual Input

- People are concerned about how wise the other sales tax increases have been used.

- Put the new school on the back burner!!! Upgrade all schools! Can Williams Elementary use the surrounding land to increase/renovate since this school was built on a dump site!! This should be a priority!!!

- If the ½ cent tax is passed, I would like to see a sign at every school (on day one of spending), that lists the current project being addressed at the school. Progress should be updated – maybe a thermometer chart? This will help with accountability. Also due to the district's recent focus on equity, the district should consider starting facility upgrades on the Eastside.

- Lincoln should be prioritized along with any other school that experienced extreme storm damage last year – I worry about muck/mud and mildew.

- We should do everything we can to get out children (and teachers) out of portables and into brick and mortar structures.

- My comment about ethnicity relates to incorporating designs on the furniture and other environmental structures. Question: What is your resource for making sure this concept is included? Suggestion for the make-up committee: Representation from each side of

town especially East Side. Additional comment: I felt very insulted by the reference to decorum for the session. The premise seems to have been that we were not expected to practice basic good manners. I am very disappointed as I ponder the possibility of an Eastside school. The statement alluding to the low student enrollment indicates we have not been given a chance to have a school on the Eastside.

- The current interest and process to assess and identify ways to maximize the resources with effective outcome (improved facilities) is appreciated. This process is critical. However, I would also suggest some discussion to look at shifting a mindset to open the view of, or from, the classroom to include the community as a part and extension of the classroom. A conversation with our youth to look at the community around them as a laboratory for social issues, science and math and language skills can all become a part of the classroom activities. ie: Citizen Science curriculum incorporates all subjects.

- Cleanliness of facilities needs to have a distinct standard. ie: Wiles Elementary "A" school since 2004 (?) but the condition of the environment both for children and staff particularly cafeteria is unacceptable. This is not an isolated example. Shell for example appears to have a much higher standard cleanliness/painted etc. Please be mindful of colors used – children with disabilities/ADHD, autism, etc.

- How can we implement and normalize impactful mental and social services at all schools? A possible solution would be to make bi-monthly group sessions (with a guidance counselor or volunteer) mandatory to increase communication and resources while reducing bullying, isolation and fear of talking. Education is priority but mental and emotional (social too) support should be, too. I will personally volunteer!

- It appears that remodeling East side schools will require major renovations – a swing space should be considered for rotating schools as remodel is in place.

- Modernizing by going green – reduce operating costs – increase productivity.

- Re-purpose existing campus – consider two story new classroom building phase, then build replacement support space. ie:
    - Phase I – New two story classroom
    - Phase II – Demo worst – build new support space
    - Phase III – Remodel remaining

- I think the public might feel better if they know what is being done to find other funding sources, grants, etc.
- Prioritize student areas (classrooms, etc.) over administrative areas.

- Have cooperation with five people to allow couches, etc. for learning centers within classrooms/libraries.

- It's great that there is a plan to take "all" children/students out of "trailers" and place them in "brick and mortar" buildings.

- Reorganize classroom spaces to empower teachers to collaborate effectively to benefit curriculum, planning, sharing of resources, meeting the needs of students and the sharing of gifts and talents.

- Suggestions for a quality learning environment:
  - Mental and social services should be available at all schools for every grade level. Make group counseling options available so that students don't feel isolated or singles out. This will encourage positive and productive discussion and reduce bullying and fights.
  - Furniture that accommodates all bodies and sizes. Another feature to reduce bullying.
  - State of the art computer labs, technological capabilities, media center and physical education centers. Art and music as well.
  - More green and open space – a community garden.

- Change old facilities to new facilities

- Combine smaller schools