



# **Telling our Story: Gardiner Middle School SchoolsNEXT and School Design Process**



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# SchoolsNEXT

## Team, Objectives, and Process



Diverse Cohort of Thirty-One 6th Grade Bilingual-Program Students  
Encore Class Service Learning Project

A black and white photograph of a group of nine students, both boys and girls, standing behind a table in a classroom. On the table is a model of wind turbines. The students are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a classroom setting with various posters and decorations on the walls.

# Objectives

Express Creativity

*Develop Critical Thinking, Collaboration,  
Communication, and Presentation Skills*

Develop an Engaging Project-Based  
Learning Opportunity



# Process (Phase 1)

Visioning ~ “Dream School”

*Student/Teacher Surveys*

Empathy Interviews

*Precedent Research*

Drawing

*Model Building (1st Build)*

Presentations





## Process (Phase 2)

Concept and Theme Development

*Model Refinement (2nd Build)*

Development of Non-Negotiables  
and Belief Statements

*Identification of Central Concept*

Presentation

A grayscale photograph of a city model. In the foreground, a large, leafless tree stands prominently on the right side. To its left, a large, white, angular structure, possibly a building or a bridge, dominates the left side of the frame. The background shows a dense grid of smaller buildings and structures, representing a city layout. The overall tone is somber and architectural.

Theme: Promote, Encourage, and Support  
Healthy Lifestyles



# Belief Statements

We believe in CONNECTING TO NATURE  
and the WORLD AROUND US.

Outside spaces encourage us to relax, feel  
healthy, and understand how our actions  
IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY and the world.

Spaces inside our school should BRING THE  
OUTSIDE IN, with beautiful natural views  
and light, so that when we are learning, we  
are reflecting and being productive.

# Belief Statements

We believe our environment should represent all students in developing ACTIVE BODIES, MINDS, AND SOULS.

Spaces should allow us to be still, to move, and help us to be ENGAGED and actively learning.

School spaces should feel like STUDENT SPACES and should accommodate our social needs and reflect our interests and work.

We want opportunities to share who we are and CONNECT with those that we love.

We should feel SAFE AND SECURE in our community with open sight lines, secure entrances, safe areas, and the ability to transition without stress.

We believe that our programs and areas of study should promote an UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD.

## Belief Statements

We want to TAKE CONTROL of our own learning through real-world experiences.

We need to CONNECT with mentors and trusted adult advisors that share their passions and assist us both in pursuing our interests and developing our future goals.

# Student Outcomes

Improved public speaking

*Engagement in own learning*

Experience communicating with diverse groups

*Opportunities to partner and socialize with architects, teachers, students, and School Board Members*

Development of creative confidence

*Real world learning*

Math, reading, writing, advanced research skills

# Educator Perspective

Development of communication, collaboration, research, writing, college & career readiness, STEM, and critical problem-solving skills

*Engaging and authentic learning experience*

Partnerships with resources outside the classroom

*Opportunities to celebrate hard work*

Pride!

# What's Next?

More Model Refinement (4th build) - Timber Hall

*3D printing of a typical learning neighborhood*

7th grade SLA class with smaller group (26)

*2020 SchoolsNext Competition - 6th & 7th grade*

6th grade hoping to work with Landscape Architects  
to design school garden

# 2018 School Bond

## **Prioritize Safety and Security at Every School**

*Build secure entries at all schools*

*Replace aging emergency communications systems*

*Repair or replace aging security camera systems*

## **Reduce Overcrowding, Replace & Upgrade Two Middle Schools**

*Replace Gardiner Middle School*

*Renovate Ogden Middle School*

*Eliminate portables*

## **Update School Buildings & Learning Spaces**

*Renovate or replace HVAC systems, plumbing, roofs and electrical systems in schools across the district*

*Install LED lighting*

*Expand career and tech learning options*

*Expand classroom spaces*



# Opportunity: Rethink education at the middle level in Oregon City

Teacher  
Collaboration  
before & during  
instruction

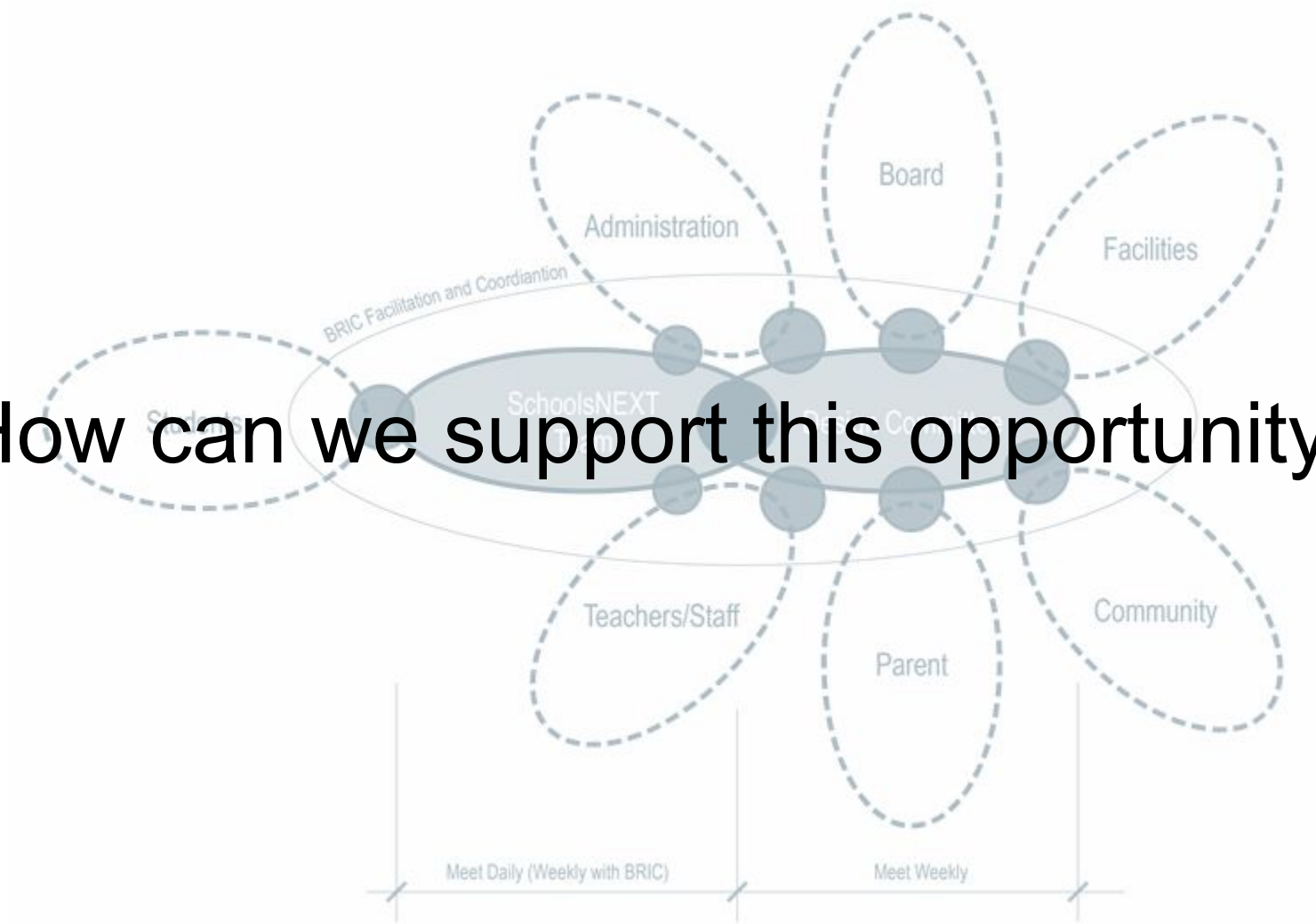
PRODUCTIVE  
NOISE

Open  
ended  
Questions,  
Problems

TEAMS  
ENGAGED  
IN A COMMON  
STRUGGLE

Active listening

# How can we support this opportunity?



OREGON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 62

REIMAGINING  
EDUCATION

# Part 1: Willingness and Commitment

*Are we ready to jump off the deep end?*



# Part 2A: Engaging the Right Voices

*District Leadership*

*Key Educators*

*Counselors*

*School Board Representation*

A black and white photograph of three students in a classroom. A girl in the center, wearing a 'GARDINER Bilingual Program' t-shirt, is smiling and pointing at a large architectural plan on the wall. Two other students are looking at the plan. The plan includes sections for 'Student Wellness', 'Learning Community', and 'Classroom Hub'. There are also handwritten notes and diagrams on the plan.

# Part 2B: Incorporating Student Voice

*12 students (of 27 total)*

*Met separately to preview materials*

*Discuss how ideas might translate to real building project*

*Position students to advocate for positions and engage with adults*



# Part 3: Building on the Backs of Others

*Tours (9 schools in Tacoma, Portland,  
and San Diego)*

*Virtual Tours*

*Talking to Educators and Administrators  
Who've Done it*

WHAT TYPES OF LEARNING OPTIONS DO WE FEEL ARE IDEAL FOR STUDENTS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

7

WHAT MAKES LEARNING FEEL RELEVANT FOR STUDENTS?

8  
7

## Part 4: Breaking Down the Problem

*When you're willing to rethink everything,  
it's hard to know where to start*







# Part 6: Articulating & Refining the Aspiration

*What is the target?*

*What do we need to do to make it happen?*

*(It's not about where we are now)*

An architectural rendering of a modern school building. The building features a long, low profile with a prominent overhang supported by thick columns. Large glass windows are visible on the right side. In the foreground, a wide sidewalk is populated with various people, including students with backpacks, a person with a stroller, and a person on a bicycle. A crosswalk is visible on the left. Trees and landscaping are integrated into the design. The text "Highlights/Overview of Current Building Design" is overlaid in the center.

# Highlights/Overview of Current Building Design

# Objectives

Promote development of healthy choices and habits

*Give student opportunities to develop positive choices, healthy and productive decision-making*

Drive student engagement

*Support mental and emotional health*

Facilitate positive relationships between students and adults

