PSD School Facilities Study

Capital Bond Planning Task Force Workshop #1: What We Heard

On May 28, 2026, the Capital Bond Planning Task Force came together for the first in a series of planning workshops guiding a study that will shape the future of Gig Harbor and Peninsula High Schools. More than 30 community members, including students, parents, staff, and neighbors, sat in groups at shared tables, bringing varied perspectives to a question that affects everyone: How can these schools strengthen learning from the inside out, extending that impact into the lives of those who live and work nearby?

The evening was organized into three parts: a summary background of the efforts that led to this point; an orientation of the study's purpose, the process and the role of the task force; and finally, table discussions which informed a large-group activity designed to surface what participants hope this process will accomplish.

Why This Study Is Happening

Last year, the District's Long Range Facilities Advisory Committee assessed the condition of all school buildings at a high level, informing an Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) tiered rating system that identified Gig Harbor and Peninsula High Schools having the lowest condition ratings. This study is about next steps: a careful, community-informed look at what should be done about it.

What the Community Is Asking

Workshop participants had a lot of questions, and they were encouraged to start by talking with each other. Common concerns centered on how a potential bond measure would be structured financially, how decisions will be made between repairing existing buildings versus constructing new ones, and how the district will ensure equity between the two high schools and across all communities it serves.

Participants also discussed the methodology behind the ranking system, the possibility of impacting even more buildings, whether in the short and/or longer-term, and how to ensure the process would be transparent to the broader public.

What the Community Is Hoping For

Participants were asked about their hopes for the study process and its outcomes, encouraged to think through the perspective of others. The conversation was energetic and wide-ranging. Participants expressed a strong desire for spaces that inspire pride: buildings that students, families, and the broader community feel genuinely good about. There was significant interest in performing arts facilities, career and technical education spaces, and modern classrooms equipped for today's learning. Many also hoped that new or renovated facilities could serve the whole community, not just students, with fields, theaters, and walking/gathering spaces available beyond school hours.

Safety came up consistently. Participants want buildings that are physically secure, properly ventilated, and comfortable for students and staff every day.

Equity was emphasized, through agreement that schools should receive comparable attention, with all students receiving equal access to sports, arts, and extracurricular opportunities. Some wondered whether two of everything would be the right solution vs. a model with shared facilities for specialized spaces. Overall, there was an expression of hope that this process would feel fair and transparent.

What Happens Next

The task force will continue meeting over the next few months, contributing opinions and ideas toward crafting well-grounded recommendations for the Superintendent and School Board. The group is tasked with creating a shared vision for what these schools can become.