NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 19, 2026
Contact: Superintendent's Office, Pendleton School District | 541-276-6711

Community Members Launch 10-Month Effort to Shape the Future of Pendleton School Facilities

Long-Range Facility Planning Committee holds energetic kick-off meeting to begin developing a 20-year facility plan for the District

PENDLETON, Ore. — The Pendleton School District's new Long-Range Facility Planning Committee met for the first time on Wednesday evening, November 18, 2026, beginning a 10-month, community-centered process to develop a 20-year long-range facility plan for the District's schools and support facilities.

The kick-off drew an excellent turnout from the thirty-member Committee. Together, they reflect a broad cross section of Pendleton: parents and guardians of current students, community members with and without children in school, local business owners, residents with financial, construction, and design experience, representatives of the District's employee groups, and student representation. Members applied and were selected with the goal of ensuring that the Committee reflects the whole community it serves.

> "The response to our call for volunteers was remarkable, and the people around these tables represent every corner of our community. Our facilities belong to all of Pendleton, and this plan will too. I am grateful to every member for giving their time and perspective to our students' future." — Dr. Michelle Jensen, Superintendent

What the Committee Covered

Members spent the evening getting to know one another and laying the groundwork for the year ahead. The meeting included:

- **The Committee's charge.** Members reviewed what the District has asked of them: a long-range capital plan, grounded in technical analysis and broad staff and community input, delivered to the District on or before August 15, 2027.
- **The process timeline.** Members walked through each phase of the work, from facility condition reports and community engagement this winter, to draft options in the spring, to community input of draft approaches next summer.
- **Operating norms.** Each table discussed and refined the norms that will guide how the Committee listens, works together, seeks consensus, and protects the credibility of the process.

- **A “Know, Wonder, Hope” activity.** Members recorded what they know about the District’s facilities, what they want to learn, and what success would look like.

What the Plan Will Address

Under its charge, the Committee’s recommendation will build on the District’s recent Facility Condition Assessment and prioritize the most urgent needs first. It will also address safety and security; current and projected enrollment, building capacity, and program needs, from academics and the arts to career and technical education and special education; athletic and activity facilities that support student access and community use; and durable and pragmatic solutions that lower long-term maintenance costs.

Leaving “Excited” and “Optimistic”

The meeting closed with a simple exit activity: each member described in one word how they were leaving the evening. Many of the answers were the same two words, “excited” and “optimistic,” about the work ahead and about what a community-built plan can mean for District students now and into the future.

What Comes Next

Over the next two months, members will study the District’s facility history, enrollment and program trends, and building capacity, and prepare for stakeholder engagement. In January and February, the District will share facility condition reports and invite staff, students, families, and community members to take part in focus groups and a community survey. Draft options will follow in the spring, with community testing of draft approaches in July, before a final plan goes to the School Board for consideration in August 2027.

Meeting materials and summaries will be posted on the District’s website at: https://pendleton.k12.or.us/facilitiesplanning/

Committee Members

Danielle Blanc • Mark Browning • Steve Chrisman • Jennifer Colton-Jones • Jennifer Currin • Tom Demianew • Liesl Follett • Marie Hall • Andrew Hallman • Jessica Hardy • Jameson Hayes • Liam Hughes • J. D. Kindle • Valerie Kreps • Travis Larsen • Marcus Luke II • Debbie McBee • Pat McClintock • Joey Mulvihill • Jared Pace • Wendy Sorey • Brad Spencer • Michael Stensrud • Chris Thatcher • Shawn Towne • Steve Umbarger • Cheryl Viola • Mary Sara Wells

The Committee is supported by School Board members Beth Harrison and Patrick Gregg; Superintendent Michelle Jensen; Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services; Brian Norris, Facilities Manager; and Mike Somnis, Athletic Director. The District’s planning partners, Consertus and HMK Company, are facilitating the process.

###