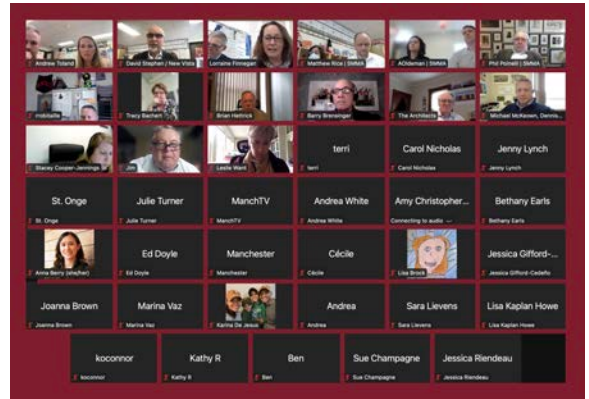**MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Virtual Community Meeting

Three identical Community Educational Visioning Meetings were held on April 4, 2023, to begin the process of establishing initial educational and architectural priorities for MSD's Facility Master Planning effort. Meetings were held at different times of day to accommodate community members' schedules, with an early afternoon meeting taking place at Girls at Work, a mid-afternoon meeting held virtually, and an in-person evening meeting taking place at the Beech Street Elementary School. Approximately 32 community members attended the virtual meeting (see attendance list below). Project architects SMMA and educational programmer David Stephen (New Vista Design) presented a range of information about the master planning process and collected community feedback on what they see as the key educational and facility development needs of the MSD community. Topics covered in the forum included:

- An overview of the Facility Master Planning process and schedule
- Community Priorities Brainstorm
- Community Design Priorities Brainstorm

A digital polling platform called Mentimeter was used to view and assemble participant feedback. The following meeting notes present an overview of the community feedback collected during the meeting.

Participant List

1. Tracy Bachert
2. Anna Berry
3. Barry Brensinger
4. Lisa Brock
5. Joanna Brown
6. Sue Champagne
7. Amy Christopher
8. Stacey Cooper-Jennings
9. Karina de Jesús
10. Ed Doyle
11. Bethany Earls
12. Jessica Gilford-Cedeño
13. Brian Hettrick
14. Lisa Kaplan-Howe
15. Sara Lievens
16. Jenny Lynch
17. Manchester TV
18. Michael McKeown
19. Carol Nicholas
20. Jim O'Connell
21. K O'Connor
22. St. Onge

23. Kathy R
24. Jessica Riendeau
25. R Robitaille
26. Andrew Toland
27. Julie Turner
28. Marina Vaz
29. Leslie Want
30. Andrea White
31. Andrea
32. Ben
33. Cécile
34. Terri

Design Team
35. Martine Dion
36. Lorraine Finnegan
37. Michael McKeown
38. Dennnis Mires
39. Andy Oldeman
40. Rosemary Park
41. Phil Poinelli
42. Erin Prestiteo
43. Matt Rice
44. David Stephen

Roles and Affiliations

- Parent (9 Participants)
- Teacher (4 Participants)
- Administrator (2 Participants)
- District Staff (2 Participants)
- Alumni
- Board of School Committee Member
- City of Manchester Employee
- Homeschool Parent, new to the area
- Instructional Coach/Parkside
- Manchester Proud Coordinator
- Manchester Tax Payer
- PTO Leader
- School Board Member
- School Counselor
- School Nurse
- School Social Worker
- Work for Local Nonprofit

Greatest Hopes

When asked to share their greatest hopes for MSD facilities master planning process, meeting attendees share the following responses, which have been grouped thematically.

Inclusive and Inviting
- Facilities that are warm, welcoming, inviting, and safe
- Welcoming space with colors and space

Support for Inclusion and Equity
- Looking to encourage facilities that support student learning at varying levels within each grade
- Support children of all abilities
- Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity training for students and teachers/staff
- Different environments for different types of learners
- I want everyone included and I want equity in terms of access

Long Term Planning
- That we have a plan that matches what the community needs and supports
- Reflect Manchester's strengths as a community and prepare our students to be good citizens and a global future
- School integrated into life of community
- That this long-term project will capture the imagination of our community and support for transforming our schools
- Community and Economic Development
- Greatest hope is that this is a systemic approach to addressing the major needs of Manchester
- To develop a Master Plan that serves the Community and is adaptable and relevant for years to come
- Spaces that are a source of pride for our city
- I hope we can attract more students and families to Manchester though excellent schools

Student Centered Learning
- Adequate resources
- Schools that leverage broader community resources
- Dual Language Immersion - Bilingual schools at all grade levels
- Improve quality and balance of offerings across all high schools
- High quality education
- Cutting edge opportunities

- Early childhood accommodations (space for play, handicap access, bathrooms, wall space eye-level for presentation of work or charts)
- More socio-emotional learning for students and training for all teachers and staff
- Small class sizes

Sustainable Facilities
- Green roofs, solar panels, geo-thermal
- Buildings that serve social and environmental needs of our students and community + enable all students to thrive

Updated Facilities
- I would like to see schools modernized - updated supplies and equipment. More technology
- State of the art performing spaces, that can accommodate small and large performances, and offer performing space for various community partners
- Future ready with technology flexibility

Flexible and Appropriate Spaces
- My hope is for more space for instruction at Parkside
- Classrooms that will meet the needs of early childhood education space (bathrooms, handicap access)
- Flexible space to accommodate ever-changing need
- Flexibility of spaces as needs change over the years

Outdoor Learning
- More inclusion of green spaces and outdoor / experiential learning at schools

Health & Safety
- State of the art health offices with updated equipment
- Hope to see completely private unisex bathrooms at Central High School and all MSD schools
- I hope for safe and clean facilities

Financial Planning
- Fiscal responsibility

Project Priorities

The following list of educational, architectural, and community priorities and considerations for the master planning of MSD programs and facilities were brainstormed by participants during the virtual Community Meeting. Priorities have been grouped thematically. If you have additional priorities that you would like to add to the list, please email them to David Stephen at: david@newvistadesign.net

Educational Priorities

Equity and Inclusion
- Safety and inclusion
- Equity and collaboration
- Equitable availability of high-quality learning across the district
- More paraeducators to meet the needs of students with IEPs
- Differentiated learning
- Small class sizes to make differentiated learning possible
- Differentiated learning, hands on learning

Adequate Resources
- Adequate/quality resources
- More staff in the classroom
- Professional development

Holistic Approach
- Flexible programming
- Systemic Approach - systems thinking
- Administrators having holistic responses to disciplinary actions - restorative justice
- Data driven

Real World and Hands-On Learning
- Project-based learning
- Project based learning with community partners
- Performance based assessments
- Hands-on learning

Collaborative Learning
- Collaborative learning
- Promoting collaboration between students
- Learning commons
- Space for small groups
- Community hubs

Technology
- High tech
- Latest technology

Student Centered Learning
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Spaces for student agency
- Strongly endorse every item on slide of District's priorities
- Providing an educational experience that helps students achieve their very best
- Let kids read actual books (less Amplify!)
- Personalized learning
- Cutting edge learning opportunities
- Learning goals adjusted to the needs of each individual student
- Student focused learning
- Individualized learning
- Social Emotional Learning

Performing Arts
- Art, music, and performance integrated into learning
- Great core skill classes, but also provide plenty of options for arts, music, tech, etc.

Bilingual Classes

Outdoor Learning
- Outdoor learning
- Hands on, developmentally appropriate, multi - sensory, outdoor learning
- Extra spaces for outside use programs

Family Support
- Greater support for students and families and equity and inclusion
- Schools that serve our families as well as our students

Community integration
- Opportunities for businesses to provide in-school partnerships/learning opportunities

Architectural Priorities

Safety and Welcome

- Security
- Safe arrival, dismissal, and office areas
- Safety and access
- Welcoming spaces that make children feel welcome, safe, and seen
- Parking and facilities on campus would be great

Safe Community Use and Access

- Ease of access for after school and community services

Thoughtfully Updated Facilities

- Water fountains and water filters that work
- Plumbing updated
- Good lighting and natural light
- Enduring building quality and character. Unique to Manchester
- Connections to indigenous values of land use
- Campus buildings/spaces that attract families, community
- Integrated into neighborhood fabric
- Design that will not look outdated
- Easy to keep clean

Sustainability

- Reduce-Reuse-Recycle
- Being able to compost food waste, actually recycling, there is so much waste at school and we are not teaching our children to protect our local environment
- Green architecture
- Climate control
- Ensuring high air and water quality
- Indoor air quality & ventilation
- Touch free facilities
- Smart lighting

Flexible Spaces

- Adaptable and multi-use spaces
- Facilities that meet 21st century learning
- Spaces that can be used for multiple functions
- Opportunities for unprogrammed interaction and learning - spontaneous
- Collaborative spaces for students and teachers
- Areas for in school suspension where staff can meet the needs of those students in need of behavioral or emotional intervention

Collaborative Spaces

- Learning commons
- Room for group projects and learning
- Spaces that foster gathering and discussions

Outdoor Spaces for Play and Learning

- Outdoor space
- More protected spaces for the green areas
- Having useable green spaces at all schools - playgrounds, parks, trees

Performing and Fine Arts Spaces

- Flexible performing space, indoor and outdoor
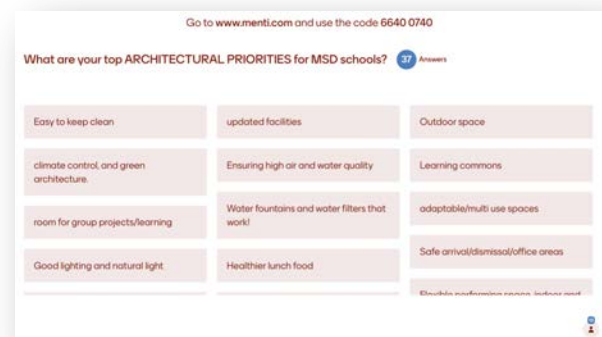- Strong music departments
- Art galleries

STEAM and STEAM

- Prioritizing space for STEAM

Good Storage

- Storage for teachers, students, and the other school staff

Improved Food Service

- Healthier lunch food
- Functioning kitchens in every school to allow fresh food to be served and opportunities for students to learn about food
- Delicious diverse food options

Community Priorities

Community Integration
- Community school model
- Schools as community centers
- Authentic community schools with year-round programming/resources for residents of all ages
- Leveraging community resources for support and outside of school learning opportunities
- Schools as catalysts to foster stronger, more vibrant neighborhoods
- More volunteers to help with a variety of tasks
- Use community partners to help with SEL and as trusted adults
- Open to working with partners with "less" hurdles. Mutually respectful of resources and time
- A place that is a climate change refuge- is not on the grid- during future disasters
- Adult education classes in the evenings

Safe Community Use and Access
- Welcoming and safe space for meetings and building use
- Having a strong feeling of community where kids feel welcome in the neighborhood
- Schools serve as a hub for community events and meetings
- Buildings accessible after hours to the community
- Performance spaces that could be used by community groups (dance studios, theater troupes, etc.). Could also be used by professionals, groups that won't go to the Palace due to the size of their stage

Increased Family Engagement and Supports
- Welcoming and safe space for students and families
- A place that parents can come to any time of day and feel welcomed and comfortable
- Support students and families experiencing homelessness
- How to help our local community affected by the drug epidemic

Accessibility
- ADA compliance for all areas

Cultural Responsiveness
- We are the most diverse city in the state, but our teachers and school staff don't reflect that diversity - improve hiring diverse staff and create channels for community members to become educators
- Culturally responsive spaces

Bilingual Education
- Bilingual education for ELL to learn English more efficiently and English speakers to learn other languages
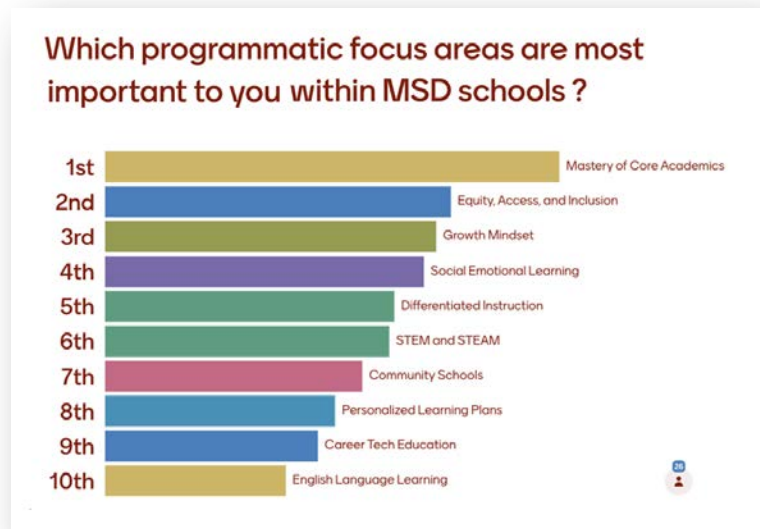
Outdoor Spaces
- Fenced in playground

Community Priority Educational Focus Areas

During the Community Meeting, the design team introduced a variety of educational focus areas that have been identified by the district as being of key importance to programming within MSD community School. Participants then had the opportunity to rate these focus areas based on their own priorities, resulting in the following priority listing.

1. Mastery of Core Academics
2. Equity and Access
3. Growth Mindset
4. Social Emotional Learning
5. Differentiated Instruction
6. STEM and STEAM
7. Community Schools
8. Personalized Learning Plans
9. Career Technical Education
10. English Language Learning

Additional Community Priority Educational Focus Areas

When asked to share additional educational focus areas that are most important to them, meeting participants shared the following focus areas which have been organized thematically.

Diversity and Inclusion

Mental Health Supports
- Mental health (3 mentions)

Diversity and Inclusion

Sustainability
- Sustainability as connected to curriculum (2 mentions)

Attracting and Retaining Staff
- Teacher retention
- Professional development
- Supports for teachers

Civic Engagement

Family Engagement

Life Skills
- Personal finance in high school (2 mentions)
- Life skills beyond the classroom (2 mentions)

Academic Support
- Achievement and excellence in academic standards
- Summer slide prevention
- Learning gaps post Covid
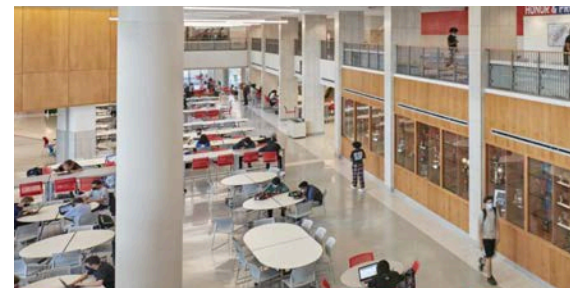- Celebration of progress/growth

Expanded Opportunities
- Bilingual education
- Arts integration
- Talented and gifted programs
- What to do with kids who master material at their grade level quicker

MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Priority Design Patterns 1.0

During the meeting, the group was introduced to 16 "Design Patterns" that represent priorities for and approaches to the design of 21st century school facilities. Participants had the opportunity to vote for and then collectively prioritize which design patterns they thought were most important to consider when renovating or designing new MSD school facilities. The following listing is in priority order based on the number of "votes" it received. It is notable that the relatively small difference in votes from the top and bottom vote-getters indicates that all of these design patterns are meaningful to meeting attendees.

1. **Safety and Security** (47 votes)

2. **Welcoming Arrival and Drop-Off** (35 votes)

3. **Safe Community Use and Access** (35 votes)

4. **Agile Classrooms** (34 votes)

5. **Heart of School** (33 votes)

6. **Outdoor Learning and Play** (34 votes)

7. **Natural Light** (32 votes)

8. **Maker Classrooms and Makerspaces** (32 votes)

9. **Media Center Learning Commons** (30 votes)

10. **Sustainability/Building as Teacher** (29 votes)

11. **Classroom Neighborhoods** (28 votes)

12. **Enrichment Spaces** (27 votes)

13. **Extended Learning Areas** (26 votes)

14. **Wayfinding and Streetscapes** (24 votes)

15. **Professional Work Areas** (24 votes)

16. **Career Tech Spaces** (19 votes)

Blue Sky Ideas

When asked to share their Blue-Sky aspirational ideas for the renovated and/or new MSD school facilities, meeting participants shared the following ideas which have been grouped thematically.

Inspiring and Inclusive Learning Spaces

- Elementary classrooms that are spacious to accommodate a variety of learning spaces/storage of materials
- A space where students feel empowered and in control of their education and have a feeling of ownership over their school and space
- We need a separate high-quality school for students who are struggling to navigate their traditional school. We must help these students be their best
- Updated, high-tech/cutting edge facilities and learning opportunities that are a best practice.
- Different types/sizes of high schools - large and small
- Montessori learning section

Beautiful Design

- Facilities that shine in our city
- Beautiful high school campuses similar to other communities
- INDOOR WATER FEATURES
- Architectural nod to river and falls
- Schools that draw families back to our public schools

Outdoor Learning and Play

- Community gardens

Athletics

- Indoor track and fields
- Natatorium
- Dedicated sports space

Fine Arts Spaces

- Music department where the band and chorus are given equal importance to the sports teams
- Performance space/community space used by community and other local groups for performances
- Dedicated arts spaces in every school
- Gallery spaces

Forward-Thinking Libraries

- I would like to see the design and use of forward-thinking spaces and services in libraries that include strong input library professionals with decades of knowledge of what works and does not work
- Support for elementary level libraries and librarian flexible schedules

Health and Safety

- Safe buildings
- Designed for snow and snow clearing
- Safety lockers or lock down bullet proof areas

Student Involvement in Design

- Students help with the design

Community Resource

- Transportation hubs
- Disaster relief center off the grid

Staff Housing

- Housing for staff! Could attract more diverse candidates?

STEM and STEAM

- Robotics competition spaces

Display and Exhibition

- Hallways and technology that allow for showing work

Mentorship Opportunities

- A space where younger students have a chance to work with college aged students (SNHU?)