MSD Facility Master Plan Educational Visioning
Student Workshop Notes

A group of 45 MSD high school students, representing each of the district's 4 high schools, participated in a 1.5-hour Virtual Student Workshop on the afternoon of June 8, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to present an overview of the high level educational and architectural priorities for MSD school facilities and programming that have been established within the district's Facility Master Plan Community Educational Visioning Workshops thus far, garner student feedback, and answer questions posed by students. The following notes outline student feedback shared during the meeting. If you have questions about the workshop or would like to add additional priorities to the list below, please email them to David Stephen at david@newvistadesign.net

Student Participants

Students from the following grades and schools participated in the workshop:

Manchester School of Technology
- Five 9th grade students, three 10th grade students, and four 11th grade students

Manchester High School West
- Ten 9th grade students, four 10th grade students, and one 12th grade student

Manchester Memorial High School
- Three 11th grade students, and three 12th grade students

Manchester High School Central
- Four 9th grade students, two 10th grade students, four 11th grade students, and two 12th grade students

MSDs Greatest Strengths

When asked to share what they saw as the greatest strengths and best parts of the MSD schools they have attended, students responded with the following comments which have been grouped thematically.

Faculty
- Good teachers (12 responses)
- Guidance staff
- Teachers who help you out not only with school but personal lives
- Teachers taking leadership with classes and clubs
- MSD is really strong in the way they teach

Academic Opportunities
- A lot of AP classes offered
- The amount of options
- Schedule flexibility
- Stem classes

MSDs Greatest Strengths *Continued*

Post-Secondary Planning
- CTE classes
- ETS
- Myturn
- Opportunities available for college and prep for college
- Gear-Up
- Support groups like SAP and SAC
- Guidance/Advising for College options

Extracurriculars
- Clubs and Sports
- The all-school events
- The Boys and Girls Club
- Athletics
- Art classes
- Music Department
- Leadership events

Inclusive School Culture
- Very inclusive
- After school activities and sports (they bring us together)
- Diversity and Inclusivity
- Supportive community
- Support groups
- Friends
- I have learned a lot of street smarts as well as all of the regular things

Elements of Students' Ideal School

When asked to share elements of the "Ideal School," students responded with the following comments which have been grouped thematically.

Strong Leadership and Teachers
- The principals are key to keep the school running and to keep the students in check
- More teachers
- Stricter discipline measures, for students and teachers

Student Centered Learning
- More hands-on learning
- Classes that you learn not just able to take a test
- More scheduling options
- Courses that don't just give you something to read and take a test but engaging in learning
- More educational field trips
- Extra credit opportunities

Inclusive Community Culture
- Classes for students at every level and more inclusion
- School store with like school merchandise
- Student planned events
- More inclusive events with BLM, LGBTQ, and other cultural events
- Pride month celebration

Student Support
- More encouragement for NHS or young scholars
- Supports group
- Mental health groups
- Free tutoring for struggling kids. Maybe a learning plan when failing HS
- More scholarship programs
- ADHD/fidgeting toys
- Classes similar to planned parenthood
- Accessible mental health care
- Guidance checkups with students

Well-Funded Programs
- A school with enough funding for all classes instead of just the popular ones

Community Events
- More school assemblies like when holidays and vacations come around
- More school events
- Monthly events that cover that month like BLM or Women's History Month

Elements of Students' Ideal School *Continued*

Career Tech Programs

- I would like to see more programs for the medical field
- More programs in the Computer Science field
- Medical based classes
- Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) programs
- More business and marketing classes
- Trade programs
- Baking/cooking classes, culinary arts program
- Cooking program maybe to help the lunch team
- Classes that will provide you with license/credentials
- Future planning classes that are for students who choose not to go the college path

Fine & Performing Arts

- Drama club and acting classes
- Music classes like band, orchestra, or chorus
- More elective classes/art classes
- Extended Music/Marching Band Programs that combine districts
- More opportunities to spread the music department such as performing at other places than school
- More music programs
- Art classes or art present in other classes
- Art and mural space

Extracurriculars

- More competitive extracurriculars: Model UN, speech/debate, mock trial
- More variety of elective and extra-curricular classes
- More electives and club choices
- Anime Club
- Students to create clubs
- Funding for clubs

Life Skills Classes

- Life skill classes
- Classes to teach important life skills
- Teaching us how to do taxes
- Money managing, a life class
- We should have a class dedicated to teaching on how to buy a house, do loans, all that stuff in case you don't have a parent to teach you

Technology Infrastructure

- Funding for new technology to help keep schools up to date
- Better WIFI
- Improved internet connection throughout the school

Language Classes

- Sign language classes
- More options of languages to learn such as German

Black History

- We need a class on Black History
- Accurate teachings of American history

Science & Technology

- Engineering programs

Extended Learning Opportunities

- Internships
- Shadowing opportunity

Athletics

- Co-ed sport teams
- Feeding programs for younger athletes
- Sports need better jerseys
- We should have a boys' volleyball team
- More balls
- We need more sports equipment
- We need more trainer-based sports equipment

Good Food Options

- Better lunch choices
- We should have a cooking class that make us good lunch
- Improved school lunches
- Coffee shop/snack store that's open during the whole school day
- More vending machines I'm always hungry and no one ever has food
- We need a salad and wrap bar

Driver's Ed

- Driving education classes
- Resources to do drivers ed

Elements of Students' Ideal School Facility

When asked to share elements of the "Ideal School Facility" students responded with the following comments which have been grouped thematically.

Safety and Security
- Better security cameras (5)
- Safe access (2)
- Security to make sure randoms don't get in (2)
- Metal detectors
- Better security for detecting weapons
- Less crowding with more security

Policies and Attendance
- Open campus (9)
- Scan attendance (9)
- Start at 8am

Inclusivity
- Resources for accessible students
- Prayer rooms for Muslim students

Agile Classrooms
- Better desks (3)
- More colorful classrooms (3)
- Windows that open (2)
- Comfortable chairs for long class periods (2)
- Bigger classrooms
- Tables, instead of desks
- Open classrooms for group work
- Classes that aren't super huge so there can be a better sense of community

Well Kept and Modern Facilities
- Make it so the ceiling tiles don't fall on us (2)
- New tiles on the floor (2)
- More spaces not compacted classrooms
- Not having the school look like grandma's house
- More buildings or added rooms at MST
- Make it before 2026
- Different buildings for different subjects

Thermal Comfort
- Better heating I've never felt warm in this school (4)
- Air conditioning (4)
- We need every classroom able to control the temp.

Good Lighting
- Warm lighting rather than cool lighting
- Better lighting in general

Good Flow and Circulation
- Wider hallways (3)
- Modern, escalators, elevators available to everyone not just disabled people (3)
- Less stairs (2)
- Get rid of the double doors at central; they don't work
- Stairs that aren't super steep
- One-floor buildings
- Easier layout

Health and Sanitation
- More water fountains (2)
- Clean water (2)
- Better cleaning
- Sanitation
- More supplies for janitors
- Drug monitor
- Vape detectors

Outdoor Connections
- Outdoor classroom (5)
- Outside seating (4)
- Outdoor lunchroom (3)
- Courtyard (2)
- Outdoor space for MST
- Community gardens
- Better landscaping outside of the school
- Outdoor access to freshmen
- Greenhouse
- Green space around the school

Library
- Bigger, upgraded library
- A bigger, better library to serve as a hub for student activity, studying, tutoring, lectures, meetings, etc.
- A library at MST
- Clean carpets in the library and a better selection

Elements of Students' Ideal School Facility *Continued*

Technology and WIFI
- Better WIFI (3)
- Better infrastructure
- Better computers that work anywhere in the school
- Space for Robotics team to practice with the robots safely
- Charging stations for laptops, phones, etc

Science Spaces
- Space for science classes/projects

Physical Education Spaces
- Better field for sports with routine clean up
- Big bleachers for pep rallies and school sports
- Basketball courts
- New weight room, CHS
- Improved gym

Food and Dining
- Better food (9)
- Working vending machines (3)
- Big lunchrooms with big lunch tables for lots of people (2)
- Nicer cafeteria
- Restaurant in school
- Coffee shop
- Cafe for breakfast or lunch
- Fast food in school
- More seats indoor for cafe, we only have a couple picnic tables
- Better lunch tables
- We should allow local business to sell to the school
- Let the freshman get food outside

Improved and Private Bathrooms
- More and better bathrooms (7)
- Locks on stalls (6)
- Feminine products (2)
- Soap dispensers (2)
- 2 ply toilet paper
- Cleaner bathrooms
- Transgender bathroom
- Bathrooms with proper locks and resources for situations, water bubblers with clean, cold water

Performance Spaces
- A better auditorium
- Greenroom

Quiet Spaces
- A space for people to study quietly not just during but after school (5)

Student Created Spaces
- Areas created by students
- Student-customized areas
- Student murals around the walls

Relaxation Spaces
- Couches or places to relax in hallways

Collaborative Spaces
- Collaborative spaces
- Rooms/officers for clubs and extracurriculars

Connectivity Between Schools
- Fluidity between schools for more offered programs

Storage
- Remove the lockers (2)
- Rooms/Offices/Storage units for big extracurriculars and clubs
- Quality lockers available for all students
- Places to put bikes, skateboards

Traffic and Parking
- Student Parking (2)
- Parking lot (2)
- Parking, CHS (2)
- Separate entrance to and from parking (2)
- Too much traffic so we need another entrance
- Crosswalk for the MST student parking lot so we don't have to jaywalk to get to school
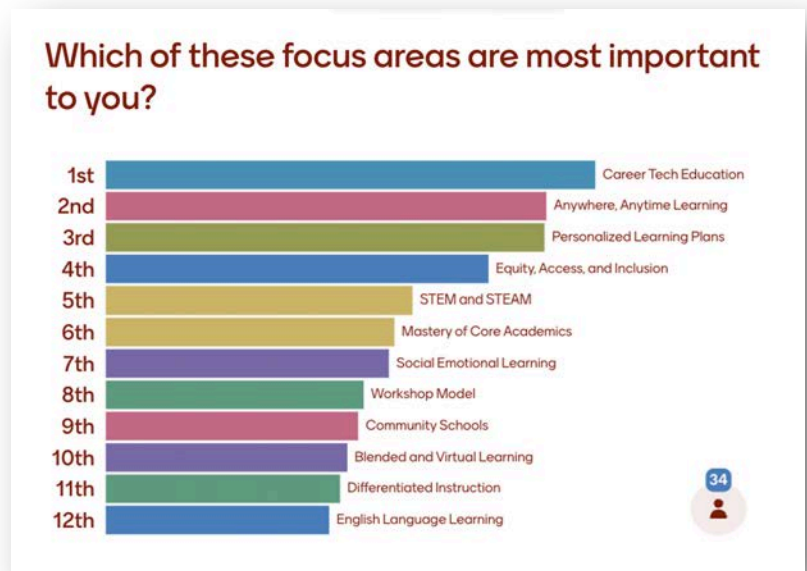- Better transportation for MST students

32-MST ADMIN (Group of 3)

Students' Priority Educational Focus Areas

A set of priority educational focus areas were introduced to students in the workshop as being of key importance to MSD leadership. Students then rated them in order based on their own priorities, resulting in the following listing which, notably, places Career Tech Education, Anywhere/Anytime Learning, and Personalized Learning Plans at the top of the list.

1. Career Tech Education
2. Anywhere Anytime Learning
3. Personalized Learning Plans
4. Equity, Access, and Inclusion
5. STEM and STEAM
6. Mastery of Core Academics
7. Social Emotional Learning
8. Workshop Model
9. Community Schools
10. Blended and Virtual Learning
11. Differentiated Instruction
12. English Language Learning

Which of these focus areas are most important to you?

1st	Career Tech Education
2nd	Anywhere, Anytime Learning
3rd	Personalized Learning Plans
4th	Equity, Access, and Inclusion
5th	STEM and STEAM
6th	Mastery of Core Academics
7th	Social Emotional Learning
8th	Workshop Model
9th	Community Schools
10th	Blended and Virtual Learning
11th	Differentiated Instruction
12th	English Language Learning

Additional Student Priority Educational Focus Areas

When asked to share additional educational focus areas of importance to them that either did not appear on the previous list, or which they would like to call out, students responded with the following feedback.

- Finance and Accounting (6)
- Life Skills (5)
- Internship and job opportunities (4)
- Music programs (4)
- Hands-on learning (4)
- ETS (3)
- Cultural learning (3)
- Athletics (3)
- Field trips - including abroad (3)
- Shadowing programs (2)
- College prep (2)
- World language (2)
- More language options (2)
- Pride month/LGBTQ (2)
- Better, safer bus system (2)
- Introducing trips for future careers

- AP classes
- ELOs - Extra Learning Opportunities
- Driver's Ed
- College opportunities
- GSA program
- Law
- Classes about how to learn
- More things that are for people who just want to make money and work hard
- Resources for students who graduate and don't choose the traditional college path
- Class levels that are at people's speed and not just honors or general
- Engineering programs

- JROTC
- Medical programs
- Disconnect spaces - less tech
- Family and Consumer Science
- Nap room
- Study programs
- Internet literacy class - to help people use technological tools properly, as they are becoming more widely used across all aspects of life.
- Better parking for students
- Boys' volleyball
- Intramural sports

Desired 21st Century Design Patterns 1.0

The following set of priority "21st Century Design Patterns" for the design of a renovated and/or new MSD facilities was developed by students during the Student Workshop. Students were introduced to 24 "Design Patterns" that represent varied architectural design features of, and approaches to 21st century school facility design, and that had been prioritized by members of the Educational Visioning Group in previous workshops. Individual students first rated each Design Pattern with a heart, thumbs up, or thumbs down, and were then given the opportunity to rate Design Patterns collectively in order of importance. The resulting list of Design Patterns has been placed in priority order based on the cumulative total of hearts, thumbs up, and priority ratings that each received.

Top 10 Design Patterns

1. Heart of School (54 votes)
2. Career Tech Spaces (51 votes)
3. Flexible Classrooms (50 votes)
4. Outdoor Play and Learning (50 votes)
5. Safety and Security (49 votes)
6. Safe Community Use and Access (49 votes)
7. Anywhere, Anytime Learning (38 votes)
8. Wayfinding and Streetscapes (47 votes)
9. Nooks, Caves, and Quiet Spaces (47 votes)
10. Media Center Learning Commons (46 votes)

Next 14 Design Patterns

11. Enrichment Spaces (46 votes)
12. Sustainability (45 votes)
13. Welcoming Arrival/Safe Drop Off (42 votes)
14. Natural Light (42 votes)
15. Collaborative Spaces (41 votes)
16. Maker Classrooms/Make Spaces (40 votes)
17. Breakout and Pull Over Spaces (39 votes)
18. Extended Learning Spaces (38 votes)
19. Varied Performance Venues (36 votes)
20. Professional Work Areas (31 votes)
21. Display and Exhibition (31 votes)
22. Classroom Neighborhoods (26 votes)
23. Building as Teacher (26 votes)
24. Good Storage, Lockers, and Cubbies (22 votes)

Blue Sky Ideas

The following "Blue Sky" aspirational ideas for MSD school programs and facilities were shared by students.

Open and Inviting Design

- I would like to see a lot more design in the hallways (4)
- Wider hallways (4)
- Natural light (3)
- Make lights more efficient
- More colorful and inviting design
- Less cramped up feeling in the classrooms, make them a bit more welcoming
- Combine some classrooms with movable walls
- New ceilings

Improved Safety and Security

- Swipe to enter for students, school ID or passcode can be used (4)
- I'd like something that has better quality security cameras
- Safe drop off and pick up
- Security cameras
- Metal detectors for safety
- Better security against potential dangers like weapons
- Not looking like a prison

Collaborative Spaces

- Open spaces to collaborate (2)
- Having areas to talk to people
- A real library for MST
- Learning commons

Outdoor Connections

- Outdoor access
- Outdoor classrooms
- Better usage of our outdoor areas at memorial
- Community gardens
- Greenhouse

Quiet Spaces

- Nooks, caves, and quiet spaces ,especially for high school students (2)
- Breakout rooms
- Napping places

Visible Learning

- Places where people can see into the classrooms that have unique things going on inside them

Infrastructure

- Replace all the old Romex in the walls with better preferably medical grade Romex that can take a beating to them

Sustainability

- More solar panels that are efficient and do not waste any power and spend some big bucks on them

Practice Rooms

- More practice spaces for music students to practice

Astronomy Course

- Telescopes

Ergonomic Furniture

- Better and more comfortable seating and desks

Storage

- Locker removal (3)
- Practical lockers so people don't have to carry heavy bags all day

Food and Dining

- More tables for students eating lunch
- Vegan options for lunches (2)

Staff Support

- Faculty spaces

Improved Bathrooms

- Functional bathrooms
- More privacy in the bathrooms

Open Campus

- Open campus
- Unstructured time