



APRIL 2022

FACILITIES REPORT

A Plan for the Future





SUPERINTENDENT'S message

DEAR RESIDENTS:

Are we educating kids in the space worthy of our Worthington community?

At the beginning of this school year, we celebrated an incredible milestone with the completion of Phase 1 of our Master Facilities Plan. The important work of modernizing our facilities so that we can continue empowering a community of learners who will change the world began in 2016.

This process has always been – and will continue to be – community-led. Over the last six years, various task forces made up of district leaders, staff and community members, have toured our facilities, studied maintenance costs, reviewed enrollment projections, and discussed the impact of not upgrading our buildings. Worthington residents have weighed in through community meetings, surveys and focus groups. All of this has been done with the goal of meeting the long-term needs of our schools.

This work resulted in a bond being passed in 2018, along with an operating levy. The bond allowed us to renovate and add on to our four middle schools. We were able to change our grade configuration so that sixth graders could attend middle school, creating more space at our elementaries.

Phase 2 of this work has now been set in motion. Our Master Facilities Task Force recently made a recommendation to the Board of Education that involves rebuilding Thomas Worthington High School and renovating Worthington Kilbourne High School.

We will need to return to voters to accomplish Phase 2 of our plan. Conversations are underway to determine the most effective and efficient path forward. Phase 3 of our Master Facilities Plan will look at how we can create optimal learning environments at our elementary schools.

There is no better time than now to be embarking on the future of Worthington Schools. Education has changed drastically over the last decade, especially in light of the global pandemic. Students need new skills for success. In fact, a recent study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers found that 83% of employers are looking for employees who have problem-solving and teamwork skills. Creating modern, hands-on learning environments will not only increase student engagement, which is the leading indicator of academic success, but will give our students the skills they need for life beyond high school.

Thank you for joining us in establishing a plan for our future. The best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

TRENT BOWERS • Superintendent

COMMUNITY-LED DECISION MAKING

Charting a successful course for our future requires a lot of work and input from all stakeholders, including students, staff, past, present, and future parents, local businesses, and of course, community members. At every step of the planning process, from our finances to evaluating current facilities to redrawing our school feeder patterns, we have involved our community. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to help us shape the future of our schools.

PHASE 1: MASTER FACILITIES PLAN COMMITTEE

EDUCATIONAL VISIONING TEAM/ED SPECS TEAM

FEEDER PATTERN COMMITTEE

WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY FOR SCHOOLS

PHASE 2: MASTER FACILITIES PLAN COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee made the decision to say if we try to incorporate elementary schools into Phase 2, we're going to shortchange the ability to come back and do the high schools right. We need to put all of our eggs in the basket of high schools because we are going to have one chance to do that really, really well, and it is going to have a lasting impact 25-30 years down the road.

– Phil Hein, Swiminc task force member

It's all about the community. It's all about the students. The committee asked, 'how can we devise a plan that's going to touch as many students and community members as possible?'

– Tori McCloud, Worthington Estates teacher and task force member

AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR Master Facilities Plan



Phase 1

Phase 1 of our Master Facilities Plan was complete in time for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Thanks to our community passing a bond levy in 2018, we were able to renovate and add on to our four middle schools. This allowed us to build capacity for growing enrollment and provide more modern learning environments for students. Phase 1 also involved shifting our sixth grade to our middle school buildings and changing the elementary school feeder pattern to help balance the number of students who attend each high school.



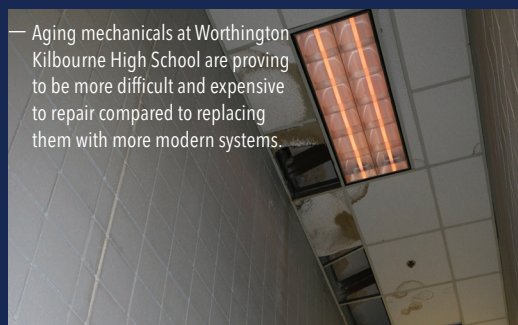
— Hallways get crowded during a class change at Thomas Worthington High School.

Phase 2

A bond issue is planned for the November 2022 ballot to help us realize Phase 2 of our plan, which includes renovating and replacing certain sections of Thomas Worthington High School and renovating Worthington Kilbourne High School. The changes to Thomas Worthington will include creating a larger cafeteria, while also adding and modernizing science labs and other flexible learning spaces. At Worthington Kilbourne, the upgrades will be centered around allowing more natural light into student areas, installing a new roof, and modernizing the heating and cooling systems.



— The first & second floor hallways at TWHS are slanted due to additions completed in the mid-70s and early-90s on the original building which was constructed in 1950.



— Aging mechanicals at Worthington Kilbourne High School are proving to be more difficult and expensive to repair compared to replacing them with more modern systems.



Phase 3

Phase 3 will include renovating and/or replacing our elementary schools. These changes are necessary so that our facilities match the excellence we deliver in academics, arts and athletics, and so that our students can continue receiving the high-quality education they deserve.

FUNDING EXCELLENCE

As we've communicated in recent months, we've been keeping a close eye on our budget. **There are three primary components that are impacting our ability to adequately plan for our future.**

- 1 The Fair School Funding Plan was included in Ohio's latest two-year budget bill, passed in June 2021. The new formula is based on a district's wealth-to-tax ratio and community members' ability to pay. Unfortunately, Worthington Schools will see very little change.
- 2 The district's revenue is expected to flatten this year when the last installment of the levy passed in 2018 is realized.
- 3 Our facility needs continue to grow. We must improve our facilities, many of which are more than 30-years-old, in order to remain competitive and a district of choice in central Ohio.

We pride ourselves on practicing strong fiscal management. We will continue to do our part by stretching the dollars entrusted to us so that we can provide a high-quality education at a good return to taxpayers.



FOLLOW US



@WorthingtonSchools



@worthingtonschools



@wcsdistrict

Middle School students participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony last fall celebrating the opening of our updated middle schools.



**WORTHINGTON
CITY SCHOOLS**

200 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.
Worthington, OH 43085

SCAN THIS QR CODE

Stay up to
date with
our Master
Facilities
Plan work.





APRIL 2022

FACILITIES REPORT

A Plan for the Future

Worthington Schools began the important work of modernizing its facilities in 2016 so that we can continue **empowering a community of learners who will CHANGE THE WORLD.**

PHASE 1 – PAST

- Renovated and expanded four middle schools.
- Paid for through a bond passed by our community in 2018.

PHASE 2 – PRESENT

- Plan includes renovating and replacing sections of Thomas Worthington High School, including enlarging the cafeteria and modernizing science labs and other flexible learning spaces, and renovating and replacing sections of Worthington Kilbourne High School, including bringing in more natural light and updating the roof and heating and cooling system. This project would be funded by a proposed bond issue.
- Worthington Schools is in good financial shape, but a number of factors have us keeping a close eye on our financial future.
- Income to the district is expected to flatten this year and as a result, we are considering an operating levy for November 2022.
- A permanent improvement levy (combined as one vote with the bond issue) would fund repairs and technology updates at all our other buildings, as well as bus and vehicle replacements, and upkeep of district grounds, including athletic fields.

PHASE 3 – FUTURE

- Will look at renovating/replacing our elementary schools.



FACILITIES REPORT

