

# Westgate Elementary PSO Meeting Minutes

Date: October 15, 2024

## District Update: College Place Middle School

- Capital Projects Staff presented college place elementary and middle school construction plans as result of the bond that passed.
- Pre-planning included saving construction costs (\$210M to replace both schools).
- Conducted a feasibility study.
- Are able to replace both schools
- Started in May with architect selection, then design
- Open house forum from 6-7 pm on Oct 16
- District steering committee meetings happening
- More community engagement upcoming
- Will be able to consolidate construction schedule for Westgate when that kicks off - will be able to do a single school in 1 year, unlike College Place, which will be for 2 schools
- College Place Elementary will be offsite for 2 years, Middle will stay where they are, then both schools will go to the new buildings in 2028
- Based on feedback from community, came up with Power Words to drive the concept
- Architects came up with several high-level schematics as part of the design
- No direct connections between schools, but will have shared service area (kitchens, etc.)
- Middle School will be on north of site, with Elementary on south (flipped from current)
- Where middle school is now will be demolished and replaced with a park-like area
- Schools will use vertical space, going up 3 stories for middle school, 2 stories for elementary
- Goal is to retain most/all of the trees on the site
- Dedicated garden space for the elementary school
- Trying to give more areas back to nature
- Big focus on site safety while school is in session

Q: Schools will be operated as separate schools?

A: Kitchens will share staff, which the food services staff felt would offer a better experience, larger kitchen, etc. Similar program to old Woodway/Scriber Lake school.

Q: Mentioned that Middle School will remain in session. How will that work?

A: There will be geo thermal wells drilled in the area near sports field. Middle school will finish first and then students will be able to move into it.

Q: What about middle school sports? Will they still be able to use those facilities?

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A: Talked with athletics and will likely share Edmonds Woodway facilities during construction. When new field is built, will be a turf field, which will allow students to use it right away.

Q: Spatially, how are the plans accommodating the addition of 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

A: Middle will be for 1K students, Elementary will be 550 students.

- Current 2<sup>nd</sup> graders would be the first group moving into middle school at 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Will be more than enough room for students after re-boundary for other schools
- Construction for Westgate will be 2028
- Some discussion about staying on site while new Westgate construction is happening, but not recommended due to safety, noise, space to play, etc. Likely to recommend using Woodway Center as interim site.

Q: Talked about a bunch of different committees to guide this process. How were they selected and how can people get involved?

A: Can get in touch with the project team and can attend design committees. Process for forming committees is to reach out to Principals and ask for recommendations. Might say to just reach out, or give some ideas for who could participate.

Q: For using geothermal, is there a big push to drive to more green construction?

A: There is a tax rebate for geothermal construction. Other rebates for solar, EV charging stations, etc. Current potential rebate is substantial

Q: Is that related to LEAD certification?

A: Not doing LEAD, doing OSPI

Q: For turf fields, will that enable shared use for youth sports?

A: That is an opportunity for rentals, but would need to secure the fields from public use during those times.

Q: When middle school is demolished, what will be put in that area?

A: Described as a park-like setting. Looked at keeping some buildings, but could only be used for storage since due to OSPI funding, they could not be used for instruction. Instead, decided to demolish the building and repurpose the land for community use and potential future use (no current plan).

Any questions, reach out to project team. Email addresses on project website.

## Minutes Approval

- Minutes are all available on website
- Motion to approve, seconded, and approved

## Principal Report

- Thank you for support for the fun run

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- Having celebration of Cultures Event from 6:00 - 7:30, good opportunity for families to participate, share food, music, etc.

## Teacher Liaison Lisa Hamilton

- Thank you for Fun Run support
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is looking to participate in Math Olympiad again this year, have some things to work through in next month, but want to get started in November to prepare for April/May competition
- Trying to get a bus for kids participating in Math Olympiad
- If there were offerings of clubs on same day, would be easier to justify the bus
- Staff would need to be present for alternate clubs, but would not be able to lead, so would need volunteers
- If you have a talent to share with kids, this is an opportunity
- More to come on additional clubs and about the Math Olympiad
- Looking for volunteers for additional clubs

Q: What are the limits for busing and additional clubs

A: Unsure right now. Will not be equitable if there is no bus. If they cannot secure a bus, would have to look at those who need transportation and what the need is. It would likely just be an hour after school. Trying to offer it for everyone.

Q: How can we support this for next steps? How can we communicate back to you to express interest from either kids or our own participation in a club?

A: Best thing right now will be to express which kids are interested. Send PSO email about what you could do and share with the students. Would need to be able to give an hour Tuesday or Wednesday after school and X kids at Y age. Mostly need someone to roughly commit at the moment (a couple of sentences). I can do [activity] with [number of kids] that are [age]. Email [westgatechair@gmail.com](mailto:westgatechair@gmail.com). There is now a robotics club that is very popular.

Q: What is the expectation for a timeline? Commitment for a month? Now until May to align with Math Olympiad?

A: It will come down to what you can commit to. Example: meeting once a month through May, etc.

Q: Is PSO supporting funding for the clubs?

A: Still too new to answer. Robotics team tried to get grants and came to PSO, but the amount required exceeded what PSO could support (plus was not expecting the turnout). Unknown how PSO might support clubs in the future and structure future budgets and fundraising. Might be able to allocate unused funds in the future as well.

Q: What clubs are currently here or have been in the past?

A: There were no clubs in recent past other than Girls on the Run. Other schools start things like chess clubs, which are very easy and cheap, plus not dependent upon weather. Other

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things like garden clubs are harder to pull off because of the space and fund requirements, plus upcoming construction. Robotics clubs are popular. Lego League. Knitting, etc.

## Yearbook Photo Sharing with Dawn

- Last year, when events would happen, would call out for photos
- No easy way to get them, so trying to make it available via a form online that will allow people to share photos from events
- URL: <https://bit.ly/WestgateYearbook>
- Opportunity to get them in the yearbook
- Not all photos will be selected
- Trying to get every child represented in the yearbook at least twice

## Fun Run Recap

- We reached the goal - raised > \$36.6K
- Can also still take donations
- If you work for a company that matches donations, this is a good opportunity to raise more money
- End of day Thursday, Oct 17 fund raising ends
- Thank you for donations and participation
- More students participated, which 99 pledges helped because sign up came with no financial commitment
- Next year, will set up some awards for participation
- Going to send out a brief survey to get feedback from volunteers
- Assembly coming up for the kids to celebrate

## Fall Festival: October 25 6-8 p.m. - Volunteers Needed

Sign Up URL: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C0E45A4A628A5FBC16-52334151-fall>

- We do not have an enrichment chair this year, but have two volunteers that are helping
- Revamped some activities
- Need volunteers for games, find a buddy (also need help with setup and tear down)
- Looking for pumpkins for decoration
- Also need store bought baked goods

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## Wreath Sales

- Got wreath sales site up and running
- For anyone that is going to be buying wreaths, garlands, etc., working with a local Tacoma nursery that will make them all
- More information to come
- They will be picked up at Westgate
- This year, will do a pickup near walking pickup so people can get wreaths when picking kids up, but will still go through 6:00 - 6:30 (one evening)
- Can have other people pick up your stuff if you are not able to make the pickup

## Future Volunteer Opportunities

- Only 6 people on the board
- Need more volunteers, even just for specific events
- Fall Festival, Wreath Sales, etc.
- Please reach out to [westgatechair@gmail.com](mailto:westgatechair@gmail.com)

## Questions, Comments

- Spirit Wear is coming up - website will be communicated within the next week
- Locally owned, women owned business partner for spirit wear - not a major fund raiser
- Focus on spirit wear is for fun and to get Westgate stuff to kids as cheap as possible
- Next meeting is January - please visit Instagram and Facebook
- Club efforts will be communicated through Michelle and on Parent Square (unlikely something will kick off before the new year)