

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 // LISTENING SESSIONS

OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



TowerPinkster
Architecture · Engineering · Interiors



CHRISTMAN
BUILDING SINCE 1894



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INTRODUCTION + SUMMARY

PROCESS

In an effort to make sure that all staff members, community members, students, and other Okemos Public Schools stakeholders are heard, the following Listening Sessions were held:

Listening Session #1

December 9, 2021, 3:00 via Zoom

Listening Session #2

December 9, 2021, 4:10 via Zoom

Listening Session #3

December 14, 2021, 9:30-11:00 am (Admin Building)

Listening Session #4

December 14, 2021, 1:30-2:30 pm (Okemos Community Education / Edgewood)

Listening Session #5

December 14, 2021, 3:15-4:00 pm (Meridian Senior Center)

Listening Session #6

January 12, 2022, 6:00-7:00 pm (Zoom)

Listening Session #7

January 13, 2022, 7:00-8:00 pm (Zoom)

Listening Session #8

February 8, 2022, 3:00-4:00 pm (Okemos High School)

At the conclusion of each of these meetings, all attendees were invited to email ideas/lists with Building or Department name to: mbland@towerpinkster.com

Additionally, representatives from TowerPinkster, The Christman Company, and Okemos Public Schools toured school facilities to engage underrepresented staff in the Listening Sessions.

The feedback shared during these sessions is summarized in this document.



INTRODUCTION + SUMMARY

SUMMARY

Participants were invited to attend from across the community. In addition, employees and former employees with specific historic or programmatic knowledge were personally invited to sessions so their expertise could be captured.

The following are themes that emerged from the Listening Sessions. Some items voiced by the community were also identified in the district's Facilities Assessments. These projects have been identified with an asterisk [*].

Elementary Schools [Feedback consistent at each school]

- Need Much More Space [Elementaries Are Over Capacity]
- Need Small Group Rooms, Itinerant Offices, Bathrooms
- Need New Student Furniture
- Address Traffic Flow + Car Drop Off Lines [Safety + Capacity]*
- Replace Playgrounds, Casework, Carpet, Ceiling Tiles, HVAC, Lighting*
- Desire Permanent Walls Between Classrooms for Acoustics*

Chippewa + Kinawa Middle Schools

- Need New Student Furniture
- Cafeteria Not Big Enough
- Many Classrooms Without Windows
- Pool Needs to be Filled In
- Need Small Group Rooms, Itinerant
- Offices, Bathrooms
- Address Traffic Flow + Car Drop*
- Off Lines [Safety + Capacity]*
- Replace Playgrounds, Casework, Carpet, Ceiling Tiles, HVAC, Lighting*
- Concrete Heaving, Accessibility Concerns*

Okemos High School

- Need New Student Furniture
- Need Additional Pool Space [More Lanes + Diving]
- Need Larger Fine Arts Spaces [More Capacity for Band, Orchestra, Choir]
- Need Additional Athletic Spaces [Kids Practicing Until 10:00pm]
- Athletic Fields Need Drainage + Restrooms*
- Tennis Court Needs to be Redone*



INTRODUCTION + SUMMARY

Central Office Building + Montessori

- Need New Student Furniture
- Need Much More Space [Elementaries are Over Capacity]
- Need Small Group Rooms, Itinerant Offices, Bathrooms
- Address Traffic Flow + Car Drop Off Lines [Safety + Capacity]*
- Replace Playgrounds, Casework, Carpet, Ceiling Tiles, HVAC, Lighting*
- Need to Address Accessibility to Board Room And Multi-Level Offices*

Childcare + Senior Center

- Large Gross Motor Skills Areas
- Food / Nutrition spaces are needed
- Direct outdoor access for safety and activities
- Safe, Easy access and proximate parking

Athletics

- New Indoor Athletic Facility for Multiple Sports & Band
- New Pool Facility
- New Baseball and Softball Fields
- Replace Tennis Courts
- Replace Soccer and Football Bleachers, Press Box and Storage
- Move/Upgrade Field Events

Performing Arts

- New Indoor Athletic Facility for Multiple Sports & Band
- Storage space needed for all Performing Arts
- HS auditorium is not right-sized for number of students

Non - Building Specific Themes

- New Indoor Athletic Facility for Multiple Sports & Band
- Sustainability and Incorporate Energy Efficiency - Be a Leader
- Outdoor Connectivity + Daylighting
- Secure Vestibules throughout
- Health and Wellness
- DEI - Accessible and Inclusive for all



01

**EDGEWOOD
EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER**

01 EDGEWOOD ECC

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- New lighting that is fluorescent for visually-impaired children... LED lighting with dimmers are needed
- Different sections of the room with different lighting controls for infant rooms
- Different A/C/Controlled environments for little children vs. student-age children
- Security/interior locks
- Competitors have interior centralized spaces for large motor spaces (up to 4.5 years) for poor weather days. Interior recess space.
- New builds have interior/exterior sliding doors that allow access to specific playgrounds. [Toddlers need to be separated with right-sized play equipment].
- Life skills space for cooking (kitchen)
- Need a dedicated space
- Before/aftercare rooms need to hold up to 75 kids in one space (all K-4's, 5-8 is at Kinawa)
- Bulldoze this building! Built in 1967.
- Toilet issues, water quality, asbestos
- Better water quality/filtration
- Other daycare centers have camera to monitor children... ?
- Access to computers/STEM lab for children/lightboard wall
- Before/aftercare at Central has no running water and bathrooms are far (because it is hosted in upper gym)
- Cornell and Bennett Woods doesn't have running water for program (no access to kitchen)
- Before/Aftercare space needs kitchenette/office space. Every program needs a fridge.
- Flexible space to transform from school to before/after school space
- Multipurpose tables/furniture
- Younger students (1-2yr olds) need to be closer to the gym to mitigate running off
- Industrial laundry facility and dishwashers for sanitize toys & silverware
- Connect with Christina (food service) about having a kitchen on-site.
- Multipurpose room with cracks needs to be fixed.
- Phone / alarm in multipurpose room
- Proper outdoor lighting, lighted parking and walkways all around building (clientele is here 7am-6pm) (for all schools with Before/Aftercare).
- Flooring for preschool classrooms should be durable, cushiony material for if/when children fall. Used at Big Brothers Big Sisters
- For children learning to potty-train, 2 toilets per classroom.
- 13 classrooms ranging from infant to 13yo
- Occupancy of student age children ramps up at school break times (holidays, summer)
- Composting/green space for outdoor learning
- Carpet to be replaced with tile
- Short counters and toilets
- Stay colorful
- Interior locks / secure
- Childproof and baby proof
- Gross motor room for toddlers
- Sensory room for EC/SE kids
- Bathrooms need to be updated

02

**CORNELL
ELEMENTARY**

02 CORNELL ELEMENTARY

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- One of oldest buildings in district
- Running out of room like crazy. Aides working in closets. No room for staff to meet. Childcare occupies gym and cafeteria after school.
- Two staff restrooms, need more. Grown out of its needs
- Car lines are a huge issue.
- Covered carline & bus line for weather issues
- Unlocked doors for childcare.
- Dreaming big - solar panels (St. Johns has this) double as coverage for carline
- The building is charming.
- The resource room is currently in a corner of the room. Hard to ask students to work/focus in those conditions. Space is an issue at all elementary schools.
- Need staff restrooms
- Need additional classrooms
- Need office spaces and clam spots for breakout space
- Need at least 1 conference room [2 preferable]
- Need longer drive for car lines
- Need a Multipurpose rooms for all staff
- Need a secure main entrance
- Cornell specifically is a problem area for traffic
- Problem areas - smaller drop offs - Cornell and Kinawa as well
- Cornell could be demolished and moved back away from the road to help solve car lines
- Dated exterior and playground looks run down
- Special education room is not meeting student needs
- Outside eating area needed
- Aging furniture
- Lunchroom lines take too long
- Support staff meet in closets
- Dreaming big would be a stage type of area so that large groups can see presentations
- This building has a history of mold issues
- Need meeting spaces for team of teachers to work perhaps grade level offices,
- Roof/window leaking and rodents are an issue
- Lack of staff bathrooms (only 2 single use bathrooms for 50 staff members)
- One toilet chronically leaking
- Grate in bathroom is rusty, safety concern
- Partial fence on side of parking lot/playground, safety concern
- Student support coordinator sharing a space with COVID isolation
- OT/PT don't have space, so offices have to be shared
- Cramped spaces leads to injuries and trouble in the hallways
- Distancing not possible to happen in building
- Heating and cooling is not the same as classrooms in offices



02 CORNELL ELEMENTARY

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Size of Cornell feels exceptionally small compared to how many students / staff are in the building
- No bathroom in the main office/sick room
- Access concern throughout the building
- Small rooms that have been constantly changed into other formats
- Unintentional ponding/holes on playground
- Drainage issues on playground
- Nature Center on playground is not used, overgrown, safety issue
- Teacher workroom has been eaten up by office and library learning lab
- Small workspaces (limited to two people)
- Only 2 staff restrooms
- Additional classrooms
- Aides pulling students in the hallway
- Additional office spaces and “calm spots”
- At least one conference room
- Carline improvements with longer drive
- No space for all-school assembly
- Additional staff bathrooms - 2 restrooms for 60 staff currently
- Additional classrooms (at least 7)
- Additional offices and smaller rooms with appropriate environments (for break rooms/sensory rooms/staff needs)
- Conference rooms (at least 2)
- Carline improvements - longer drive available for cars coming off of Cornell Road
- Assembly/multipurpose room
- Secured main entrance - having to enter the office
- Larger main office for separate sick room and the ability to be dismissed to parents from another entrance



03

**BENNETT WOODS
ELEMENTARY**

03 BENNETT WOODS ELEMENTARY

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Ceiling tiles need to be repaired
- Special education classrooms could be addressed
- Secure entrance
- Many exterior doors
- More offices needed
- Cafeteria is fine (for 5 lunches) [all elementaries currently do 5]
- Space dedicated for staff to use for collaboration, but also relax.



04 HIAWATHA ELEMENTARY



04 HIAWATHA ELEMENTARY

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Not enough office space for aides to pull students. Shared at Hiawatha. Does not have one at Bennett. Not great for students who need privacy.
- Casework needs repair (doors falling off)
- Carpet cleaning, new carpet? Mold issues?
- Secure gates not currently usable when events are happening in the gym
- Sky lights in the hallways
- More learning spaces both small group
- More multipurpose rooms
- More office spaces
- ELL - 3 teachers to one classroom makes it difficult for students to focus. Not enough outlets. Cubbies made it hard to use space effectively.
- We have technology needs. Teachers desks have to be in a certain area of the room, based on technology connection point.
- Having options for teachers to choose from (teacher desk, table, etc) and nice office chairs would be very much appreciated!
- Process is huge in terms of getting teach input throughout bond process. On the front lines, we wish we would have been involved in design/layout. Current, new layout does not work well for boys bathrooms. Teachers are able to catch those things.
- Quality of materials is important. Kids should not be able to mess with them. Metal doors are already bent.
- Childcare entrance would be helpful to have a way to buzz the door not free access.
- Flexible furniture - is this addressed in the 2019 bond or 2022? We would like to touch every room with new furniture. Only some classrooms were touched initially.



05

**WARDCLIFF
ELEMENTARY**

05 WARDCLIFF ELEMENTARY

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Could Wardcliff become Senior Center? Not ideal. It is on the outskirts of town and closer to East Lansing which has their own senior center.
- Could Wardcliff be renovated, reopened, or expanded?
- Can we build new facility on site?



06

**OKEMOS PUBLIC
MONTESSORI
AT CENTRAL /
CENTRAL OFFICE
BUILDING**

06 OKEMOS PUBLIC MONTESSORI AT CENTRAL

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Will this school be rebuilt? Or renovated as is?
- Program has been at three different sites.
- Space is always an issue.
- Children need a lot of floor space and group space. Well-design storage space needed.
- When we were at Edgewood, each classroom had a bathroom... it was nice for students to be able to use them independently.
- Tech carts take up space.
- All class sizes need to be addressed.
- All elementary schools need more room, specifically floor space for the Montessori. They also need table space.
- I think the 3-5 year olds at OPM @ Central should have their own bathrooms- in their rooms- not all have them
- Layout of building is important for how classrooms connect to each other.
- Central hub between classrooms.
- Should cafeteria and playgrounds be closer? The long distance is challenging.
- Yes, all 4 pre-primary/kindergarten classrooms at Central need bathrooms in the classroom
- Lockers are rusty which gets on student's items. They are shared which is an issue for lice, etc.
- Cafeteria wall paint is falling off and chipping, possible mold, etc
- Small group and common area spaces are needed for all classrooms.
- Flexible seating and new furniture
- Car line route and demarcation, no busses are used for Montessori. Need 2 car lines.
- Playground fencing needed to keep community out during day and signage needed to deter
- Staff bathroom needs work
- Ceiling tiles need replacement
- Lighting upgrade in common workplaces
- PK at OPM at Central - some of the three and four year olds cannot physically reach the sinks/ toilets
- 3 and 4 year olds are with kindergartners. Early childcare is needed and better access to restrooms.
- Cafeteria and playground too far apart.
- OPM @ Central also has unlocked doors so parents can enter for childcare- giving them access to the whole building
- Begindergarten at Central needs a bathroom in the classroom. It would also be nice to have a carpet and tile section in our classroom. We currently have a coatroom. We need lockers.
- Why not use some of the space behind the building?
- Carpet caused allergies in an office.
- Growth of white stuff on walls in winter.
- Mushrooms growing on walls in an office.
- Ceiling tiles
- Spaces aren't meant for Montessori
- No lockable office
- Cafeteria ceiling is peeling
- Bathrooms and paint
- Carline is in 2 concurrently
- Safer entrance, less effort to get to front office
- Currently holding staff meetings in library
- 2 ASD rooms. Not set up for that. No playground to support those classrooms.

06 OKEMOS PUBLIC MONTESSORI AT CENTRAL

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded... (Cont.)

- Even new A/C is not consistent
- No heat in the principal office
- Child is Hemaplegiac and needs to park and walk through traffic car line. Concrete and asphalt in disrepair. Need a safe way to park and walk in
- Daughter needs an all-kids playground like Dewitt
- Students in wheelchairs need ways to navigate around playgrounds, ADA landscape surfacing
- There are a lot of parents that have not been in the buildings [COVID]. It would help to have parents through the buildings to give input.
- Need outdoor classrooms for writing & science
- All buildings should have a Sensory Room for calming and/or built in Sensory Break pathways for kids to participate in to take breaks. This is good for all students not just those with Autism, ADHD, etc
- Soft learning spaces for connecting and less sitting in a hard chair/desk feel. Large open area in the middle schools to be used for learning with comfortable seating



06 CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- More office spaces for additional support staff (social workers, counselors, etc.)
- Using same space for multiple purposes
- Accessibility (elevator)
- Window covering replacement
- Get administration on one floor
- Collaborative space. Lots of whiteboards. Color. Flexibility.
- Gender neutral bathrooms
- Secure entrances
- Separate administration building?
- Reflect learning and students and artwork. Professional yet “educational”.
- Planned storage for ALL buildings
- Car line is an issue
- Finance staff desperately need new office furniture, including lockable filing cabinets, that is more modern and functional based on current utilization. We need more electrical outlets as well that are located strategically with the furniture so we don't have cords running all over the place. The temperature of the window in the payroll office actually gets close to 100+ degrees during the summer when the sun shines on it. Operations has tried many things over the years but solutions have not been found as of yet. The heating/cooling between one floor and another is not consistent. In fact, the temperature on the same floor but opposite sides of the hall wall can be at extreme opposites. It would be nice to have some fix for that.
- My office in particular needs to have the door moved as I cannot see the main doorway coming into the business office. When I'm the only one here I have no idea when someone comes in. This may be able to be fixed through strategic placement of office furniture. However, my desk can't be located near the windows in my office because there is a fly problem and there is no way I am moving closer to where they congregate in the afternoon (unfortunately I'm not joking).
- These issues may be all of central office, but I can't speak for others so copied the various building leaders on this email in case other areas should be added to the list for consideration.



07 KINAWA 5-6 SCHOOL



07 KINAWA 5-6 SCHOOL

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- School does not have space to grow.
- Science labs for all teachers. Only one science lab for Montessori that is a previous art room.
- Access to outside is needed. Playground is not used by 5/6th students. Playground areas needed for all students.
- Lockers - there are not enough for students and they are small. In both music hallways, they are lined with tables of kid's instruments.
- Only 2 Montessori bathrooms.
- Lunchroom not big enough for all students.
- Many classrooms were designed to be shared classrooms, shared walls are falling off their tracks.
- Many classrooms without windows. Could every classroom have windows?
- Music room needs to be soundproofed. Cannot house all students in the auditorium.
- Could childcare have a separate entry to improve sense of security?
- HS/MS kids can come in school directly without security check
- Car line absolutely needs to be addressed
- Pool needs to be better utilized.
- All science teachers should have science classrooms. We are also crowded and the technology teacher has to use one of our only 2 science labs for 6th grade.
- The walls need to be sound proofed. The neighboring classrooms can be heard through the walls, not ideal when your class is quiet and trying to concentrate such as during assessments.
- Ergonomic chairs for all students would be fabulous
- Parking is an issue. Are we talking into account the busy roads around us?
- Safety and security - could you buzz parents in to improve safety.
- Secure vestibules would be nice. Keycard access is not reliable.
- Edgewood does not have automatic locks.
- Want 400 student Cafeteria
- More storage
- Additional office spaces
- Age-appropriate playground for 5/6th grade, basketball court
- Large space for staff meeting
- Updated bathrooms
- Carline route - reconfigure. Staff only parking.
- Additional cameras
- Electronic locks
- Secure entry
- Sensory rooms
- Basketball hoops in gym
- Science lab rooms
- Ability to secure sections of building
- Montessori integration
- Windows are old
- Updating carpet, ceiling tiles
- Leaky roof
- Modernize building, energy efficient
- Outdoor amphitheater (500)
- No space for all-school assembly (space for 800)
- Seats in auditorium are original (1968)
- Camera/PA system throughout the building
- Color, color-coding of areas
- Climate control
- Fill pool in (not with water) and make auxiliary gymnasium
- Lockers
- Band and orchestra lockers should be large enough to house all the instruments
- Solid walls between classrooms (sound proofing)
- Larger Cafeteria - space for approximately 400 students
- Outdoor education area
- Covered outdoor lunch space

07 KINAWA 5-6 SCHOOL

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded... (Cont.)

- Enhance the learning environment- Color coding hallways and learning spaces
- New doors (backstage doors across from choir room) and locks for the auditorium
- New chairs/seating in the auditorium
- Better electrical outlets - ones that don't move when you plug things in and out
- P.A system
- Fire and alarm system
- Upgraded Camera system throughout the building
- Bathrooms in all Basic Classrooms
- Foods Lab space- Updated - ovens, storages, Kitchen utensils, etc
- Signage throughout the building-Storage locations throughout the building
- Additional office spaces
- Playground area (accessible to all students & age appropriate)
- Tennis Courts redone
- Add Basketball court outside possibly attached to tennis court
- Out building for storage
- Flexible seating for all classrooms
- Large space for staff meetings- Multi purpose large room space
- Additional conference room space
- All bathrooms updated - only some have been
- Reconfigure car line route
- Staff only parking location (covered?)
- Additional Cameras throughout the building
- All doors with electronic locks
- Secured entry at main entrance- revamped so people must go to office prior to having access to rest of the building
- Sensory rooms
- Push button/key Basketball hoop operation system



- Dividing Curtain in the Gymnasium
- Science Lab Rooms for all Science Teachers
- Ability to secure rest of the building when evening events are going on in Gymnasium or Auditorium
- Montessori shouldn't feel so separate from the rest of the building
- Montessori should have room to grow (we all should)
- More space in Montessori classrooms for students to do rug work & more shelving for our materials
- Classrooms should have windows
- Auditorium should be updated to hold all of our students
- Classrooms should be able to fix their own thermostats - updated heating/cooling units - air filters, etc... reduce mold, moisture in building - dehumidifier
- Check carpet needs - how are they looking in classrooms? Offices?
- Floor trim
- A large group room (not the kiva) - used to have one at Chippewa where students could go together and work - had staff meetings there...
- New ceiling tiles - or new ceiling structure - many are water-damaged, moldy, warped
- Fix water damage from room leaking

07 KINAWA 5-6 SCHOOL

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded... (Cont)

- Modernize building to 2020s...storage, classroom sizes, energy efficient
- Landscaping - remove old trees/shrubs, plant flowers
- Modernize windows/outside decor/colors
- Make an amphitheater - outdoor education for approximately 500 / 800 for all staff and students (wish list)
- Fresh paint on all walls - not the kind of paint that peels off of walls (or make better walls that hold paint) in a soothing, relaxing color to
- Dedicated Before and aftercare space
- Fitness Center for Staff
- Updated Kitchen space for our food service space
- Receiving area/loading dock updated
- Kinawa student bathroom renovations needed
- Aesthetics of Kinawa and Chippewa are not attractive
- Kinawa has the garden and could be used for native plants, etc like Shiloh suggested. Other schools could do this as well. Good environmental lessons as well (pollinators, importance of native plants vs invasive, and more



08 CHIPPEWA 7-8 SCHOOL



08 CHIPPEWA 7-8 SCHOOL

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Brown water after a long weekend. Due to iron pipes.
- Roof is in bad shape.
- Issues in the fine-arts wing.
- Safety features: doors not locking and more keyed entries are needed.
- Limited space.
- Science classrooms are very outdated.
- Special education rooms may need to be relocated. More special ed spaces and safe rooms are needed. Individual classrooms are colorful and bright and flexible seating is used, but there needs to be more.
- Noise is an issue in classrooms.
- Smart boards / monitors in front and back of classrooms are needed.
- Timeout rooms. Zen Den, quiet, calming spaces.
- Staff needs the same spaces to relax.
- Timeout rooms need to be padded.
- Special ed rooms need sink and separate bathrooms.
- There is no overhead sound in special ed rooms and C wing.
- Middle school track. It would be nice to host sports at the middle school instead of high school. Would also allow more events to go on concurrently.
- Maintenance plan for roof and other updates.
- You can hear what the other classrooms are doing due to old operable partition walls.
- I forgot to mention that the sound system in my room is crackly / buzzy. Tech tried to fix it but said it was not possible. I think this may be a concern in some other rooms.
- Out of room, full to brim for students. 7th-grade sciences rooms are largest, but still not enough.
- Doubling up on electives being in the same classrooms.
- Special Ed, bathrooms within classrooms district-wide
- Flexible spaces
- Electives (3-D printing at Chippewa, engineering at high school)
- Strapped for space, dedicated/flexible spaces needed with adequate electrical infrastructure
- Retrofitted tech lab for electrical (via grant)
- Science lab with sinks needed for classes like forensics
- Sinks located above electrical plugs
- Unsolicited water feature [roof issue] after snow
- How many times can you renovate schools before its time to build new?
- Aesthetics of Kinawa and Chippewa are not attractive
- Outdoor learning/eating spaces
- Cafeteria with garage opening
- Staff collaboration spaces
- Science labs need renovated and updated
- Need another lab or 2
- Bathrooms/sensory room for high needs students
- Solid walls instead of partitions
- Additional space for band & orchestra lockers
- Student lockers
- Auditorium could be torn down and rebuilt
- Some spaces have rusty water (iron pipes)
- Carpet, paint, roofs, ceiling tiles
- Handicap parking, closer parking to gym
- Signage and renumbering doors
- Track renovation including press box, concessions and bleachers
- Unit ventilators are very loud
- Fencing around fields and track
- Two gyms need to be renovated
- Some rooms still need A/C
- Fitness center
- Football equipment storage spaces
- Outdoor facility/ locker rooms

09 OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL



09 OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Security: Key-card access at the high school.
- Sometimes classrooms have to be locked by hand.
- Non-functioning greenhouse. Watering systems do not work. Windows do not close.
- Heating cooling does not work well in the science wing.
- Fume hoods not working in the science area.
- Offices and classroom square footage does not satisfy OSHA fire code for school and lab space. Danielle to provide more info via John Hood.
- Way too overcrowded. Students don't have enough room to eat lunch.
- I feel like this high school was built for 1000 students and we are too big for what we have
- High school storage is issue for athletics storage. Security is an issue for said storage.
- Women's locker rooms: Group shower room is not being used.
- Gender-free / changing rooms need to be addressed.
- Weight room is not big enough.
- No room in between tennis courts. Fences are an issue to access other courts.
- Softball sits in a "swamp". No sound system for softball or baseball. Tiny storage and set of bleachers. Also no concessions/restroom facilities. Poor accessibility for senior community and people with wheelchairs/ disabilities.
- High school is tired.
- Storage for instruments needs to be improved. Way too small district-wide.
- Students on the spectrum: sensory inclusion rooms in all district buildings. ASD programming is present in high school
- Even if we were to hire more teachers, there is not room for them.
- Each time she does a lab, she has to ask students to move due to overcrowding. Desks are really close together and not flexible for group conversations. True for all science classrooms. Modular furniture demo was too big for classroom size with 30 kids. Cut into lab space. Address the number of people in the room.
- Sound is not working well in
- New square footage for band and orchestra ensemble rooms
- Redesign main entrance
- Redesign student entrances
- Ability to secure building during events
- Cafeteria too small
- Auditorium for 1500
- Main office expanded to accommodate staff and counseling
- Storage
- Fortifying Anti Rooms in Classrooms for lockdown
- Reconfigure staff parking and bus loop so not necessary to cross through
- Flexible furniture
- Add and expand seating at stadium



09 OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded... *(Cont.)*

- Improve everything at the stadium, concessions, toilets, press box, etc
- Reconfigure parking lots
- Athletics office needs a home
- Redesign science labs
- Expanded weight room
- Expanded band rooms
- Covered outdoor spaces for lunch
- More seating on the patio
- New heating/cooling
- PA system
- New fire/alarm system
- Expand counseling offices
- Ability to lock bathrooms
- Reconfigure gym lobby
- Replace hall carpet with tile
- Additional staff restrooms
- Break/timeout/in-school suspension with bathroom
- True ASD classroom space
- Signage across office
- HS student - heating system - many variable temperatures



10

**DISTRICT
ATHLETICS**

10 DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Secured entrances need at all facilities
- More practice space so kids aren't practicing until 10:00pm
- Golf Simulator
- Multipurpose facility (indoor practice facility for all sports, year-round)
- Reconfigure bleachers with storage
- More locker rooms/bathroom spaces and coaches office at stadium
- Video rooms
- Space that shows success / hall of fame type space, secured trophy spaces
- Kinawa/Chippewa spaces for more fields to host tournaments
- Aux gym
- Updated digital signage/PA at all fields
- Secure entrances at all fields
- Move track and softball someplace else
- Feeling like facilities are a complex
- Football bleachers more intentional instead of rusty scaffolding
- Fencing and security - need secure entrances
- Clear video surveillance
- Pool - competition, dive well, water polo
- 3 wood basketball floors - 2 practice, one competition [at HS site]
- New locker rooms
- Video rooms
- Storage for teams
- Indoor practice facility - turf field, batting cages, multipurpose
- Hall of Fame or Ring of Honor space
- Signage / PA system / digital signage

OUTDOOR STADIUM / TRACK

- Entrance revamped, locker rooms, storage and multipurpose rooms
- Move the track pits
- Storage
- New bleachers and press box
- Tennis complex
- Kids space at fitness center
- Track updated
- Track unusable at Chippewa Middle School.
- Pressbox looks like it could be blown over.
- Stands are a liability.
- Sometimes uses high school but becomes issue with schedules.
- HS athletics needs its own concessions, not through Cafe, with spaces to eat. Need ability to isolate learning areas from athletic areas.
- Pole vault needs new runway running east-west based on wind direction
- Need a mat storage space that is dry, pole vault equipment is getting ruined
- Want an indoor pole vault opportunity somewhere in the district
- Move shot put out of the swale. Coach has a drawing she will share with AD

POOL

- Pool is too small
- Most schools have a pool large enough to hold diving and swimming competitions at same time
- Ideally want one three meter board and two one meter boards
- Outdated, very small. Capabilities are limiting. 6 lanes. Strong aquatics program cannot fit in the pool. Coaching practice 8-9pm to fit everyone in. Can't host dual meets. Urban myth about lanes. 6 lanes doesn't cut it. 8 lanes minimum.
- Would benefit the entire community. There isn't room for parents and spectators to sit.
- 8-lane minimum, competition pool.

10 DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

[Cont.]

POOL

- Locker rooms are not sufficient.
- Less toward competition pool but more important to be community-inclusive. Community entrance that can be separate from school. Community has best involvement in area for aquatics, a facility should reflect and accommodate that.
- Space for swim lessons year-round is needed. Senior programs/aerobics.
- Water polo uses East Lansing, diving program runs out of Haslett.
- Pool updates can't be made in existing space, should it become a multipurpose space? It will cost money to do it the right way.
- Community pool is big-ticket item. Vision - if the community wants it, as many people can have access to it as possible.
- Storage and space is an issue for all sports.
- Current pool room could be modified for something else [other sports?] Artificial turf?
- Phased approach?
- Swim lessons, aerobic, physical therapy, etc.
- School could generate funds from pool.
- Need deck space for 4 rows of athletes with tip & roll bleachers on 2 sides
- Want a warm water 4 lane pool for water aerobics and community
- Want a full-stretch 50 yard pool like East Kentwood, Lake Orion, and Hudsonville
- Grand Ledge is building a new pool, how big are they building?
- Need new locker rooms
- New pool could be build anywhere in district
- TowerPinkster just bid Kalamazoo College Natatorium [8 competitive lanes 3 warm up lanes. dive well] Stand Alone Facility for \$16.2m bid in 2019. Coaches have been there and like it, although it is not a full stretch and doesn't have a warm water pool, but that could be added later

TENNIS

- Okemos is a national center for tennis
- Try to keep tennis on High School site
- Need water at tennis courts
- Want tennis courts at Elementary sites for Community use
- 12 courts at High School need to be replaced
- Could Tennis at Kinawa rebuilt into hoops and community resources

SOFTBALL

- New softball field (underwater)
- New softball field
- Need a second field, ideally quad field setup somewhere in district (will not fit on HS site)
- Softball has to move, it is a pond!
- Need a place to practice in the winter with multiple batting cages
- Softball needs a bathroom

BASEBALL

- New baseball field
- Need a second field, ideally quad field setup somewhere in district (will not fit on HS site)
- Look at Detroit Catholic Central in Novi for example
- Current field location is beautiful
- Need a place to practice in the winter with multiple batting cages
- Want a turf field with lights would be amazing
- Need Concessions
- Need ADA Compliance

11

**PERFORMING
ARTS**

11 PERFORMING ARTS

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Need extra stage, practice space, black box theater
- Current Auditorium is 750 seats for 1500 students
- Need a seating replacement
- Chippewa needs seating and lighting
- 2D/3D Art
- Need new tables and stools
- Need a Pug Mill - Clay recycle machine
- Need a new Slab Roller for clay
- Need a Department Office as the office is being used for photography storage
- Need a flooring and countertop replacement



12 TECHNOLOGY

12 TECHNOLOGY

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Need a New building
 - Need a resilient Data Center/head-end
 - Correct flooring, correct fire suppression, air, humidity [detection on all]
 - Backup generator
 - Free cooling & airflow from the building
 - Redundant power connections from different providers
 - Redundant network[Fiber] from other providers
 - Need a redundancy/backup/disaster recovery site (room)
- Need backup Fibre in a backward direction for disaster – Data center down, backup DC takes over
- Secure switch closets (physical and internal)
- Secure room for Fiber into buildings
- New security systems
 - Cameras
 - Doors
 - Tie into PA system and audio
- Cable management in building not being demolished
- New boardroom tech
 - Support board meetings
 - High-end tech for meetings
 - Stream live or not
 - Telecaster upgrades
 - Crestron, large monitor(s) 90+ or multi in a square [4 with small bezels]
- New conference rooms in each building
 - Tech in each to match [lower amount] to Main Board room tech

13

**MERIDIAN SENIOR
CENTER**

14 MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Upcoming millage in August 2022 for Operations/ Parks and Rec. School pays for facility.
- Overhang icicle problem
- New Windows (they leak)
- Concrete is heaving / uneven at entry
- Lights at coat area
- New windows promised in the past bond, did not happen.
- Uneven concrete caused accident at entry, broken and uneven at front of the school
- Space needs to be accessible
- Daylight
- Ability to control HVAC separate from the school. Current HVAC leaks and is LOUD.
- Replace floor registers with roof unit? Have same air-purification systems that were installed in schools during COVID.
- Remote system for locked door/entry.
- Sensor / fob system for member entry
- Door threshold hard to get wheelchair over at entry
- More classrooms
- Programming is limited with only one classroom (makeshift space in multipurpose room)
- Quiet space needed for board meetings
- Self-enclosed (no shared space with school)
- Restrooms need to be remodeled
- Kitchen needs to be remodeled
- Numbers are down due to COVID. But could increase with Baby Boomers retiring. More research could be done to anticipate those numbers.
- A gym with an indoor pickleball court
- A full kitchen to prepare licensed meals out of rather than trucking it in.
- Shuffleboard in the courtyard,
- Park with bright green bridge: outdoor exercise equipment. Could we have some here?
- Parking closer to the front door. Extra parking.
- Safer carline/operations so seniors and school traffic don't mix.
- Wardcliff?? Not ideal for Senior Center. Outskirts of town. Closer to East Lansing which has their own senior center.
- More natural light in Senior Center
- Senior Center - Concrete at entrances are heaving and need lasting repair
- Improved access to the Senior Center from parking. It is currently a long distance from non-handicapped parking. Ideally the senior center should have more external visibility.



14

DISTRICT-WIDE



15 DISTRICT-WIDE

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

- Consider that parents have never been in buildings during COVID / social distancing
- Consider turf, low maintenance, etc
- Consider outdoor spaces, especially during COVID, like East Lansing
- Casework, carpet, tile throughout district
- Electrical outlet access
- Need dedicated before and after care rooms, district wide
- Creative, relaxing designated staff space in every building (more than a lounge) Competitive market for staff. Make it attractive to current and potential staff.
- Wish list: Diet coke machine. Peletons?!
- Open spaces/lounge chairs for lounge
- Mothers room at all buildings!
- Gender neutral bathrooms
- Consistent signage /branding at all buildings
- Hallways as learning spaces (Forest Hills?)
- All four elementaries need full, on-site kitchens.
- No more satellite kitchens (need cooking kitchens)
- Update Kinawa, Chippewa, high school kitchens.
- Serving line space is limited at Bennett Woods
- Food lines need to move faster than 15 minutes. 10 minutes?
- Fewer lunches with extended period of time for K-4?
- Receiving areas for food delivery and storage are needed at all schools, especially high school
- New monument marquee signs at building entrances
- Landscape design: less grass to maintain
- Identifiable front entrance
- Court spaces (aux gym?)
- Fine arts: lighting, curtains need to be updated.
- Esports??
- Youth sports dedicated to middle schools. High school stays high school.
- STEM spaces/vocational training spaces
- Elementary schools are tight. Square foot per student.
- Separate entrances for before/after school childcare at ALL schools
- All buildings need designated staff parking that parents don't use.
- Secure Vestibules are needed throughout all buildings.
- Too little light in American schools. More natural light in European schools. Please pay attention to natural light in new and renovated buildings
- Limit the color red and spaces where children learn
- Landscape can help to enhance outdoor classrooms for children, sciences
- We need to be thinking about green initiatives
 - Community engagement
 - Electric car plugs
- Main entryways/student entryways heated (snow melt)
- Sprinklers needed at all schools (currently only athletics)
- Retention ponds need landscaping at high school, Bennett Woods
- Small spaces are not equipped with ionization
- Daylighting, modernization to buildings that will be renovated
- Transportation:
 - Above-ground tanks, fuel storage
 - Canopy over busses?
 - Snow melt under busses? (Drivers slip and fall)
 - Solar panels on top of a structure that the buses park under
 - Pavement gets indented, oil eats it away (should we use cement)
 - Rusty around bottom of building
 - Maintenance-free landscaping
 - ADA Compliance parking in relation to building
 - Need more space, build out from present entrance

15 DISTRICT-WIDE

Listening Session Feedback as Recorded...

[Cont.]

- Love to see all-encompassing landscape plan such as ideas presented in “Asphalt to Ecosystems: Design Ideas for Schoolyard Transformation” by Sharon Gamson Danks to build in more nature-based experiential outdoor classroom learning that improves holistic health outcomes for the whole community.
- Eco-machine please: <https://www.toddecological.com/projects>
- <https://www.childrenandnature.org/schools/>
- <https://www.outdoorclassroomproject.org/>
- Be cognizant of the environmental impact of materials, low VOC, hazards
- Central path to Ferguson Park, near the river that floods is neglected. Would be great if kids could access park from that path again.
- Native plants, bee hives, bird houses, gardens, etc
- Traffic flows around all buildings (existing and new) In the past it was designed more weighted to buses than present day.
- Be sure to evaluate the cost benefit of renovating 60 yr old buildings vs new construction
- Should include flexible classroom design to allow adaptability to future educational methodology changes.
- Capacity issues. Need to look at future expandability and capabilities, room for growth.
- Along with heat and larger windows, I'd suggest considering adjustable window coverings that can help with glares, excess heat when in direct sunlight, etc.
- Is there a benefit to expanding the Montessori aspect of our district and will that be a part of the capacity we are addressing?
- Small Group Spaces
- Allow for more connectivity and “being seen” for all students
- Look beyond complying with current codes and think about becoming a regional leader in forward-looking environmentally sound structures and practices—e.g., solar panels, recycling, energy-efficient insulation/heating and cooling, etc.
- Work on security and aesthetics
- Visited high-performing schools in UK. Built 15-20 minutes between classes for time for kids social needs. (Ping pong, etc)
- Sustainable materials are more affordable than they used to be and can really affect many aspects of learning...Even be examples for the kids of what can be done. I also agree about the natural light and outdoor classrooms. Those two things would have a wonderful impact on the high rates of mental illness and mindset. Ideally, every school would have a “calm” room, like the high school has
- Kinawa has the garden and could be used for native plants, etc like Shiloh suggested. Other schools could do this as well. Good environmental lessons as well (pollinators, importance of native plants vs invasive, and more)

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Creating appropriate spaces for students with bathrooms in them to protect integrity of students
- Special Ed Spaces with bathrooms. Bathrooms with space for students of high need and those needing help.
- Break spaces / sensory spaces
- Playgrounds with fences
- High school has good set up for special ed but updating could happen. Only one bathroom
- Kinawa special space for life skills is not usable (broken oven, etc.)
- Tile for special ed spaces

