Our Schools – Future Ready

Phase 1: School Board Guiding Principles

January 12, 2026

Agenda

01 Introduction

02 Community Engagement

03 School Board Policy and Guiding Principles Alignment

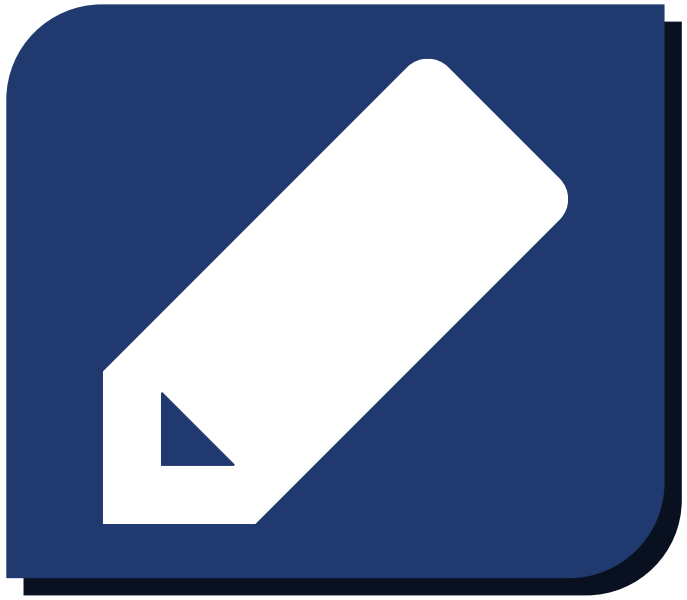
04 Next Steps

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01. Introduction

01 Why Take On This Project Now?



Invest in Programs and Opportunities

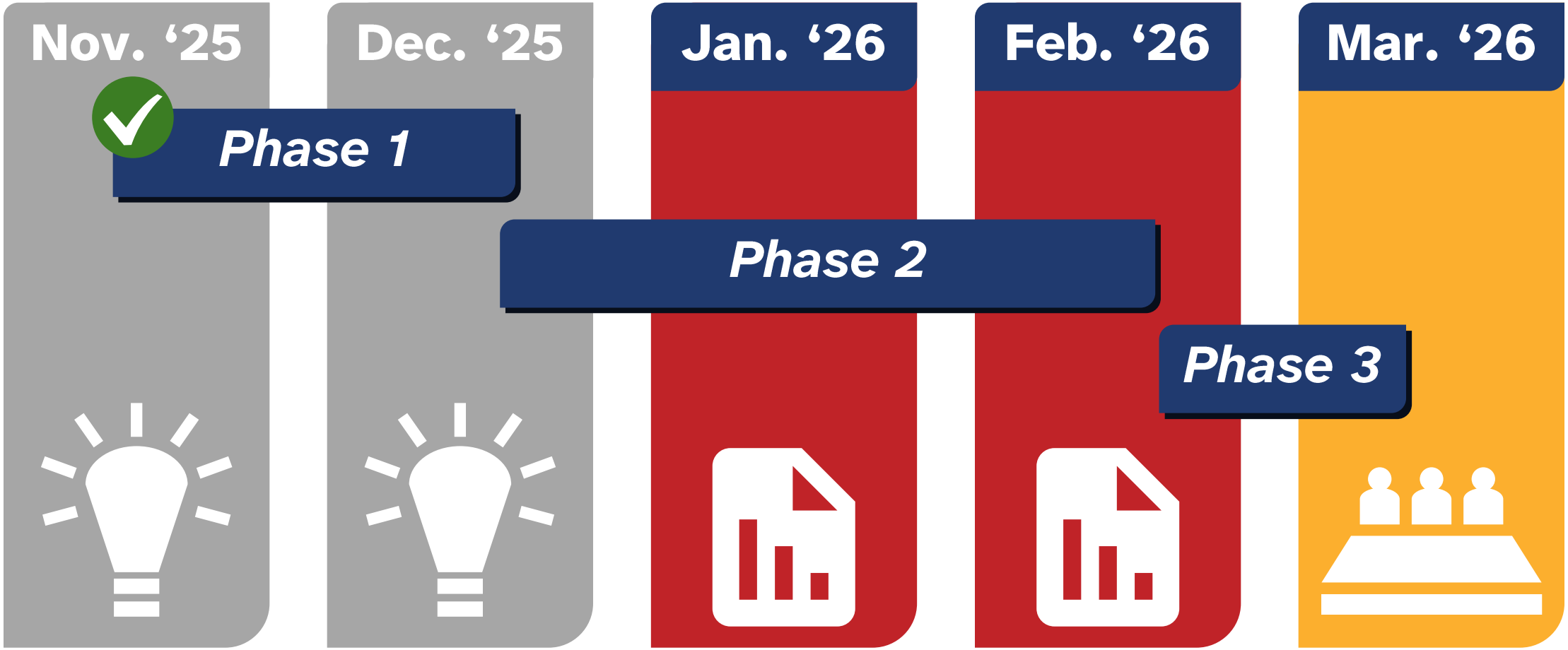


Reinforce Fiscal Responsibility



Improve Operational Efficiency

01 Project Timeline



01 Process and Phasing

Short-term

- **Phase 1** – Foundation and engagement
- **Phase 2** – Student Programs and Opportunities/Plan Development and Public Input
- **Phase 3** – Plan Finalization and Adoption

Long-term

- Implementation of the final report
- Program enhancements and implementation
- Capital Improvement Plan addressing future needs
- Foundation of the district's strategic plan

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02. Community Engagement

01 Phase 1 Overview



Establish Community Vision



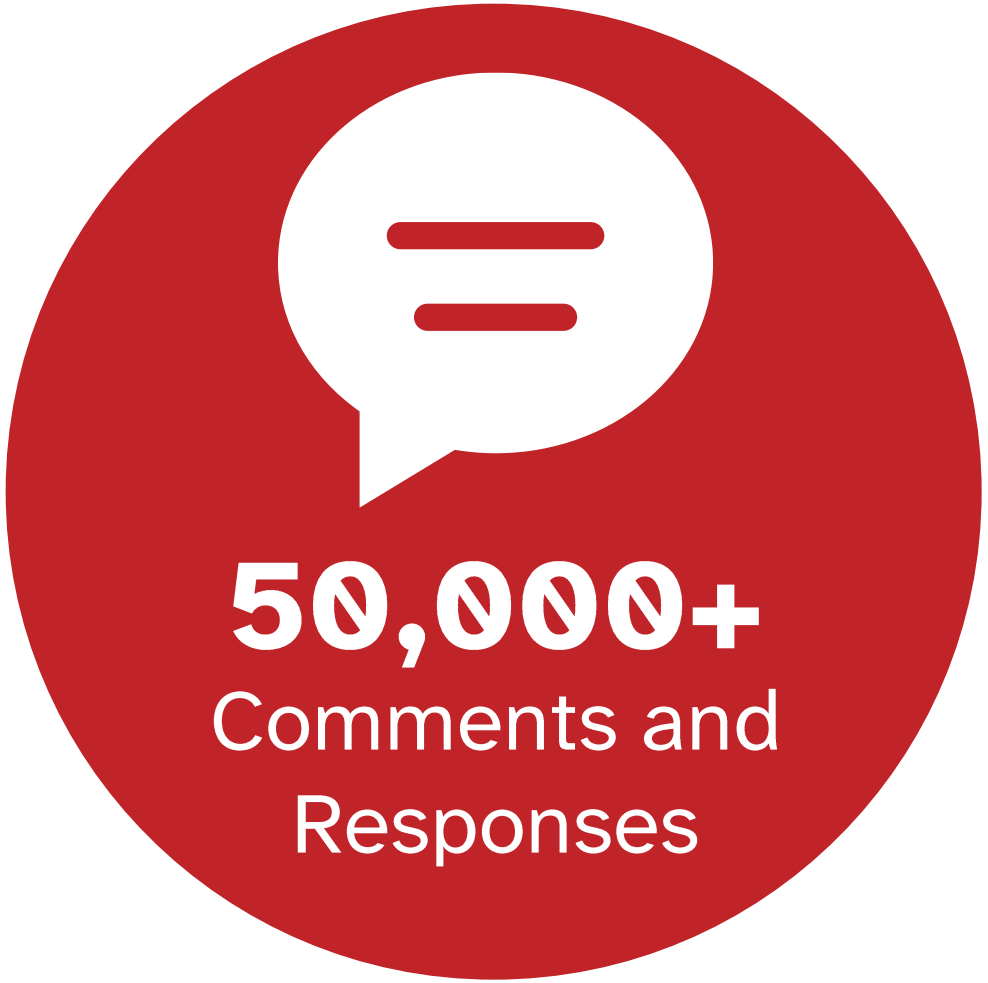
Shared Priorities, Not Final Decisions



Preparation For a Data-Driven Phase 2

02 Engagement By The Numbers





02 Methods of Outreach

News Releases



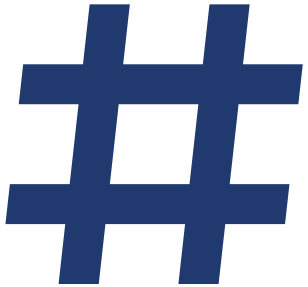
Banners



Email



Social Media





Website/App

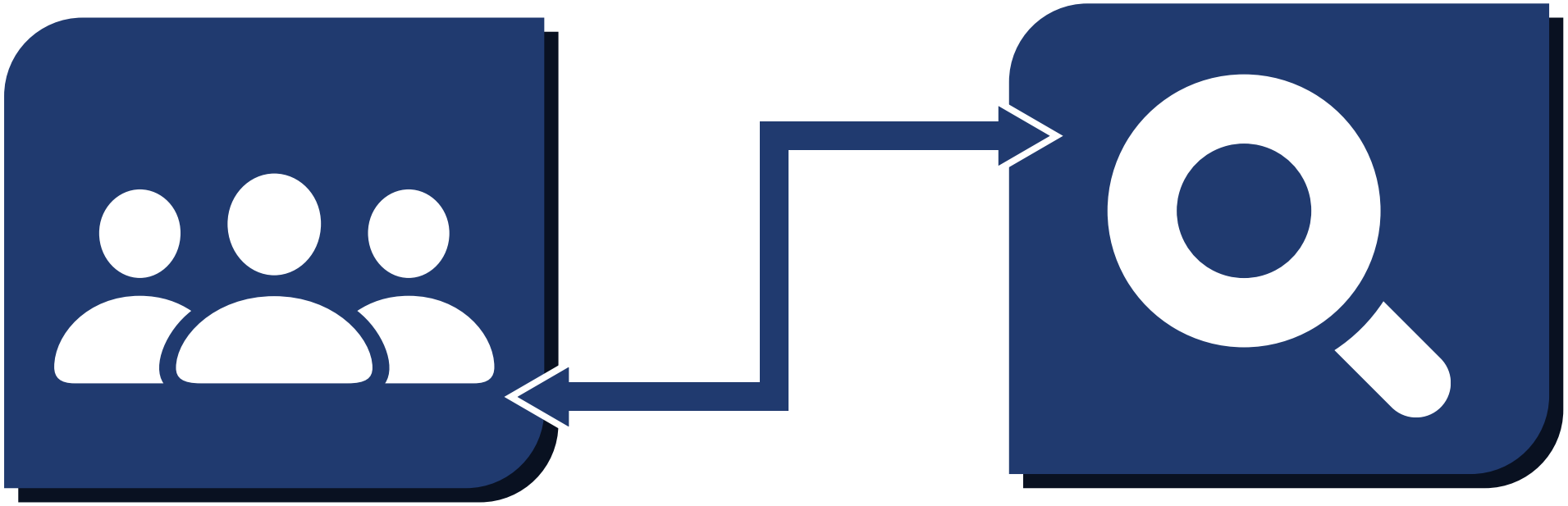


Fliers



Text Blasts

02 Who Was Engaged



Stakeholder Outreach

Analysis and Synthesis

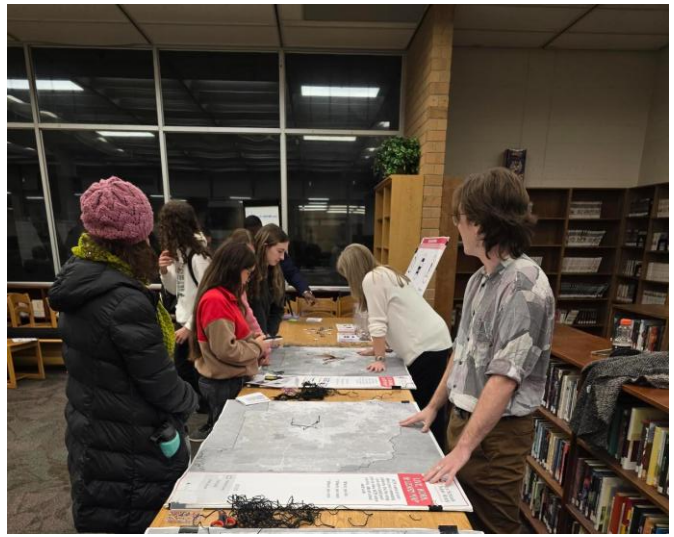
02 How Questions Were Determined

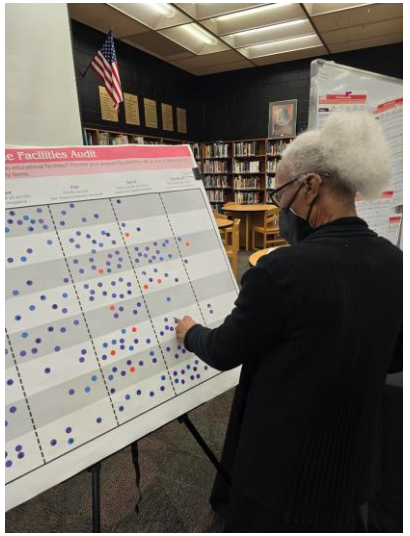
- Engagement questions were developed using recognized best practices for school planning and public engagement
- The approach prioritized listening and inclusion, not advancing predetermined solutions
- Questions focused on community values, priorities, and lived experiences
- Input was gathered from a broad cross-section of stakeholders across Alachua County
- Common themes and shared priorities emerged consistently across responses
- These insights conclude Phase 1 (Visioning) and provide the foundation for Phase 2, where more detailed needs and options will be evaluated



02 What Engagement Looked Like

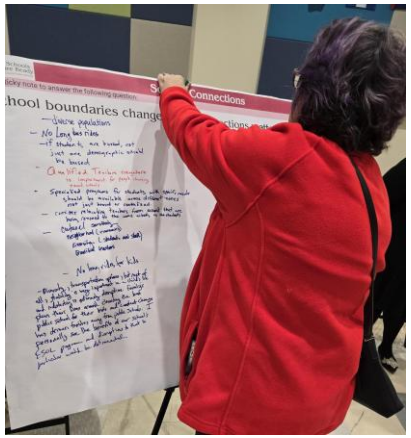




















02 Summary of Results

$1,000,000 Donation

1,408 responses

Top 3 priorities out of 6:

1. Teacher Support **(22.6%)**
2. Facility Improvements **(21.5%)**
3. Program Enhancements **(18.6%)**

Transportation Priorities

1,341 responses

Top 3 priorities out of 6:

1. Bus Reliability **(28.9%)**
2. Travel Time **(20.4%)**
3. Route Efficiency **(16.8%)**

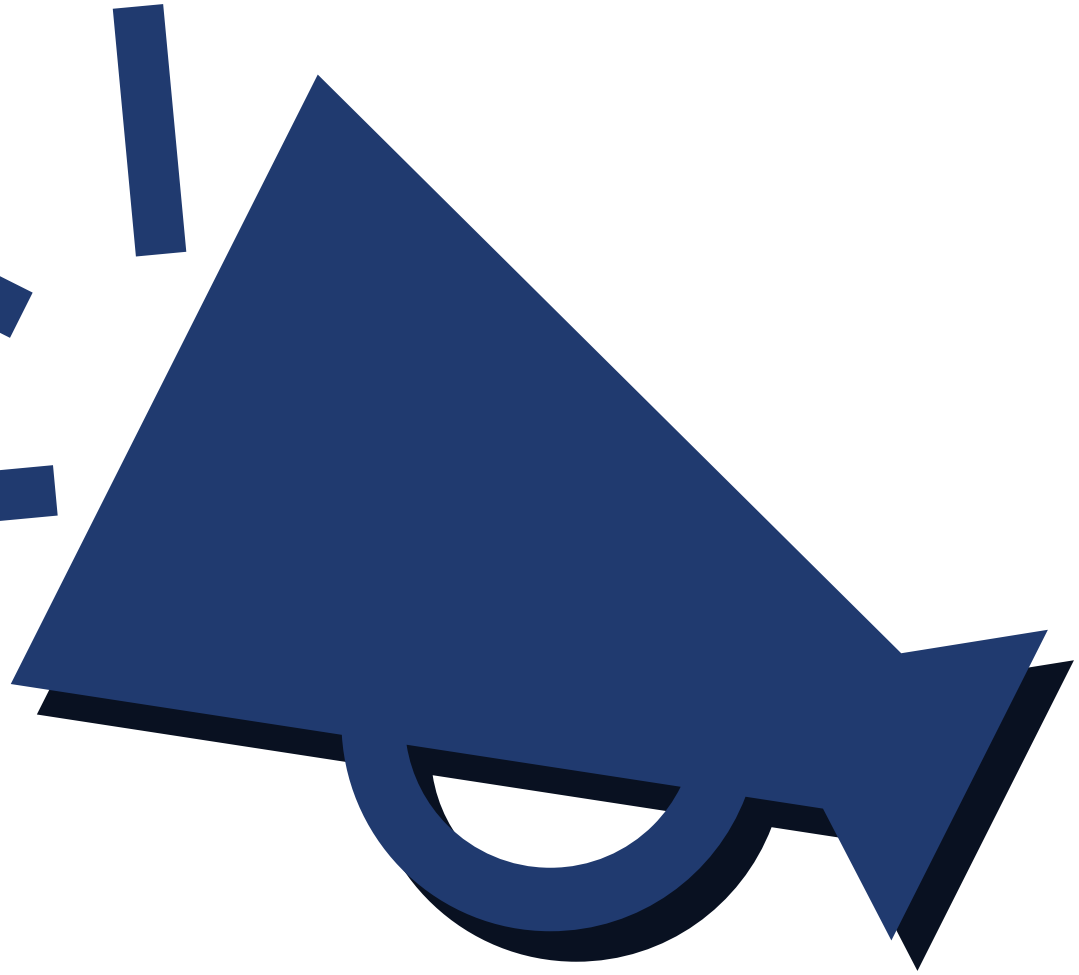
02 Summary of Results – Continued

Stay Connected

684 responses

Top 3 platforms out of 13:

1. Email **(26.9%)**
2. Text Alerts **(18.6%)**
3. ACPS Website **(13.0%)**



02 Summary of Results – Continued

Programs Audit: (Score Range 1 – 5)

Topic	Avg. Score	% Prioritized
Instructional Quality	3.44	41.4%
Advanced Academics	3.54	40.2%
Career & Technical Education	3.15	38.0%
Sports & Extracurriculars	3.64	36.6%
Magnet Programs	3.47	33.7%
Exceptional Student Education	3.21	33.4%
Electives & Enrichment	3.33	32.8%
Arts, Music, and Drama	3.38	31.8%

02 Activity Board

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Districtwide Programs Audit

How would you assess the district on the following categories related to educational and extracurricular programs? Provide your answers by placing a dot in one of the boxes for each category. The 3 starred dots should represent your highest priority items.

Programs	**Critical** Fails to meet needs; urgent action required	**Poor** Falls short of needs; action required	**Fair** Meets needs; but improvements needed	**Good** Most needs are met; room for improvement	**Excellent** All needs are met; exceeds expectations
Instructional Quality *How well teachers deliver effective instruction.*					
Advanced Academics *Access to AP, IB, AICE, or dual enrollment courses.*					
Exceptional Student Education *Support for students with unique learning needs.*					
Career & Technical Education *Hands-on specialized training.*					
Electives & Enrichment *Variety of optional classes and activities.*					
Arts, Music, and Drama *Availability of creative learning opportunities.*					
Magnet Programs *Access to specialized academic pathways.*					
Sports & Extracurriculars *Opportunities for student athletics and enrichment.*					

02 Summary of Results – Continued

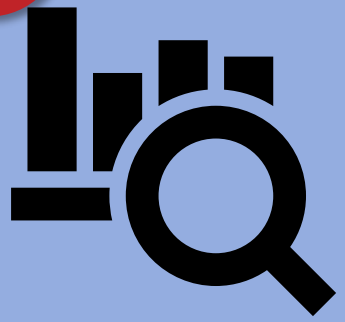
Facilities Audit: (Score Range 1 – 5)

Topic	Avg. Score	% Prioritized
Building Condition and Core Facilities	2.63	54.1%
Safety and Security	3.37	44.6%
Classroom Size and Environment	3.01	43.3%
Athletic and Sports Facilities	2.99	35.7%
Transportation and Site Access	2.91	31.3%
Technology	3.32	30.4%
Special Programs Classrooms	3.16	23.7%
Playgrounds and Outdoor Spaces	2.94	23.7%

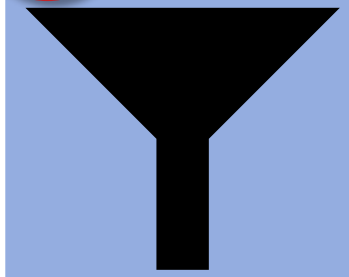
02 Identifying Community Themes

1. 

   Collect community input, feedback, and comments through engagement

2. 

   Analyze input through a systematic coding process

3. 

   Refine results and begin to identify common priorities and concerns

4. 

   Organize results into a set of distinct, clearly-defined themes

02 Overview of Community Themes

- Academics and Learning
- Electives and Enrichment
- Programs and Magnets
- Teachers and Staff
- School Culture and Climate
- Student Support and Care
- Community and Belonging
- Activities and Events
- Facilities and Operations
- Transportation Services
- Community Connections
- Financial Stewardship

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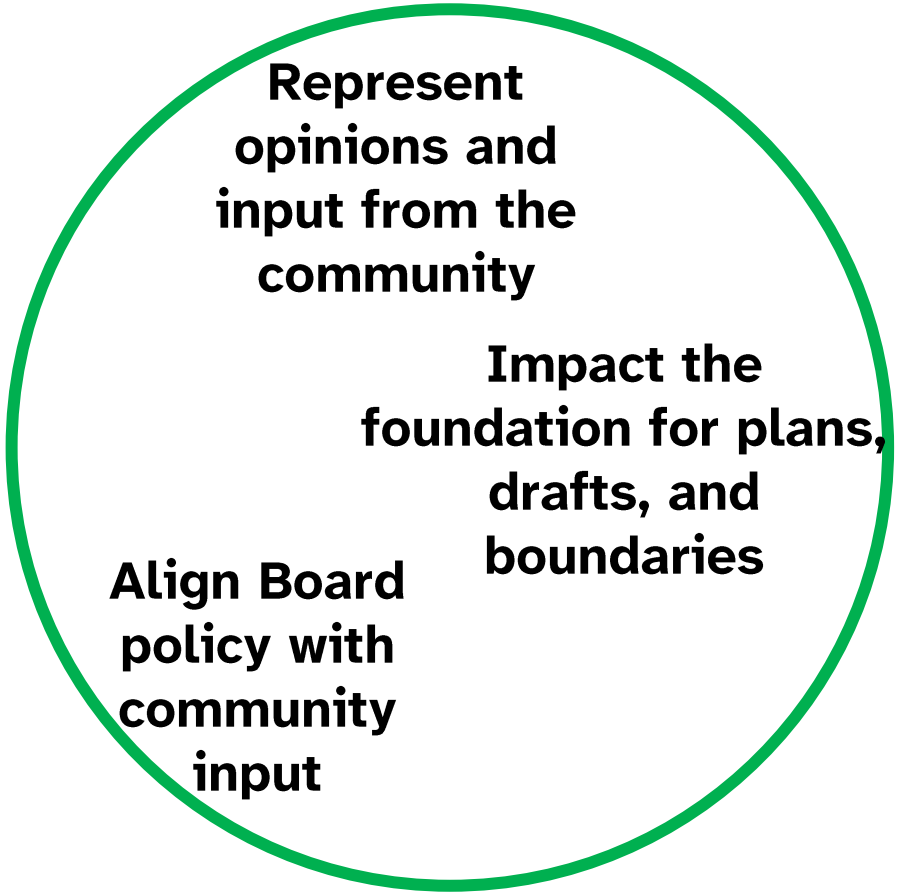
03. Guiding Principles and School Board Policy Alignment

03 Overview of Guiding Principles

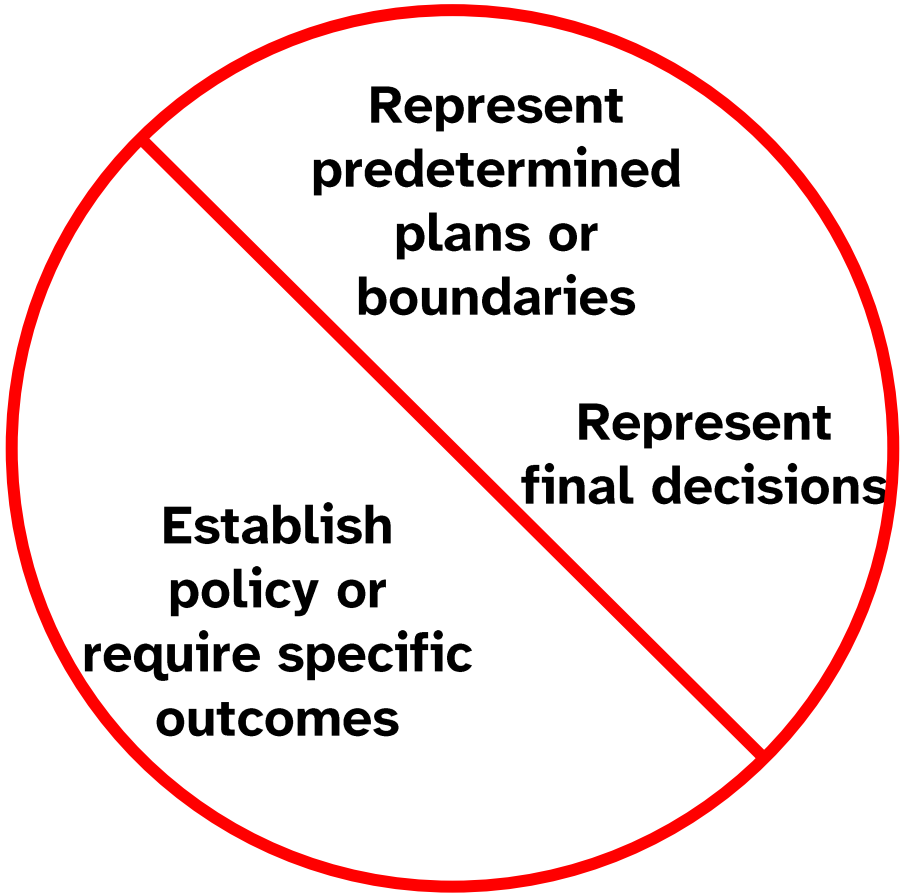
- Strengthen, sustain, and expand high-quality learning opportunities
- Foster academic pathways that connect students to their interests and future goals
- Provide for the success of teachers and staff districtwide
- Support safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environments
- Ensure strong, accessible student supports and services
- Foster community connection and belonging through schools
- Invest in facilities that support learning, school pride, and long-term needs
- Support reliable, efficient, and student-centered transportation
- Approach attendance boundaries and enrollment decisions with community and opportunity in mind
- Practice responsible, transparent fiscal management and stewardship
- Ensure clear, consistent, and inclusive communication and engagement throughout the planning process
- Protect the future of our public school system through thoughtful long-range planning

03 Overview of Guiding Principles

DO



DO NOT



03 Overview of School Board Policy

A. Financial and Administrative Efficiency

B. School Capacity and Grade Level Capacity

C. Convenience of Access to Schools

D. Safe and Efficient Student Transportation and Travel

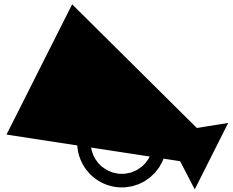
E. Effective and Appropriate Instructional Programs

F. Socio-economic Diversity in School Enrollments With Consideration of the Equitable Impact on Student Enrollment at Each School

G. Utilization of Existing School Physical Facilities



03 Guiding Principles

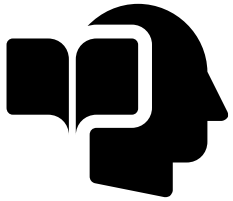


Ensure clear, consistent, and inclusive communication and engagement throughout the planning process – *Policy Area A, E, and F*

Provide outlets for open, ongoing engagement with students, families, staff, and community members

Share information clearly, explain the purpose and status of planning efforts, and create meaningful opportunities for dialogue

03 Guiding Principles



Strengthen, sustain, and expand high-quality learning opportunities – *Policy Area E*

Ensure that all students have access to high-quality instruction and a diverse mix of academic opportunities

Support a strong academic core while continuing to expand upon and protect electives and enrichment opportunities

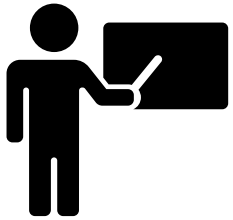
03 Guiding Principles

Foster academic pathways that connect students to their interests and future goals – *Policy Area E*

Create an environment that engages students, offering programs that speak to their career and technical interests

Offer programs, opportunities, and coursework that help build hard skills to support their transition to postsecondary education, jobs, and/or continued learning

03 Guiding Principles



Provide for the success of teachers and staff districtwide – *Policy Area A and E*

Align efforts to focus on providing all district staff, instructional and non-instructional, with competitive pay and benefits

Offer a strong network of professional support and advancement opportunities to help train and retain district staff

03 Guiding Principles

Support safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environments – *Policy Area E and F*

Continue to maintain and implement measures that keep students and faculty safe in their schools

Bolster initiatives that foster positive school culture, student well-being, and consistent, accessible mentorship opportunities

03 Guiding Principles



Ensure strong, accessible student supports and services – *Policy Area E*

Expand student support, tutoring, and mentorship for all students regardless of ability

Determine how programs, staffing, and services may be built upon to support accessible and expansive learning environments

03 Guiding Principles

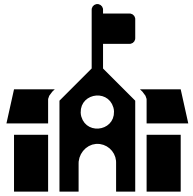


Foster community connection and belonging through schools
– *Policy Area F*

Reinforce and support schools as pillars of their communities, for students, parents, and community members alike

Strive to strengthen relationships among students, families, and neighborhoods while reinforcing pride in local schools

03 Guiding Principles



Invest in facilities that support learning, school pride, and long-term needs – *Policy Area A, B, E, and G*

Prioritize safe, modern, well-equipped, and well-maintained facilities

Consider long-term facility investments that support program quality and positive student experiences

03 Guiding Principles

Support reliable, efficient, and student-centered transportation – *Policy Area B, C, and D*

Explore methods that improve the reliability, efficiency, staffing, service, and accessibility of district-provided transportation options

Ensure that transportation supports student success

03 Guiding Principles

Approach attendance boundaries and enrollment decisions with community and opportunity in mind – *Policy Area A, B, and D*

Prioritize maintaining strong connections between schools and the communities they serve, while ensuring equitable access to programs

Consider the impact of changes to student attendance boundaries on community identity, program access, and school utilization

03 Guiding Principles



Practice responsible, transparent fiscal management and stewardship – *Policy Area A*

Ensure resources are prioritized to align with district goals across facilities, programs, staffing, and transportation

Support long-term sustainability and increased transparency

03 Guiding Principles

Protect the future of our public school system through thoughtful long-range planning – *Policy Area A, B, E, and G*

Focus explicitly on long-term opportunities and concerns affecting public schools, including facilities, programs, staffing, transportation, enrollment trends, and fiscal sustainability

Provide practical implementation strategies to continue strengthening the district over time

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04. Next Steps

04 What Is Coming Next

Phase 2 **Phase 3**



Principles and Vision

Boundary Scenarios

2nd Round of Engagement

Final Report

04 Phase 2 – Overview

- Complete data collection and analysis on community input
- Draft and confirm guiding principles

- Perform a comprehensive analysis of current boundaries
- Draft up to 3 new student attendance boundary scenarios

- Implement new engagement activities on draft boundaries
- Engage community members on draft boundaries

04 Phase 2 Components

1. Community input to develop high quality student programs and opportunities

2. Inclusive of data, integration of community input, utilization of guiding principles – make clear it is the integration of all of these things.

3. Data modeling of current boundaries, student enrollment, over and under enrolled schools, bus routes, completed facility investments, facility condition assessment, special program enrollments (Magnet, ESOL, etc.), current projected student generation from planned housing and economic development

04 Phase 2 – Community Engagement



Engagement Opportunities

No final decisions have been made. Your continued input, comments, and engagement are vital to the plan's future.

04 Phase 2 – Community Engagement



Engagement Opportunities

- **Mebane Middle – Feb. 2**
- **Hawthorne Middle High – Feb. 4**
- **High Springs Community – Feb. 5**
- **Buchholz High – Feb. 9**
- **Oak View Middle – Feb. 10**
- **Eastside High – Feb. 11**
- **Kanapaha Middle – Feb. 12**
- **Westwood Middle – Feb. 18**

04 Phase 3 – Overview



- Analyze data from the second round of engagement
- Draft and finalize long-term implementation strategies

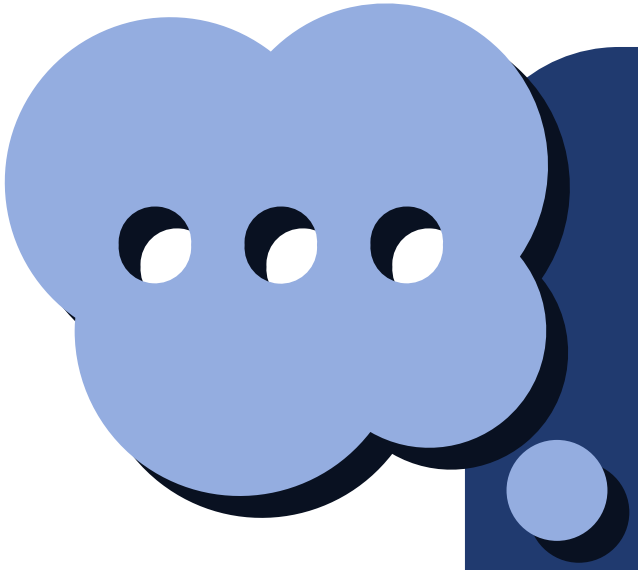


- Analyze data from the second round of engagement
- Select up to two final boundary scenarios



- Draft and finalize a report of findings and strategies
- Present boundary scenarios to the board for adoption

04 Closing Thoughts



- Adoption of a comprehensive, community-informed plan
- School Board decisions on attendance boundaries and related planning actions
- Clear guidance for next steps and program implementation
- Inform future updates to the Capital Improvement Plan
- A strong foundation for Alachua County Public Schools' Strategic Plan and long-range planning

04 Key Takeaways

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Community feedback is being used.
Input from families, staff, and community members directly informed the guiding principles guiding our decisions.

Those principles are driving both short- and long-term actions.
Immediate steps and long-range plans are aligned to the principles raised through community engagement.

This process does not end tonight.
Community input will continue to guide and inform decisions as options are refined and finalized.

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Thank You!