



Lake Chelan School District
Facilities Advisory Committee (F.A.C.) Meeting Minutes

Date: April 20, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: DLC

Attendees

Approximately 15 committee/community members were present, including district staff and FAC participants. John Olson, Ben Laughlin., Terry Sanders, Jamie Pancho, Tiffany Viall, Gene Sementi, Tim J., Rosey Burkhard, Stefani Morgan, Brad Wilson, Susan McKinnon, Erin Morin, Ryan Peterson, Eric Campbell, and Fabi Lara.

I. Introductions

The meeting opened with introductions and general updates from committee members. Discussion centered on continuing work related to district facilities planning and preparation for future community engagement efforts.

II. Review of February 26 Notes

Committee members reviewed and referenced notes from the February 26 FAC meeting. There was continued discussion regarding facilities priorities, bond planning considerations, and the importance of clarifying options for the public.

III. Debrief: Wenatchee Schools Visit

Participants discussed observations from the recent Wenatchee Schools facilities visit. Themes from the discussion included:

The value of seeing recently completed school projects firsthand.
Consideration of how other districts communicated facility needs to voters.
Discussion about balancing modernization with community identity and history.
Reflection on how neighboring districts addressed athletic and community-use spaces.

Several participants commented on the importance of presenting a clear and understandable vision to the community.

IV. Review of Initial Estimates: MOE Remodel vs. New Construction



The committee reviewed early cost estimates and conceptual comparisons between:

Remodeling Morgen Owings Elementary (MOE), and
Constructing a new elementary school.

Discussion points included:

Total project cost remains a primary concern for the community.

Participants noted that “confused equals no vote,” emphasizing the need for a simple, focused public message.

Some members expressed concern that a remodel may become increasingly complicated or inefficient over time.

There was discussion regarding whether focusing solely on the school project would improve voter support.

Members discussed how the “new vs. remodel” debate could become divisive if not clearly framed.

Concerns were raised about prevailing wage impacts and escalating construction costs.

Questions emerged regarding what factors will matter most to voters:

Cost

Location

Traffic impacts

Community nostalgia/history

Athletic facilities

Long-term stewardship

The committee also discussed the need for clearer site-cost comparisons and additional information related to infrastructure and traffic impacts.

The discussion aligned closely with current district facilities planning priorities outlined in the district’s facilities planning materials, including evaluation of modernization needs, long-term stewardship, and community investment considerations.

V. Brief Updates from Subcommittees

A. Site Selection

Discussion included:

Evaluation of potential elementary school locations.

Traffic flow and pedestrian safety concerns.

Questions related to proximity to athletic fields and community amenities.

Potential impacts from future housing developments.



Desire for more detailed site-cost analysis before recommendations are finalized.

Members noted that location and total project cost will likely be among the most important factors influencing community support.

B. MOE Disposition

The committee discussed potential future uses or disposition considerations for the existing MOE facility if a new elementary school were constructed.

Discussion included:

Long-term maintenance and modernization costs.

Community attachment and historical significance of the original building.

Whether portions of the facility could continue serving district or community purposes.

Participants acknowledged the emotional and nostalgic connection many community members have to the current elementary school.

C. Long-Term Stewardship Plan

Committee members discussed the importance of presenting a responsible long-term stewardship strategy to the community. Key themes included:

Ensuring district facilities reflect community pride and educational excellence.

Balancing academic priorities with athletic and extracurricular facility needs.

Communicating long-term operational and maintenance impacts.

Aligning facilities decisions with the district's broader strategic vision and future growth planning.

The conversation reflected district strategic priorities focused on improving facilities and supporting long-term student success.

VI. Next Steps

The committee identified several next steps moving forward:

Continue refining cost estimates for remodel and new construction options.

Gather additional site-specific cost and infrastructure information.

Clarify messaging and community communication strategies.

Continue evaluating athletic facility priorities and associated impacts.

Develop clearer comparisons between project options to support community understanding.



Prepare for future public engagement and potential campaign planning discussions.

The meeting adjourned following discussion of future planning priorities and community outreach considerations.

Draft minutes prepared from agenda materials and handwritten meeting notes provided by Superintendent Wilson.