

## HAZELWOOD 1<sup>ST</sup> PHASE III - QUESTIONS

Q: Can we focus on non-physical problems/such as: respect, manners and college prep?

**A: The Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> process primarily focuses on facility issues. If you have concerns regarding the issues you have raised, please contact the assistant superintendent who supervises the campus your child attends.**

Q: Will the participants actually have a voice or will the answers (choices) be decided before the meetings?

**A: Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> participants will have the opportunity to help HSD prioritize facility needs.**

Q: When will the bathrooms at Central High be renovated?

**A: Facility needs will be discussed in Meeting #4.**

Q: Are boundary lines part of Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup>? If so, will schools be rebalanced? How high of a priority is a new high school?

**A: The Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> process does not determine school district redistricting. However, if the process results in the addition of any new schools, redistricting is likely to occur. Facility needs will be discussed in Meeting #4.**

Q: While construction projects are outwardly impressive and appealing to a community (jobs, contracts, etc), how likely would it be to pass an initiative to invest in curriculum and instruction?

**A: Many curriculum and instruction materials are not paid for by bond funds. This will be explained more thoroughly in Meeting #2.**

Q: Will Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> discuss ways to incorporate culturally sensitive materials into our curriculum for humanity classes?

**A: The focus of Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> is to review and prioritize facility needs. However, HSD staff members do participate in various professional development opportunities, such as Dismantling Racism in Education and Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning.**

Q: Will there be a new high school built to replace the aging Central High or will it be remodeled to improve science rooms? If Central High is here to stay for a while, can there be a “wild” area placed on campus for an outdoor classroom?

**A: Facility needs will be discussed in Meeting #4.**

Q: The focus is on construction, could the focus be on test preps, new textbooks, AP & ACT focus for all students who can achieve?

**A: The focus of Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> is to review and prioritize facility needs.**

Q: When will you begin augmenting academic needs like books & tests, electronic support materials, etc.?  
How can you provide more tools & training to improve efficient communication within the school and district?  
(new software, improved software & system management). To paraphrase, we do not communicate well – how  
can we improve and make systems we have more efficient?

**A: Many curriculum and instruction materials are not paid for by bond funds. This will be explained more thoroughly in Meeting #2. Meeting #3 will address technology issues, which includes communication.**

Q: What are the enrollment numbers at each of the six middle schools? Why do we keep getting a no when we ask for a true alternative school? Can we get middle schools to quit passing students that are ill-prepared, just to reduce their failure rate?

**A: Enrollment numbers will be shared in Meeting #2. The focus of Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> is to review and prioritize facility needs. The options HSD provides for at-risk students will be shared in Meeting #3.**

Q: What are the \$300 million facility upgrades identified by the District? Alternate school setting such as Ferguson-Florissant's Education Center?

**A: Facility needs will be shared with Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> participants in Meeting #4.**

Q: In addition to the committee, what are the plans to generate widespread community support for the initiative?

**A: The HSD communications office will use a variety of methods to share information. Those avenues include the HSD Web site, Hazelwood News, HSD E-Mail Extra, Facebook, campus newsletters, community newsletters, local media and speaker's bureaus, just to name a few.**

Q: What's the probability of getting Promethean boards in all grade levels at the elementary level?

**A: We will discuss Promethean Boards in Meeting #3.**

Q: Are there any plans to replace chalkboards with dry erase boards? Portable DVD players in all rooms to support curriculum?

**A: We will discuss facility needs in Meeting #4.**

Q: Are the additional large glass windows energy efficient? Are the high ceilings in the new buildings energy efficient?

**The new buildings have been built with sustainability in mind. The large glass windows allow more natural light, cutting down on the need for artificial light. The ceilings are designed to be proportional to the square footage of the room.**

Q: What can constituents do to improve discipline in classrooms and the resulting reputation of the district?

**The school district depends upon the support of parents and community members in setting high expectations for our students. This can be achieved by serving as positive role models for our students and volunteering in our schools. Parents can help by ensuring students attend school, becoming involved in school activities, and reviewing the Student Behavior Guide with their child.**

Constituents can help improve the reputation of the district by actively sharing positive news about our students. Positive news is posted frequently at [www.hazelwoodnews.org](http://www.hazelwoodnews.org) In addition, constituents are encouraged to seek resolution of concerns directly with school personnel instead of involving the media.

Q: Can several classes be in the library concurrently to be more usable and effective?

**A: Yes. Currently our libraries are used for multiple groups of students. The number of groups varies based on the learning activity taking place.**

Q: Is there a substitute for salt on the concrete sidewalks to prevent deterioration...new sidewalks are being ruined.

**A: There is a more expensive substitution for salt. However, it is our expectation that the salt is swept from the sidewalks in order to prevent deterioration.**

Q: What bond issues are about to expire that could be used to provide support without raising “new/additional” taxes? What are the enrollment numbers at West, Central and East high? Why is Special District allowed to release a student far below grade level because they “are at their potential” while HSD must accept the same student and bring them to grade level?

**A: The finance and enrollment information will be shared in Meeting #2. Special School District practices and policies should be addressed with Special School District. Please contact your campus principal or assistant superintendent for accountability for the contact information for the appropriate personnel at Special School District.**

Q: You state that the facility upgrades has eased overcrowding in the high schools. West High seems very crowded. How many students are there and how many students is the building designed to handle? Has any thought been given to upgrades for the West cafeteria? According to my children, the food area is a free for all. You fight your way through. According to a friend who works there, the kids are stealing them blind – tossing bagels, etc. to friends who walk out the door – eating food off the plates and leaving them on the counter. Lines are long, sometimes by the time you get the food, lunch is just about over. Why do even failing middle school students get passed on from school year to school year? As a high school parent, the administration keeps struggling to figure out why so many freshmen are failing. I believe that the curriculum and policies in the middle schools are leading to poor achievement in high school.

**A: Enrollment will be addressed in Meeting #2. Facility needs will be discussed in Meeting #4. Curriculum and Instruction will be discussed in Meeting #3.**

Q: When will all classrooms have a white board to replace the old blackboards?

**A: Facility needs will be discussed in Meeting #4.**

Q: Will the Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> group see the facility needs list identified for \$300 million?

**A: Yes, in meeting #4.**

Q: Our principal has said that the district has chosen our elementary school to be one of the pilots of the PBIS program, yet she said the district has not funded the program, so she has come to our PTA and has (and still is) requesting \$200 every month and \$300 twice a year to fund this program. Why is the PTA having to fund a

program that A.) Very few of the parents understand or know about and B.) Have no say in whether to participate in the program or not? Why isn't the district funding this? Thank you!

**A: The PBIS philosophy/programming has no initial start-up or running cost. The Special School District has assigned a staff member to our district to aid in the implementation of PBIS at the building level. The majority of what buildings need funds for is to create incentives for students who are exhibiting the desired behaviors. Some buildings have created some very effective no-cost incentives, such as "dress down day" or "first to recess" activities. I suggest you disuse your concerns with your building principal or area assistant superintendent.**

Q: Is this a tax increase? I am a district resident.

**A: The charge provided to Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> by HSD encourages a bond issue that would not require a tax-rate increase.**

Q: Why must the elementary let out of school at the late time of 3:50? Can the elementary and high school start and end times be switched so that the highschoolers start at 8:50?

**A: Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> is not the venue to make decisions about arrival and dismissal time. However, prior to the 2008-09 school year, school start times were developed with the help of a committee of parents, teachers and bus drivers. After recommendations were made, a survey allowed the District to solicit community and staff input. The current arrival and dismissal times are based on both the committee's recommendations and survey results. In addition, 20 minutes were added to the school day in 2009-2010.**

Q: Will the pre-K program in the elementary schools continue? What schools will the program be in?

**A: We do not know at this time.**

Q: With anticipated budget cuts coming in the next two years, how is it determined which programs will be cut?

**A: Many factors go into prioritizing any possible budget cuts, including: potential amount of savings, affect on instruction (directly or indirectly), state standards, laws or building codes, safety, and subjects/areas tested for accreditation.**

Q: What is the formula for student/teacher ratio? Are support staff secretaries, TA's, etc. included in this calculation?

**A: Student teacher ratio is calculated by taking the number of students enrolled in the school (from the September enrollment number) and dividing it by the number of core teachers staffed at a school. We compare this to the standards as set by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE). At this point, Hazelwood has no ratios that are over the limit. Support staff secretaries and/or TA's/or BA's do not come into play in any ratios. These are not a requirement by DESE.**

Q: What are the state standards for elementary, middle school, and high school as far as student to teacher ratio?

**A: According to the Missouri Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, generally classes should not exceed 25 students in grades K-2; 27 in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>; 30 in grades 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>; and 33 in grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.**

Q: Upgrades to a science department would occur at both West and Central, correct? Will a review of the East upgrades of the science department occur before we plan Central and West's upgrades?

**A: Facility needs will be discussed in Meeting #4. Advantages and disadvantages of past designs and current facilities, along with best practices, are generally reviewed when we design new additions or renovations.**

Q: Students and faculty seem to think that West H.S. and Central H.S. are already full. Please explain how the capacity can possibly be 3,395 students in one building. What are the current enrollments of the three high schools? Has consideration been given to equal distribution of students?

**A: The capacity is a direct result of how much square footage is in each school building—therefore, each school has its own unique capacity. The enrollments at Central and West are less than they were 4 years ago. Both buildings have more space available—but less students. The Hazelwood 1st process does not determine school district redistricting. HSD will continue to monitor enrollment numbers and may consider redistricting in the future if/when it is needed.**

Q: Is there anything, as taxpayers/residents, we can do to end the city of Hazelwood TIF for the Mills mall? Can we attend meetings or write letters or petitions or something? How do we/can we influence future TIFs?

**A: HSD patrons may discuss TIF concerns directly with Hazelwood city officials. In addition, when HSD knows of meetings in which decisions will be made regarding a TIF, the District communicates that information to taxpayers so that they can communicate directly with city officials.**

Q: I would like to know [how] the school district could go about adding more seats to the TIF commission.

**A: This would require a statutory change, by the State Legislature. Contact your Missouri Representative and Senator.**

Q: Can monies be used to create an outdoor classroom for HCHS to enhance ecological and environmental curriculum? Will monies be used to upgrade the science rooms in HCHS to have equal amount of rooms to science teachers? Will monies be used to purchase servers to meet the needs of HSD Internet traffic? If residents are forced to recycle, why not HSD? We throw several 100 lbs of plastic away because of the vending machines. Why doesn't HSD recycle?

**A: Facility needs will be discussed in Meeting #4. The district has had some recycling in the past, and currently has several schools undertaking pilots. We are currently discussing programs with recycling companies, and hopefully, will institute a district-wide program in the near future.**

Q: I would like to know are there any resources and workshops for parents? There are parents that need help in rearing their children, young single moms and dads. They have difficult children, no structure and basically the children are running the homes.

**A: HSD hosts a variety of parent workshops throughout the school year. Information is posted on the Web site at [www.hazelwoodschoools.org](http://www.hazelwoodschoools.org)**

Q: Why is meeting building codes included on list? Don't we have to meet building codes to be operational?

**A: Some building codes are updated so frequently that it becomes very difficult to meet them all the time. For example, sometimes building codes are updated while a building is being constructed. Therefore, a new building can technically fall out-of-compliance. As you will find out in Meeting #4, in HSD, we are referring specifically to upgrading our fire alarm systems to newer technology, as requested by fire marshals. We are also referring to the need for handrails and ADA upgrades in the restrooms. In Meeting #4, district officials will provide more information on how the building code criteria will be prioritized.**

Q: Video feed to students who are absent. In particular, in-school suspension, out of school suspension and long-term illness. Isn't it a low cost possibility to give a teacher video and audio equipment to send today's class to these students to keep them current while they are away from the conventional classroom? As a side benefit, it might reduce those who opt out and head for suspension so they can officially do nothing.

**A: While this might be an option with the current technology, this is something that we have not yet attempted. And, at this point, the students do not have access to a district computer for this type of instruction. Additionally, we would have to consider the privacy of the other students in the classroom as we use "web cams" for a suspended or ill student to use at an off-site location.**

Q: With the increasing importance of technology, it seems that we should have a required keyboarding class in middle school. This is something that helps people in the rest of the school and work career. Why don't we have that requirement?

**A: We require all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students (with the exception of some students enrolled in SAIL) to take a trimester Computer Technology class, which includes keyboarding and applications.**

Q: Does equitable buildings mean that all buildings will have elevators?

**A: Yes, in buildings with more than one story.**

Q: We are asked to prioritize the \$300 million of needs, but I don't recall deciding to issue \$300 million in bonds. When was that, or when will it be decided to issue \$300 million in bonds?

**A: No decision has been made at this time to issue bonds. The District will rely upon the Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> participants for a recommendation. As stated in earlier meetings, HSD cannot issue more than \$120 million in bonds without a tax increase.**

Q: What is the reason for not building an additional high school?

**A: Capacities at each level—elementary, middle, and high—are sufficient to handle the projections for the next 5 years.**

**Q: How with TRi prioritize the facility needs?**

A: TRi Architects will not prioritize the facility needs. The prioritization is completed by the Hazelwood 1<sup>st</sup> participants.