



Elder Grove School

Community Meeting – April 4th, 2017



K-12 Consultants

Elder Grove Master Plan

- **Community Meeting #1 held on April 4th.**
- **Approximately 125 people attended the meeting.**
- **Shared information**
- **Community gave input on their vision of Elder Grove School.**





Why A Master Plan?

Proactive vs. Reactive



Master Plan Team

Dusty Eaton, Architect

John Eisen, Planner

School Planning Committee

Parents

Teachers

Community Members

School Administration

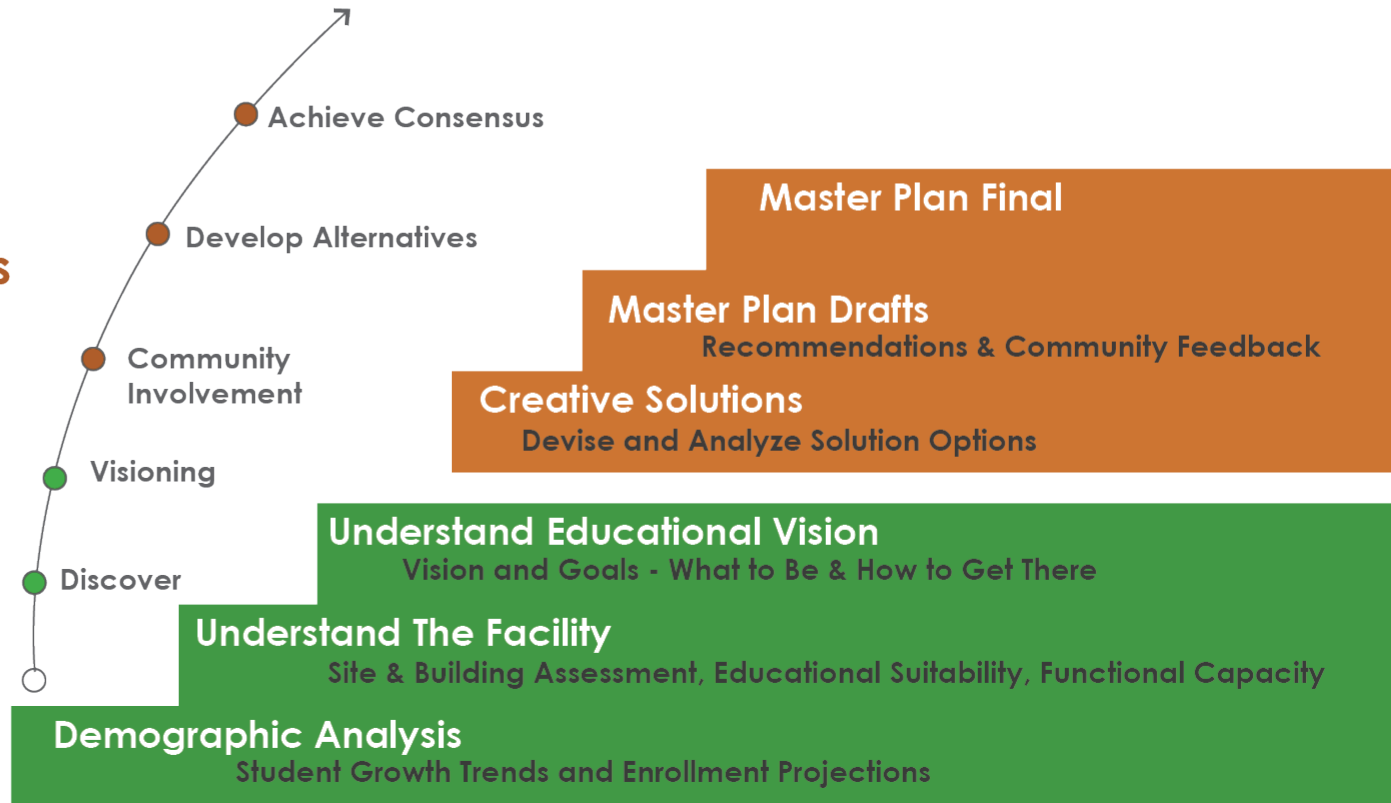
School Board Members





Phase 2. Solutions & Recommendations

Phase 1. Assessment & Discovery



The School is Full

Current K-5 elementary enrollment is **400** students

- **Functional Capacity of K-5 elementary is 321 students**

Current 6-8 middle school enrollment is **164** students

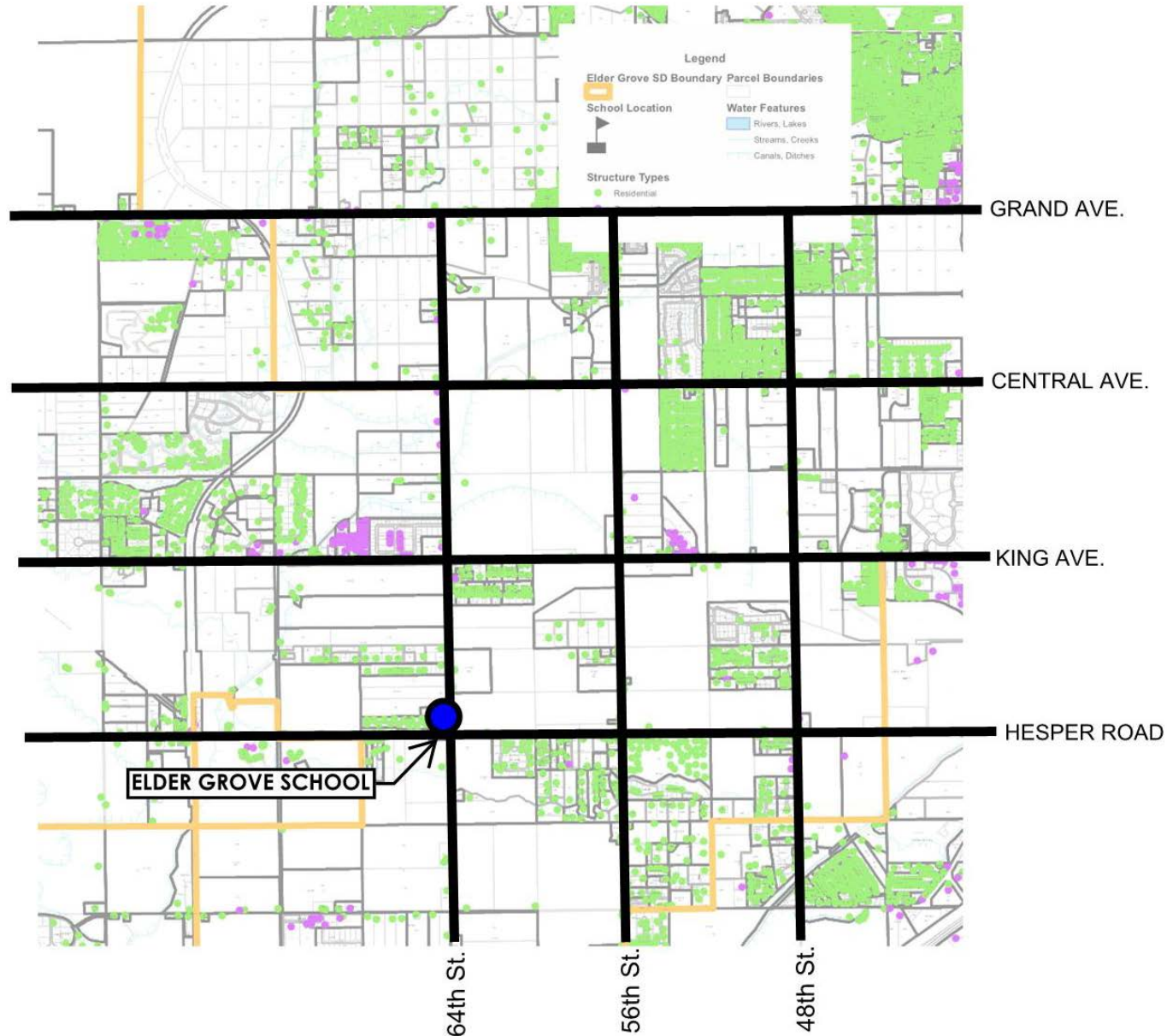
- **Functional Capacity of 6-8 middle school is 155 students**

Elder Grove is approx. 88 students over Functional Capacity

- *79 elementary students over capacity*
- *9 middle students over capacity (Increases to 39 in Fall 2017)*

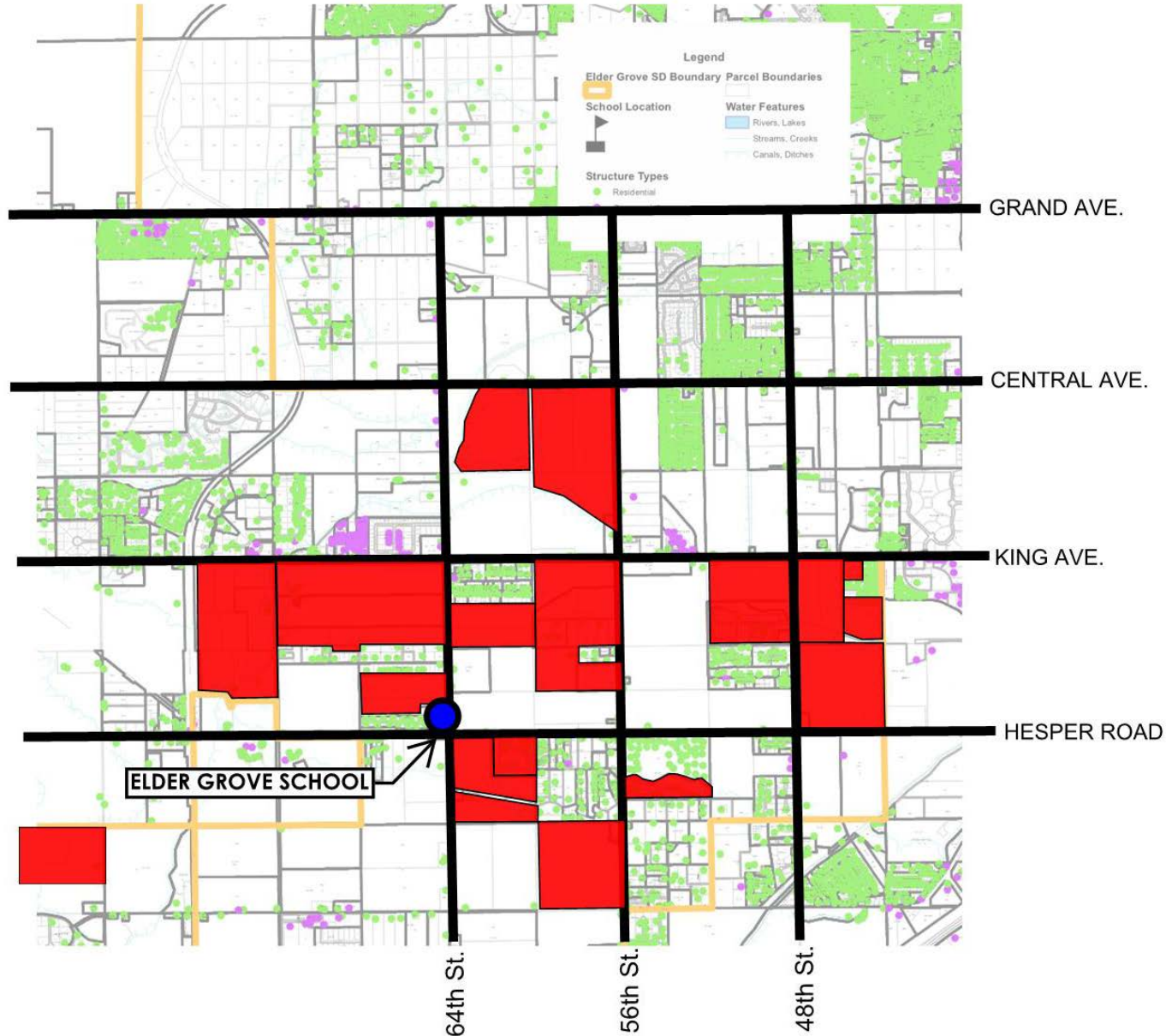


Future Planned Development





Current Development



Current:

Current Homes in the District: **1,526**

Current Students: **564**

Approved:

Platted / Approved Housing Units: **757**
(50% Increase)

Number of Students: **177** (32% Increase)

Projected: (15 years):

New Housing Units: **2,000 – 2,800**

Number of Students: **490-700**
(86-125% Increase)



Demographic Study Completed

Oct 2016

(It's Already Out of Date)



Remaining Competitive

New teachers at Elder Grove start at 20% less than Billings

Montana Teacher Retirement takes your 3 year average and cuts it in half. That means a teacher at Elder Grove will retire with 17% less than a teacher in Billings.

Working **5** years at Elder Grove you will make \$43,000 less than in Billings

Working **10** years at Elder Grove would be \$101,549 less than in Billings

Applicants know this and some will not apply or accept jobs due to this difference.

We have had our top pick decline the job due to pay on numerous occasions.



It is going to be increasingly harder to give the same level of education that Elder Grove is known for as this gap continues to grow.



What We Know

1. ELDER GROVE SCHOOL IS FULL
2. SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IS COMING
3. WE NEED TO PLAN STRATEGICALLY FOR GROWTH



Key Issues

1. Provide enough land, classrooms, and support spaces to accommodate student growth
2. Determine the best long-term use of the historic school house
3. How to maintain who we are and our small class sizes as the school grows.
4. Longer lunch periods so that children can finish their lunch (currently there are 9 lunch periods 15 minutes each)
5. Provide a true middle school experience with more electives, more extra-curricular activities, a tech-ed program, and accelerated class offerings *“so kids can be competitive when they leave here”*.
6. Provide age-appropriate playgrounds, activity areas and PE fields.
7. Provide a competitive salary to maintain a quality and stable staff.



What We Want to Be

Small class sizes

Personal touch

Know the kids

Remain competitive with education

Particularly important in middle school and the transition to high school

Student safety and security

No split campus

Vehicle and pedestrian conflicts

Maintain a nurturing environment and small school feel

Emphasize staff professional development

Provide competitive pay for all staff

Encourage staff retention

Attract the highest quality teachers and administrators

Provide individualized educational opportunities for all students including special needs and advanced students

Maintain Elder Grove's history and culture

Recognize that the school is a community center

What We Do Not Want to Be

A K-6 school, continue as a K-8 school

Ensure that kids do not leave for more opportunities in SD2

Large classrooms

Underfunded programs and school operations

Compromised students

These are some of the main comments for the Community Forum meeting Monday.



Next Steps:

Synthesize Community Comments

Finalize Phase 1 "Visioning"

Begin Phase 2 – Master Plan

This will be the next phase. Coming up with solutions for our vision of the school.