



**Deer Park**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 June 2024

Deer Park School District  
Attn: President, School Board  
N. 428 Main  
Deer Park, Washington 99006

Sequence: 2024-005b, Facilities, Bond Initiative, and DPSD Strategic Plan

Dear School Board President and Directors,

Although I am supportive of a November 2024 bond initiative to build new DPSD facilities, I voted “no” during the 28 May School Board Meeting because we had no “strategic plan” to go with the \$50 Million we were going to ask the tax payers for. I understand we’re going to work on that document in the fall and perhaps after the bond passes. The public need something to put their hands on now, even if it is draft. As by its very name, this is a strategic effort for our district and requires hands-on by the school board directors with the assistance of DPSD staff. I have written strategic planning documents like this before in the Air Force. In fact, I lead the requirements and standup of an \$80 million satellite backup facility through an 80-member working group, so I am very comfortable working on plans of this size and nature.

Over a week ago, I took my “25 March Bond Way Forward” presentation to Robert “Rob” Roettger, Eastern WA Regional Superintendent, to share and discuss bond strategy ideas and ask if hosting a “Regional School Director Bond Workshop” had any merit. My hopes this workshop would help all school districts struggling to pass their bonds by cross-sharing valuable information. Rob shared Mead came up with a tax calculator for the last bond, and a school district in the Valley had a strategic plan he leverage while he was with Cheney School District.

As a starting point for the DPSD 25 Year Strategy Plan, we would include the building of a new elementary, a new transportation facility, and refurbishment of Arcadia for Homelink. It would include the future expansion of DPE, DPMS, and high school after proposed bond matures. This draft strategic plan would include each building’s requirements from all the respective departments (facilities, maintenance, kitchen, administrative, staff, teachers, janitorial, grounds, transportation, etc.). Once the upcoming bond passes, the draft DPSD 25 Year Strategic Plan would continue with its refinements until it was finalized during the first year.

A Deer Park citizen approached me last week with the idea of selling the current transportation facility after the new one is complete. Perhaps, there are a number of “options” to leverage the real estate value to offset the cost of the new transportation facility, new property, and road/utilities infrastructure before or after completion. Or perhaps, the old transportation facility could be sold afterwards and proceeds are used to reduce the tax burden.

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To get the public involved and feel a part of the new bond, I propose a drawing contest where kids and adults submit proposed drawings of the new elementary and transportation facilities that could be handed to the winning architect after the bond passes. These drawings (in part/in whole) could help influence the final designs.

With regards,

Gerald F. Ashby

Deer Park School Board Director, #4