

**Mill Valley School District
Facilities Master Plan Committee**

Guiding Principles for Master Planning Priorities

Our goal is to invest in our schools in fiscally responsible ways that have the maximum impact on supporting Mill Valley School District's mission:

"...to provide an excellent education that enables all students to achieve academic success and their full potential." and "...prepare our students to be responsible, contributing members of our community and wise stewards of our natural environment."

Each investment will be examined through a student-centered lens, evaluated for consistency with the District's Strategic Plan Goals, and measured against the following list of principles:

Safety
Learning Environment
Fiscal Responsibility
Flexibility
Accessibility
Maintainability
Sustainability

No one principle is more important than the others, and the viability of each potential investment will be evaluated based upon its impact on all principles.

Following is a description of the considerations included in each of the principles:

Safety: Build facilities that are compliant with applicable codes governing Structural and Life Safety. In addition, the following items will be evaluated during project design:

- supervision during regular and off hours (site layout, site lighting)
- emergency response systems
- site access and control (fencing, traffic access)

Learning Environment: Create and maintain learning environments that are safe, warm, and dry that enable students to be successful in rigorous academic programs, the arts, health and wellness, and character development. The following will be considered during design of the learning spaces:

- support of the District's mission, educational programs, and strategic plan
- creation of the technology infrastructure necessary to support district's teaching, communication and administrative objectives
- utilization of each schools' indoor and outdoor environment to enhance learning
- issues of comfort (acoustics, adjacency issues, "safe places")

Fiscal Responsibility: Decisions may be governed by available funding, but with consideration of potential future benefits that could be achieved. The following questions will be asked while considering fiscal responsibility of potential improvements:

- How fiscally responsible is this project?
- Is there a way to achieve most or all of the same educational benefits at a lower cost?
- Have we taken into account all costs over the life of the project, including maintainability and impacts on sustainability?

Flexibility: Flexibility serves as an overriding principle with all district space designed for flexible and diverse use. All spaces are designed to accommodate best practices as they relate to educational programs, community participation, environmental support, maintainability, and accessibility by school community. To support developments into the next several decades, the District focuses on flexibility of building space.

- design allowing for different grade levels to occupy a learning space
- design provides the flexibility for accommodating the changing needs of the school population or changing trends in education based on best practices
- space designations are based on wet features, allowing art, science or cooking activities or dry features allowing music, technology, theater or graphic art activities
- spaces for Administration offer comfortable work environments with space to meet confidentially, but not specifically designed for unique services
- readily available resources to convert areas to specific needs as appropriate (storage for furniture and equipment that customize the needs of the current space usage)
- commitment to the community emphasizes the District's goal to offer flexible spaces to the community as an inclusive concept

Accessibility: Ensure compliance with existing and planned California State Accessibility Regulations (i.e. Title 24 and DSA/AC policies and interpretations of regulations) and the related applicable state and federal codes and requirements. Spaces will be designed with the idea that everyone deserves a chance to participate (sensitive, barrier-free architecture that fully supports the needs of every individual using each space).

Maintainability: Considerations of Maintenance & Operations include:

- functionality
- reliability
- maintainability
- life cycle costs
- replacement cost

Sustainability: Sustainable building meets current building needs and reduces impacts on future generations by integrating building materials and methods that promote environmental quality, economic vitality, and social benefit through the design, construction and operation of our built environment.

The District will utilize design and building principles derived from best practices and concepts outlined by state and federal standards to create an environment that is energy efficient, healthy, comfortable, and contains the amenities needed for a quality education.

By leading through example, the District will ensure that the school community is aware of its focus on environmental sustainability and encourage all staff, students and community members to participate in supporting school and District efforts as stewards of the environment.

Sustainable design encompasses the following broad topics:

- efficient management of energy and water resources
- management of material resources and waste
- restoration and protection of environmental quality
- enhancement and protection of health and indoor environmental quality
- reinforcement of natural systems
- analysis of the life cycle costs, return on investment, and benefits of materials and methods
- integration of the design decision-making process