



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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STAFF MEMO

Date: March 14, 2025

To: Board of Education

From: Dan Jung, Chief Operating Officer
Stormy Shanks, Senior Director, Office of School Modernization

Subject: High School Modernization Cost Analysis

In April and May 2024, the Board of Education (Board) approved comprehensive plans for Cleveland High School (CHS)¹ and Ida B. Wells High School (WHS)² and authorized an update to the comprehensive plan for Jefferson High School (JHS).³

In November 2024, concerns over the total project costs led to the suspension of the design phases of all three modernization projects. At that time, the Board requested a comparison of project costs, including a detailed cost comparison report.⁴

On February 11, the Board provided Staff with guidance in the form of a cost reduction “framework.” The framework outlines general directions for reducing project costs.⁵

On March 4 the Board approved Resolution No. 7067⁶ requiring that Staff return to the Board on March 18, April 8, and April 22 with progress updates.

Staff aim to secure the Board's general approval of the redesign and cost reduction options to be presented at the April 22, 2025 meeting. After which, the project teams will finalize design changes sufficient to submit them for third-party construction cost estimates to obtain updated project costs. Staff will then return to the Board with updated comprehensive plans that include the scope, schedule, and budget for each project for the Board's approval. The following chart illustrates the general process:

¹ [Resolution 6901](#)

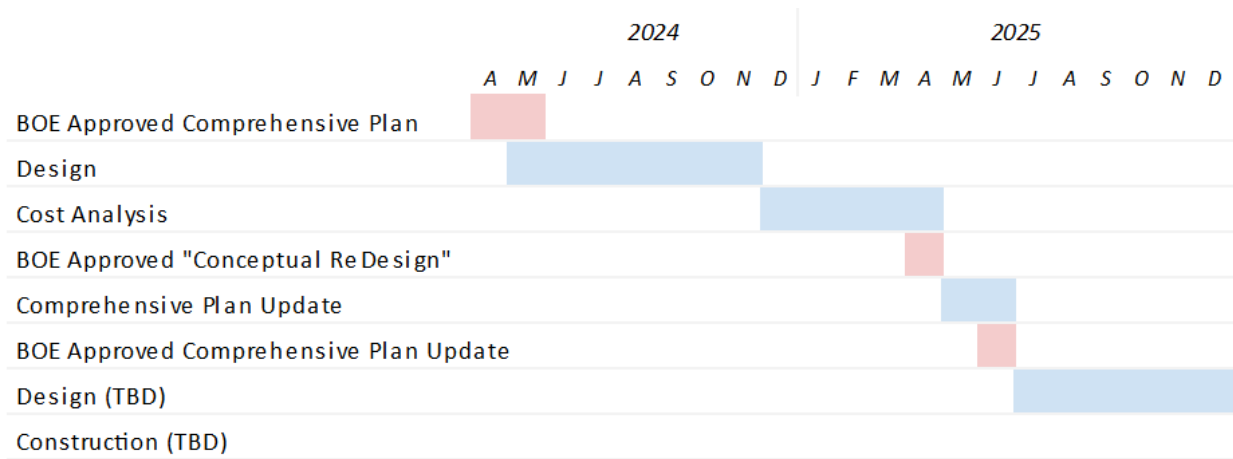
² [Resolution 6900](#)

³ For further details, [see Board materials from May 7, 2024](#) and [April 2, 2024](#)

⁴ [PPS HS Cost Comparison](#), and [Staff Memo: High School Cost Comparison Report](#)

⁵ For further details, [see Board materials from February 11, 2025](#)

⁶ [Resolution 7067](#)



Note: the timing and duration of the later project stages, including design and construction, are dependent on the cost reduction options approved by the Board. Schedule details will be provided with the updated comprehensive plans.

Today, on March 18, Staff are presenting preliminary updates regarding the alignment of the three projects with the Board’s cost reduction framework. Staff welcome feedback from the Board on whether the project teams are heading in the right direction or if any adjustments are necessary.