



## **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** September 14, 2020  
**FROM:** Denise Juneau, Superintendent  
**LEAD STAFF:** Fred Podesta, Chief Operations Officer  
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**For Introduction:** September 23, 2020  
**For Action:** October 7, 2020

### **1. TITLE**

BEX IV: Approval to Utilize Funds from BEX IV program placement to fund a School-Based Health Center project at Lowell Elementary School

### **2. PURPOSE**

This board action report requests approval to utilize \$315,000 from the BEX IV capital levy program placement budget to fund a school-based health center at Lowell Elementary School. This is a one-time request.

### **3. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the board authorize the Superintendent to utilize \$315,000 from the BEX IV Capital Levy Program Placement budget to fund a school-based health center at Lowell Elementary School.

### **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **a. Background**

Lowell Elementary School has a desire to host a student-based health center to serve its community by providing quality health care in a safe place that is welcoming and accessible. The students, staff and families at Lowell Elementary School are culturally, economically, linguistically and physically diverse. A large percentage of the community is historically underserved. The goal of this project is to provide quality health care to the school's diverse community.

Lowell Elementary School formed a planning committee comprised of school and community representatives to study the feasibility of providing a student-based health center at Lowell Elementary School. Programming and a conceptual design for the health center has been completed along with an estimate of probable construction cost. It is estimated a total project budget of \$615,000 is needed to fund completion of the project as envisioned in the programming and conceptual design report. The planning committee sought a Distressed Schools Grant from the State of Washington and was awarded a grant of \$300,000 to help fund the project.

**b. Alternatives**

Not approve Motion. This is not recommended because it would negatively impact the opportunity to provide safe access to health care by Lowell Elementary School students, families and community.

**c. Research**

Lowell Elementary School Based Health Center Programming Report by Schemata Workshop

**5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

Fiscal impact to this action will be \$315,000.

The revenue source for this motion is BEX IV Capital Levy.

Expenditure: ☒ One-time ☐ Annual ☐ Multi-Year ☐ N/A

Revenue: ☐ One-time ☐ Annual ☐ Multi-Year ☒ N/A

**6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

☐ Not applicable

☐ Tier 1: Inform

☒ Tier 2: Consult/Involve

☐ Tier 3: Collaborate

The selection of projects in the BEX IV program went through an extensive community vetting process and ultimately received 72% approval from voters in February 2013.

**7. EQUITY ANALYSIS**

The project was requested by the Lowell Elementary School principal and staff who worked with Senator Jamie Pedersen to secure funding. The project was not identified in the original BEX IV capital levy; and was not analyzed with the Racial Equity Analysis toolkit utilized to guide the planning process for the BEX V capital levy. This project is in keeping with the board's stated guiding principles for the BEX V Capital Levy, that racial and educational equity should be an overarching principle in accordance with Board Policy 0030, Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity. The student population of Lowell Elementary School is diverse with approximately 28% African American, 19% Asian, 13% Latino, approximately 16% multi-racial, and 22% White. African American boys make up 14% of the school's enrollment. By providing safe access to quality health care, the project will better position students for academic success, and serve historically underserved families in the Lowell Elementary School community.

**8. STUDENT BENEFIT**

This action will benefit students by providing access to health care services that support learning.

**9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY**

- ☐ Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- ☐ Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- ☐ Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- ☐ Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- ☐ Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- ☒ Board Policy No. 6000, Program Planning, Budget Preparation, Adoption and implementation Policy, provides the Board shall approve this item
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. POLICY IMPLICATION**

Per School Board Policy No. 6000, Program Planning, Budget Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation, item number D, "Funds may be transferred from one budget classification to another subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the Board."

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

This motion was discussed at the Operations Committee meeting on September 10, 2020. The Committee reviewed the item and moved the item forward with a recommendation for approval by the full Board.

**12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon approval of this motion, the selection process of an architectural firm will commence immediately. The timeframe for construction would be scheduled for summer 2021.

**13. ATTACHMENTS**

- Lowell Elementary School Community Health Assessment (for reference)
- Schemata Workshop Report Lowell Elementary School Based Health Center Programming Report Dated Nov. 4, 2019 (for reference, available upon request from the Capital Projects and Planning Department)



# Lowell Elementary School Community Health Assessment

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For questions and more information about this document, please contact the following:

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Through various family engagement events and activities including surveys, interviews, and focus groups, students and families were asked for their input on what barriers they face to accessing health care and what services they would like to see offered at the school-based health center. Amongst some of the barriers were difficulty to appointments, limited operational hours of clinics, lack of transportation, high costs, and language barriers. Services desired in the community included treatment and management of illnesses, check-ups and exams, vaccinations, dental services, vision services, mental health screenings, and counseling.

# Lowell Elementary School Community Health Assessment

Through various **family engagement** events and activities including surveys, interviews, and focus groups, students and families were asked for their input on what **barriers** they face to accessing health care and what **services** they would like to see offered at the school-based health center.

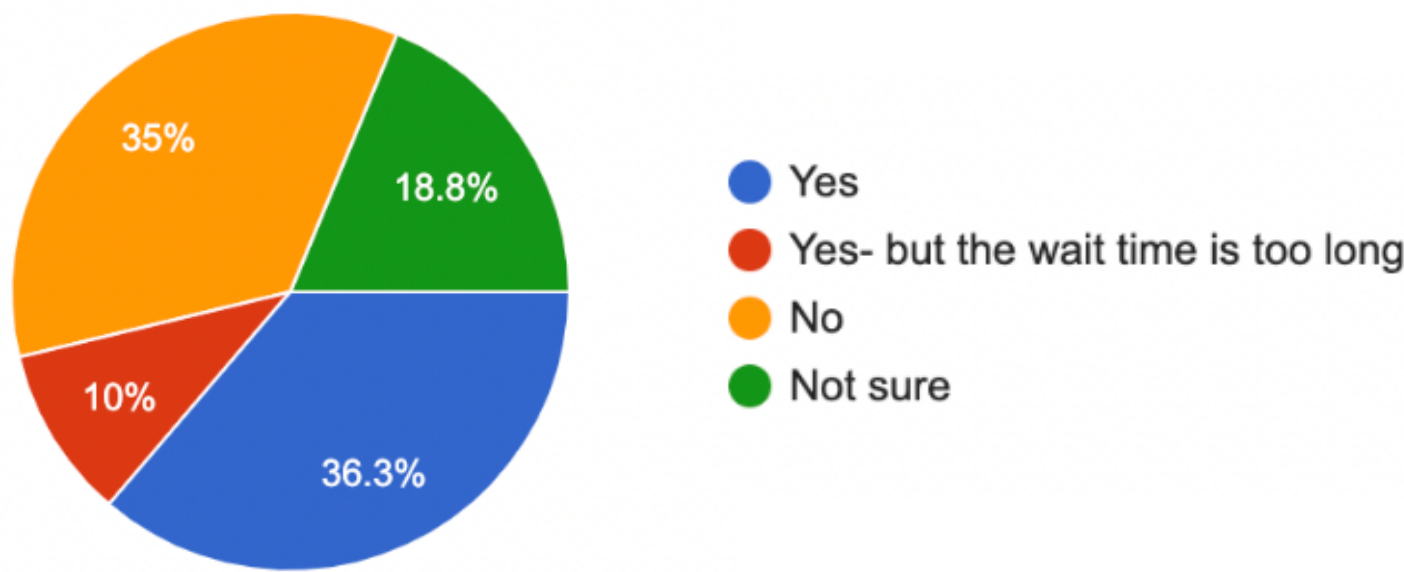
## Access to Care

Of those who responded to a **school-wide family survey**, majority of families responded to utilizing a family doctor or primary care clinic for health care.

However, families also reported accessing care through urgent care or walk-in clinics, through emergency rooms, and from **various locations** throughout the city including downtown and the international district.

## Mental Health

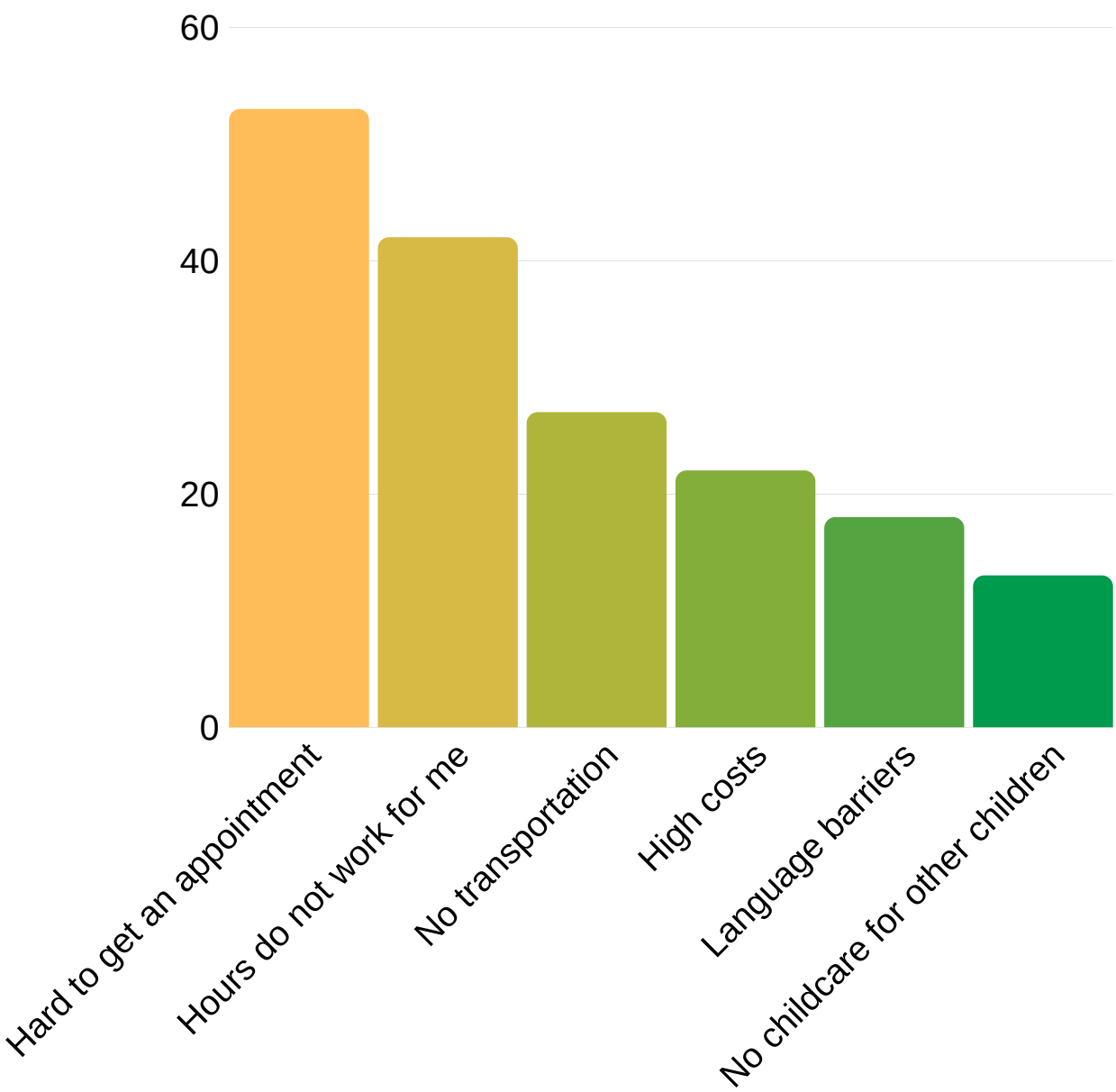
35% of families answered "No" when asked if their children have a place they could go for counseling services.



## Barriers

When asked what barriers families face when needing to take their children to a health appointment, over 50% of respondents indicated **difficulty getting an appointment** as the number one challenge.

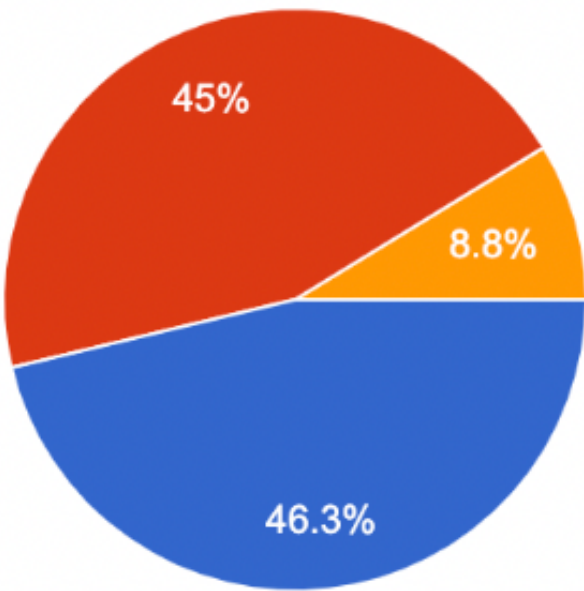
**Other barriers include:** Limited Hours of operation of clinics, Lack of transportation, High costs, and Language barriers



## Top reported services families would like offered at the school-based health center:

- Treatment and Management of illnesses, infections, & asthma
- Check-ups and Well Child Exams
- Vaccinations
- Dental Services
- Vision Services
- Mental Health screenings & counseling

Nearly all families responded **feeling comfortable** with their children using the school-based health center as long as they were kept informed or could attend appointments with their children.



Overall, families have reacted very positively to the idea of a school-based health center and believe it would be a **valuable resource for the Lowell community.**

**Continued student and family feedback** is essential to ensuring the future school-based health center best meets Lowell's unique needs.

- I would give permission for my child to go to the clinic on their own, as long as the doctor checked with me by phone.
- I would make appointments for my child, but I would need to be there in person.
- I would not want my child to receive services at the school-based clinic.