

South Hadley Elementary Building and Grade Reconfiguration Project Proposal

October
2023





Agenda

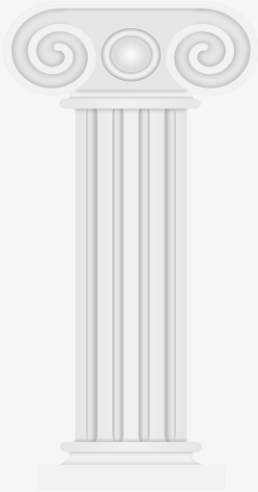


Educational Vision

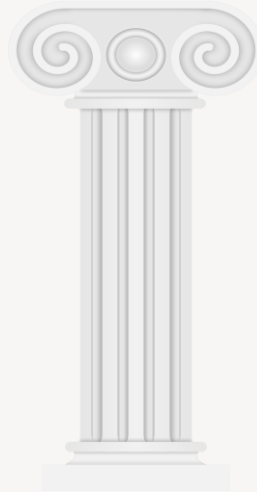
- Create the conditions for the strongest possible foundation for our beginning learners
- Build upon that strong foundation by rejoining all elementary aged students in one physical space
- Create a true middle school model in order to buttress that foundation by supporting students in that developmentally critical stage of the education continuum
- To build a significantly strengthened pre-vocational and vocational program for middle school and high school students in order to expand the educational and professional opportunities for those students whose vision for their own education and professional future continues to expand beyond the traditional secondary constructs of college readiness



The Four Pillars



Plains Elementary:
Early Childhood
Center
PreK - Kindergarten



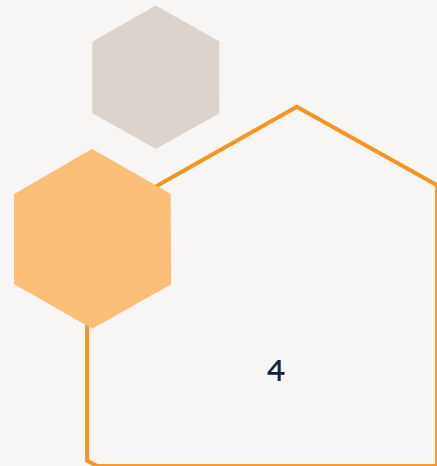
**Mosier
School:**
Consolidated
Elementary
Programming
Grades 1 - 5



MESMS:
Revised Middle
School Model
Grades 6 - 8



SHHS:
Additional
Vocational
Programming
Grades 9 - 12





Significantly enhanced opportunities to build foundational supports for our earliest learners by focusing on pre-reading, pre-writing, and early math skills

Full day pre-k to students who are 4 and will be entering kindergarten the following fall and students who have a full day program in their IEP

Half day pre-k to 3 year olds or early 4's who will be in pre-k for two years or more

Availability for 1/2 day students to remain on-site for care the remainder of the day

Partnership with YMCA and/or Head Start to provide before and after school care



Creation of a parent resource center (meetings, heat assistance, food bank, winter clothing, etc.)


Opportunities for expanded sensory spaces, calm down spaces, and/or indoor play spaces

Increased opportunities for pre-k and kindergarten partnerships for students and for teachers, leading to smoother transitions between grade levels

Increased opportunities for play-based learning building-wide

Continued expansion of pre-k and flexibility to create kindergarten classrooms to welcome increased numbers of new students

Establishment of pre-vocational and vocational Early Childhood programming at Plains to service the emerging interests of middle and high school students seeking academic and pre-professional opportunities in this critical and growing field



Pillar 2: Revised South Hadley Elementary Programming

Mosier: Grades 1 – 5 Elementary School

The opportunity for the district to contemplate grade reconfigurations based upon its original intent to rebuild an old and dying Mosier Elementary School has led the district to focus, not inconsequentially, on a vision that fundamentally reimagines elementary programming as well, the second pillar in our district revisioning plan.

This vision includes the reduction of grade one at Plains Elementary School and grade five at Michael E. Smith Middle School, fundamentally reconfiguring the district's elementary programming, by creating a grades one through five Mosier Elementary School.

Mosier: Grades 1 – 5 Elementary School (cont.)

Benefits of this plan closely align with the district's emerging vision for building, and securing, strong educational and social emotional foundations for all South Hadley elementary students:

- Consolidates academic programming in our district
- The resource and professional development opportunities afforded by this consolidation will lead to significantly enhanced and de-siloed service delivery for students
- Reintroduction of grade five to elementary school will properly align the social emotional needs of all elementary students
- Consolidated programming in the context of the district's revitalized SEL coordination and initiatives

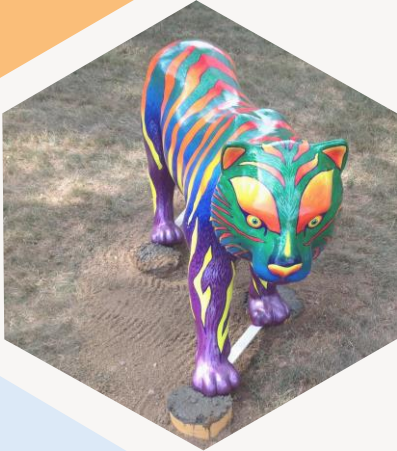




Pillar 3: Revised Middle School Model

Grades 6 – 8 only

- Reducing grades served to three supports students' academic development
- Frees up space in the middle school to develop a robust pre-vocational program
- Pre-vocational opportunities will align with current high school vocational programs in criminal justice, carpentry and culinary
- Allows for the possible further future expansion of high school vocational programming, including, for instance, cosmetology or early childhood





Pillar 3: Revised Middle School Model

Grades 6 – 8 only (cont)

This vision is also an extension of efforts currently underway at the middle school to reimagine its service delivery, consistent with our core goal of strengthening and extending academic foundations for all students:

- New schedule
- Extending instructional periods
- Advisory program
- World language classes (Spanish)
- Family and Consumer Science offerings

The second extension of the district's vision allowed by this proposed model supports students' social emotional and behavioral needs by increasing administrator and counselor oversight achieved through the reduction of one full grade from the current middle school configuration.

Pillar 4: South Hadley High School

The educational vision proposed here impacts South Hadley High School by:

- Creating a firm and reliable foundation for all its learners.
- Benefitting from a vigorous pre-vocational program at the middle school, vocational programming at the high school will transform to next phase instruction, significantly advancing the professional goals and aspirations of a large and growing segment of its population as they look toward post-secondary employment or education.
- Providing a unique opportunity to create and implement an Early Childhood Program for high school students by leveraging a reconfigured Plains Elementary School into both an early childhood instructional space for learners and a lab space for students at the other end of the pre-k through twelve continuum interested in that vocation and seeking practical, and local, ways to engage in it.



The Building Vision

The vision described in the previous slides articulates a clear separation of elementary and middle school grades, the South Hadley School District proposes, at a minimum, the consolidation of grades one through five into one completely new school building. This proposal reflects the following core beliefs: Mosier Elementary School cannot be renovated AND a one through five elementary model is consistent with a contemporary and results driven educational vision for all students in our district.

At most, the district proposes consideration of a grades one through eight school, with elementary and middle school grades separated within the facility, thus creating two distinct schools under one roof. Among the expected benefits of this proposed facility, the district highlights the following:

- Maintenance of new programming currently available to grade five students (Spanish, advisory, FACS) made possible by proximity to programming within the same facility
- Enhanced economies of scale for maintenance and custodial services, counseling supports, joint elementary and middle school programming and professional development



The Building Vision (cont.)

Since the district contends that the current Mosier facility is not repairable, this proposal prompts consideration of renovation of the current middle school facility to allow for the introduction of up to five pre-vocational programs and adding onto the current middle school facility to accommodate the new one through five Mosier Elementary School. The district recognizes that if it is invited into the feasibility study that process will determine the ultimate merits of this minimum and maximum building and grade reconfiguration proposals outlined.

The district also recognizes the possibility, if not even the likelihood, of other designs and configurations not contemplated here. In all cases, we affirm our commitment to working diligently, flexibly and collaboratively alongside the MSBA to develop and implement a plan that secures the best outcome for the students, families, taxpayers and other stakeholders of this community.



Funding Preparation

In anticipation of demonstrating its commitment to this process, the Town of South Hadley has for the last five years built a significant fund, now in excess of 850 thousand dollars, to support the feasibility study whenever the district is invited to participate.



Conclusion

The South Hadley School District and Town have worked hand in hand to develop the proposal before you. The collaborative nature of this partnership, extending well past this particular project, makes now a uniquely opportune time to engage in the complicated and transformative work before us. It is our sincere hope that the South Hadley School District and Town of South Hadley is provided the opportunity to work with the MSBA on behalf of the students and families of this community to create a once in a generation opportunity to transform its educational landscape.

Questions or feedback please reach out to SElemBuildProject@shschools.com

