RTA ARCHITECTS

**MEMORANDUM**

**PROJECT:** **Monarch HS Renovation**

**PROJECT NO:** 2023-083.00

**DATE:** 05/06/2024

**TO:** **Monarch High School Design Advisory Team**

**SUBJECT:** **CTE User Group - Summary of Deficiencies and Opportunities**

The following content summarizes the outcomes of discussions held during the April 9th User Group meetings, aimed at gaining a comprehensive understanding of each space within the CTE field and identifying potential opportunities for enhancement. From the information gathered, the basis for developing the scope outlined in the forthcoming schematic design package can be formed. The SD package will undergo initial pricing by the general contractor to enable prioritization and refinement of the project scope in the fall of 2024.

**Applied Engineering**: Shane Stalter

- Multiple floor boxes in the classroom are not operational and power distribution in the shop was coordinated around previous fixed equipment. This distribution will be modified for proper coordination with current equipment.
- The classroom is divided into three zones with two separate teaching spaces, a markerboard on one end and a projection screen on the other. The class will be re-configured with a centralized teaching area and presentation zone for a more uniform teaching environment.
- Student/Teacher project storage capacity is not sufficient for the instructional activities and will be increased where possible.
- Currently, the office and northern third of the classroom are being utilized for storage or additional work tables for shop activities. The team will redesign the shop and potentially expanded to accommodate all functions required within the existing and potential curriculum.

**Auditorium**: Kate Klotz

- The existing carpet throughout the seating area is worn and multiple theater seats are either damaged or inoperable. The team will replace carpeting throughout, along with the repair or replacement of select seating.
- Theatrical lighting was identified as a priority item. Current lighting is fully incandescent and is mixed and matched as lights have been procured over the years. Lighting control for theatrical lights does not function correctly or consistently. Lighting will be replaced with LED fixtures and DMX control.
- The audio sound panel is outdated along with multiple speakers which do not function and produce poor sound quality.
- The control booth currently features a hinged window that significantly obstructs sound from the stage, hindering efficient adjustments. The team will work towards a solution that improves the monitoring of acoustic performance within the auditorium from the control booth.
- The team will inspect the acoustics of the orchestra pit and explore potential improvements to optimize sound quality and support the overall performance experience.

**Broadcasting/Journalism**: Ben Reed & Mike Kugler

- The Yearbook/Journalism program was relocated to its current location within the language arts wing to enhance visibility and create a "fishbowl" effect. However, the installation of privacy film post-relocation, aimed at enhancing classroom safety during lockdowns, has diminished any opportunities for learning on display. To address this the window film will be removed and

alternative window treatments will be incorporated to improve visibility into the Yearbook/Journalism classroom.
- The upper casework in the yearbook/journalism classroom is not well-suited for charging photography equipment. Explore integrating a dedicated battery charging station within the classroom.
- The current broadcasting room has limited space for video production and acoustic issues. The team will evaluate the possibility of relocating the broadcasting room.

**Business**: Michael Blakely & Cristen Underwood

- Currently, the projection screen is positioned on a different wall from the markerboard used in instruction. The team will design a layout to install the monitor display alongside the marker board.
- The existing fluorescent lights are limited in function and often go unused due to their impact on some students' productivity. The team will replace the existing lighting fixtures and controls to improve functionality and accommodate diverse needs.
- The team will explore opportunities to enhancement the business entrepreneurial education pathway through improvements to the maker space.

**Culinary**: Autumn Francis

- The existing configuration of the classroom, storage and lab spaces within the culinary program limit observation of both classroom and lab space concurrently. The design team will improve visibility between the classroom and the foods lab.
- The storage room serving the classroom is not being utilized. Maximize the utilization of existing storage to provide larger and more transparent spaces within the lab.
- To minimize the occurrence of pest-related challenges the team will strategically reduce the amount of closed storage spaces within the foods lab.

**Digital Arts:** Ali Martini

- The existing fluorescent lights are limited in function and often go unused due to their impact on some students' productivity. Upgrade existing light fixtures and controls to provide flexible lighting providing for an improved classroom experience.
- The existing built-in furniture limits collaboration and efficiency of the space. The design team will replace current built-in furniture with a more flexible classroom layout while ensuring that the design retains the capability for observation of student screen activity.
- Allocate storage for educational resources like drawing tablets and designate counter space for physical media production.
- Not all students can see casted demonstrations from their desk in the current configuration of the classroom seating and displays. Explore how the position of the displays within the classroom layout will be easily visible and accessible from all student workstations

**Computer Science**: John Cihlar

- The existing fluorescent lights are limited in function and often go unused due to their impact on some students' productivity. Upgrade existing light fixtures and controls to provide flexible lighting providing for an improved classroom experience.
- No markerboards are in proximity to monitors providing an inefficient teaching environment. Reconfigure the teaching wall to accommodate this deficiency.

**Health Science**: Alex Esposito

- Create a classroom layout that fosters hands-on learning and is adaptable for independent student use.
- Provide a range of training table types to accommodate different forms of treatment and a flexible teaching environment.
- Allocate space to house all water-related equipment within a single designated area, including multiple hydrotherapy tubs, ice machine and cooler washing station.

**Library**: Katherine Croasdale

- The existing break out space within the library holds classes of about 30 students over different research skills and provides a quiet break out space for students.
- Office L211C within the library is rarely used by staff and has been utilized in the past as a space for private calls by students. Consider converting to small group room.
- Workroom L211A is underutilized and is used for overflow/temporary storage space.
- Classroom L211D functions as a student success classroom for struggling students. Its proximity to the library is important as it provides more supervision and helps the students focus.

Attachments: n/a

REPORTED BY: Mike Storrer
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