



February 20, 2024

Recommendation Report

Presented to the Methacton Board of School Directors for
consideration in the Methacton High School

Campus Planning Process

Executive Summary

Methacton School District serves a community of about 13,000 households, located in a suburb of Philadelphia, in southeastern Pennsylvania. The Methacton School District has long enjoyed a tradition of excellence in education and community involvement in our schools. The District operates 7 school buildings to educate students in grades K-12. The Methacton High School has served our school community since 1961. The building has a projected replacement value of \$119,913,560 with significant facility needs estimated at \$69,000,000.

The High School campus consists of the high school building, central administrative building, transportation building and the campus sewer plant. Each of these buildings have significant facility needs in addition to the high school. The high school campus has two synthetic turf fields with lights, two softball and two baseball fields, a soccer field, and a track along with parking for staff and students.

The campus and facility needs have substantiated the need for the district to develop a comprehensive campus plan considering the actions identified in the 2023 Facilities Assessment of Assets with Conditions along with the broader historical challenges associated with parking, traffic, aesthetics, accessibility, safety, pool and auditorium limitations/issues, hallway movement, room size/availability/flexibility/climate, building layout, classroom equipment, and pending program developments.

To begin work on the development of this comprehensive plan, the district organized students, staff, and community members into the Methacton High School Campus Planning Committee. The committee met on several occasions in the fall of 2023 and developed 63 recommendations for the Board of School Directors consideration. This report outlines the purpose, process, and recommendations from the Methacton High School Campus Planning Committee as presented on February 20, 2024.



PURPOSE:

Methacton High School, originally constructed in 1961, has a projected replacement value of \$119,913,560 (1). In five years, it will have a facility needs of almost 60% (2) and projected renovations/repairs/replacements of \$69,000,000.

The district will develop a comprehensive campus plan considering the needs identified in the 2023 Facilities Assessment of Assets with Conditions along with the broader historical challenges associated with parking, traffic, aesthetics, accessibility, safety, pool and auditorium limitations/issues, hallway movement, room size/availability/flexibility/climate, building layout, classroom equipment, and pending program developments.

INTRODUCTION:

Since the 2016 Facilities Assessment Report and the subsequent development of the district Facilities Master Plan (3), the Methacton School District has been annually addressing matters identified within that plan. In an October 2022 presentation (4) to consider the renovation of HVAC at Methacton High School, the Board paused on proceeding forward given the cost escalation and potential disruption within the given project scope. This pause was followed by discussions on the need to take a deeper look at the overall challenges associated within the High School and all other campus structures, and to organize that in to a comprehensive campus plan.

Based on the 2023 Facilities Assessment of Assets with Conditions (5), substantial facility investments in the high school building are required within five years and more within the next 10 years. The administration and transportation buildings and the campus sewer plant additionally require similar investments.

METHACTON HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning Our Future

To being developing a comprehensive plan, the Methacton School District organized the Methacton High School Campus Planning Committee. The Methacton High School Campus Planning Committee (MHSCPC) is a collection of 149 school community stakeholders including students (25), parents (59), staff (42) and community members (23) who will provide recommendations to the Board of School Directors on future investments in the Methacton High School campus and its existing structures/buildings (High School Building/Transportation Building/Administrative Building/Campus Sewer Plant).

On August 21, 2023, the Methacton School District issued a call for participation on the Methacton High School Campus Planning Committee. The district issued post cards informing district residents of the call for participation. The district issued email and social media notifications to parents and staff and placed notices on Facebook.

Registration was accepted online. Registration requested participants to provide their name and email address, and to self-select a subcommittee from the interest areas.

The online registration closed at 12 Noon on September 14, 2023. The membership in the MHSCPC was announced on September 17, 2023 and placed on the District website. Based on a review of the self-selected interest areas, there were 11 people moved to different subcommittees and the Operational Costs subcommittee was subdivided into 3 subcommittees to best allow for feedback and discussion. All people that registered were included on the MHSCPC and placed into subcommittees as outlined below:

Traffic/Parking/Aesthetics	Operational Costs	Accessibility	Sustainability
Julie Bruner	Tim Bricker	Susan Angstadt	Brian Caldwell
Mary Conley	Steven Burda	Danielle Fowlston	Sara Campbell-
Rita Dantonio	Todd Buzby	Bill Nicholson	Szymanski
Laura Del Rossi	Kelly Fleischmann	Jill Nicholson	Rob Corcoran
Susan DeMedio	Debra Galvin	Charlie Orfe	Amanda Cushman
Deb Euker	Jim Mollick	Sheila Smith	Maryame Faouzi
Varun Jayaram	Kathy Muscarella	Gina Stover	Tracy Gambone
Amanda Kelly	Danielle Penza	Jenna Tress	Kate Graf
Sara Markley	Aaron Roberts		Jessica Khanna
Angela Pushman	Matt Sibley		Julie McKinney
Rasika Sivakumar	Adam Slavin		Julia Nakhleh
Jessica Starace	Nerissa		Anthony Picozzi
Alecia Ulsh	Spampanato		Tara Strouse
	Paul Winters		Doug White
	James Wren		Ravi Yeluri

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Sewer Plant/Transportation Building/Administration Building	Student Recommendations	Staff Recommendations	Campus Safety/ HS Building Safety
Rithika Adiseshan Tenley Dakota Peter Gravinese Karey Kochenour Nylah Prete Beth Rutledge Jason Sorgini Sarah Zinar	Aubrey Beaugard Vikas Bhan Ellie Booz Alexandra Dobai Ashley Drake Nicole Drake Grace Evans Barbie Griffith Jeramie Hampton Rajesh Kumar Drew Maginnis Amy Mangano Rachael Packer Owen Pellegrino Corina Todd Marnie Yudis	Dan Bontempo Carin Brizzi Weidner Christin Cicippio- Smith Cathy Cleary Catherine Denshaw Tessa Dunbar Jamie Gravinese Matt Marcen Zachery Olds Shannon Peffer Stephanie Pilman Erin Pollarine Brian Reagan Andrea Rees Tara Ricci Stephanie Savo Misse Slusser Ruth Walker Gabby Winters	Caitlyn Beacraft Louis Betz Bill Brannick Allyson Bullock Allison Carron Jessica Celestin Doug Drake Kate Falker Marisa Marchese Cheryl Peiffer Che Regina Jason Ritchie Alexis Washington

HS Building Zone 2 (Kitchen, Pool, Boiler Room, Main Gym)	HS Building Zone 3 (Art Room, Science Classrooms, Tech Ed Classrooms, Athletics Office) + HS Building Zone 4 (LGI, Principal's Office, Math Labs)
Demetri Bateman Alex Eells Jake Kallal Mike Mackin Amanda McMahon Vanessa Michel Denise Miller Karen Slezak John Smink Paul Spiewak Ryan Stender Gabi Vanleer Kyle Vanleer Ben Yoder Stan Zhukarev	John Andrews Anne Barto Mike Beaudreau Jennifer Cancro Christine Coccozza Katie Crawford Stephen Goettler Melissa Gorla Wini Hayes Melissa James Rebecca Kauffman Laura Kemp Farid Khan Carl Kralik

METHACTON HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE

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	Karen Mitchell Isaac Othuon Nikki Scott Harvey Scribner Edward Thiel Jerry Thompson Jeremy Walton
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Note: Some District Administrators were changed to other committees to help facilitate discussions and may not appear on the list and or may appear on list in subcommittees originally assigned to, but were unable to participate.

The Methacton School District arranged for all MHSCPC members to take tours of other (renovated/newly constructed) nearby high schools. The following tours were held with between 35-75 participants on each visit:

- Pottsgrove High School September 21, 2023 (Thursday) (1hr tour) (bus departed at 5:00PM/Tour began at 5:30PM)
- Avon Grove High School October 2, 2023 (Monday) (1hr tour) (bus departed at 4:45PM/Tour began at 6PM)
- Upper Merion High School October 12, 2023 (Thursday) (1hr tour) (bus departed at 5:00PM/Tour began at 5:30PM)

The MHSCPC met on the following dates:

- October 5, 2023 (Thursday) 6:30PM – 8:30PM
- October 14, 2023 (Saturday) 8:00AM – 12:00PM
- November 2, 2023 (Thursday) 6:30PM – 8:30PM

October 5, 2023 meeting of the committee began with an overview of purpose via a [presentation](#) by the Methacton School District Superintendent and Director of Facilities. That same evening, Methacton High School building administrators provided guided tours of the Methacton High School.

October 14, 2023 meeting began with an overview of the format for subcommittee discussions/work scheduled for that Saturday morning. The MHSCPC subcommittees were assigned spaces in the high school to gather. All subcommittees were facilitated by district administrators. Subcommittees used a SCOT (strengths, challenges, opportunities, threats) Analysis Model to help identify recommendations on specific matters associated with their respective subcommittee areas. The SCOT Analysis activities considered key architectural elements and spaces (classrooms, collaborative spaces, auditorium, pool, community access, STEM, performing arts, etc.), environmental and sustainability potential, and role of the campus and building in the community, operational costs, educational value, safety and security, aesthetics, innovation, athletics/activities, and more.

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Subcommittees were to produce a listing of 3-5 big ideas/recommendations written on large paper pad sheets (per topic).

Each MHSCPC member was provided presentations/documents/data/reports to help inform their discussions/work in completing the SCOT Analyses. The information provided included:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Reference guide • Administrative Brain Dump • Bus garage relocation estimate • Debt Analysis Review • 2023 Facilities Assessment of Assets with Conditions for HS Building/Admin Building/Transportation Building +2 other reports • High School Zone diagram • Student Recommendations • Staff Recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVAC presentations and bid proposal report • Listing of Green Ribbon Schools • Master Plan (2023 and 2016) along with budget sheets for 2023 plans • Pool study, presentations, and recommendations • Sewer Plant Discharge Monitoring Reports • Sewer plant study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student designed landscaping project proposal • Student Enrollment Report • Survey and Focus Group Feedback from Students and Staff • Sustainability documents (based on work from the District Sustainability Task Force) • Traffic studies and parking maps
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The district made available “experts” to assist, support, and inform subcommittees throughout their discussions/work. The experts included the following:

- Doug Kenwood - Director of Facilities
- Tim Barbagallo - Assistant Director of Facilities
- Derrick DeNardo - Lead HVAC Mechanic
- Dr. Zerbe - Superintendent
- Jack Ayres-Fidevia - Owners Representative
- Jim Keiffer/Tanvi Harkare - KCBA-Owners Architect
- Dane Moyer - Bursich-Owners Civil Engineer
- John Gooley - Cardinal Point-Owners Security Consultant

Subcommittee members took guided (administrator led) tours of the structures with respects to their specific areas of concentration (high school zones/sewer plant/administration building/transportation building). The activity ended with most completing their work by 12 noon with several subcommittees remaining until 2pm that day. All subcommittees turned in their 3-5 big ideas/recommendations written on large paper pad sheets for use on the November 2, 2023 meeting.

November 2, 2023

All subcommittees met in the Methacton High School library where subcommittee designated presenters, shared their subcommittees recommendations with the entire MHSCPC. The [presentation can be found here](#). Upon completion of the presentations, all MHSCPC members we provided a prioritization sheet. All 63 recommendations were listed on the prioritization sheet and each member was to select 15 from the list. In addition, those on the MHSCPC not able to be present on November 2, 2023 were given the opportunity to review the presentation slide deck and submit their prioritized recommendations by Noon Tuesday, November 7, 2023. There were a total of 90 submissions. Nine submissions had more than 15 selections and were not included in the final prioritization counts. Below, in order of priority, you will find the top 15 recommendations from the MHSCPC.

Priority	SUBCOMMITTEE # AND CORRESPONDING RECOMMENDATION WORDING
1	9.1 Build a state of the art facility that will prepare our student body for their current interests and desired careers, inspire our faculty and staff and engage our community.
2	10.1 Create standalone athletic wing that contains pool, gyms, weight room, locker/team rooms, etc. that will allow for parking, accessibility, and visitor management/security.
3	5.3 Determine the property and capital costs of running the sewer line into the Lower Providence public sewer system. This is the only option that removes the need for treatment.
4	11.3 Develop a S.T.E.A.M. (Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math) Center for collaboration and engagement for all students, staff and community on a first floor location with natural sunlight.
5	7.4 Provide proper spaces for music program, science program, Life Skills Education, ELD program, Technology Education program, and FCS program along with proper sized spaces and locations within building for offices and hallways that provide a high level of accessibility and movement.
6	6.1 Re-design/re-purpose/build large group gathering areas (LGI, Cafeteria, auditorium, library).
7	2.1 Evaluate the cost of new construction.
8	7.1 Overhaul the HVAC system to improve air quality/climate within the building.
9	3.1 Increase available spaces to: Bring currently outsourced programs back into the high school, and; Provide opportunities for the development of new programs and supports for all students.

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10	6.4 Culture - Create open spaces throughout the building with flexible seating options and in consideration of lunch and learn program.
11	1.1 Provide additional parking for students, staff and visitors.
12	5.5 Relocate the administrative building.
13	8.1 Improve traffic flow on and off campus for regular day traffic and emergency situations.
14	7.3 Create innovative learning spaces to provide more opportunities for collaboration, engagement, and authentic learning.
15	3.2 Create an ADA friendly educational environment that provides consideration beyond that of the current code to optimize access and learning for all students.

The 63 recommendations include a number of reoccurring themes that can provide additional context to the recommendations outline in the report. The themes include the following:

<u>THEME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
• Parking	- Six (6) contain recommendations for improvements to parking
• HVAC	- Four (4) contain recommendations for improvement to HVAC
• Flexible	- Three (3) contain recommendations for flexible learning environment
• Safety	- Seven (7) contain recommendations for improvements in safety
• Traffic	- Four (4) contain recommendations for improvements in traffic
• Flow	- Four (4) contain recommendations for improvement in people flow
• Access	- Six (6) contain recommendations for improvements in access
• Spaces	- Thirteen (13) contain recommendations for improvements to internal spaces
• Cellular Service	- Five (5) contain recommendations for improvements to cellular service

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Methacton High School Campus Planning Committee (HSCPC) was organized into the following subcommittees:

- (1) Parking/Traffic/Aesthetics
- (2) Operational Costs
- (3) Accessibility
- (4) Sustainability
- (5) Sewer Plant/Central Office & Transportation Buildings
- (6) Student Recommendations
- (7) Staff Recommendations
- (8) Campus Safety/Building Safety
- (9) High School Auditorium, Band Room, Choral Room, West Wing Classrooms (Zone1)
- (10) High School Kitchen, Pool, Boiler Room, Main Gym (Zone2)
- (11) High School Art Room, Science Classrooms, Tech Ed Classrooms, Athletics Office (Zone 3) + LGI, Principal’s Office, Math Labs (Zone 4)

Below are all 63 recommendations from each subcommittee from which MHSCPC members choose their top 15.

PARKING/TRAFFIC/AESTHETICS

<p>1.1 Provide additional parking for students, staff and visitors</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not enough parking for students of driving age to have a dedicated spot on campus. Everyone who needs a space should have access to it, versus the current lottery system. • Parking is so scarce on campus that staff have to park along the curb in the lot in front of the HS. • During events such as sporting activities and graduation, there is not enough parking to accommodate the crowds that it draws. • There are so few visitor parking spots that it results in visitors parking in non-parking areas on campus (i.e. fire lane in front of main entrances).
<p>1.2 Restructure current parking layout to maximize number of spaces.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to create a dedicated lot for staff and students. Currently, staff parking is spread over three areas on campus. Some students who did not receive a lottery spot or are not seniors, park in the church lot across the street because there is not enough on campus parking for them.
<p>1.3 Improve overall safety by upgrading parking lot design elements and/or eliminating student/staff/visitor</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no signage that shows what lots are available for students only, staff only, etc.

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transitions from parking lots, across roadways, to the buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only defined pedestrian walkways are along the high school building. Students are also forced to walk in the street to access the building if they do not park on campus.
1.4 Eliminate Farina Administration Building to create a road/entrance for student parking from main road.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no parking available for juniors. By eliminating the Farina building, it will create an additional area to create new parking spots. Student drivers use the same road as buses and staff to get to their parking area. By eliminating the Farina building, we can improve safety and the flow of traffic on campus by separating the students from needing to use the same access point.
1.5 Reconfigure the master schedule for students and staff to stagger volume of traffic.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students, staff, parent drop off/pickup and transportation converge on the campus at the same time every day, leading to delays and bottlenecks on campus.
1.6 Remove bus depot to reclaim space for parking and create an additional entrance from Mill Road to campus.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is only one access point to enter and leave the campus.
1.7 Improve interior design of high school building.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inside of the building is dark and dated. There are few collaborative spaces in open areas with natural light.
1.8 Improve exterior design of high school building.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are few outdoor learning spaces. The landscaping is very basic, no colorful flowers. There is limited branding that lets visitors know they are on the Methacton High School campus (no banners, flags, decals, etc). The lighting is limited along the building exteriors and existing walkways.
1.9 Improve visibility of campus branding.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is limited branding and use of school colors on the exterior and interior of the building and campus overall. The on campus road does not have a name. One suggestion was to call it "Warrior Way" and install a sign to serve as a directional descriptor for all who visit.

OPERATIONAL COSTS

<p>2.1 Evaluate the cost of new construction.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location – Where would the new school be placed and would it allow for uninterrupted classes during constructions? • Impact to the students – Is there any disruption to the students? i.e. Classes, activities, sports, etc. • Sustainability – Can improved sustainability be added to the new building that would reduce on going costs or carbon foot print? • Educational and Community design – Right now the community center is in the middle of the school, could this be redesigned to be make getting to and from classes easier? I there a way to section off the community area from the classrooms?
<p>2.2 Provide a breakout of cost versus functionality life cycle.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and maintain with improvements – Is it more cost effective to build new verses continue to make repairs on the existing building? Even with renovation some systems and structures will not be renovated, what is the ongoing needs with those older sections? • Renovate - Consider Additions and Improvement – Can an addition resolve all of the issues or maybe provide a better more cost effective options? Concerns would still have to be addressed with older sections. • New Construction – New Building – Consider functionality, educational model to be used, stem, and community needs. • Address Farina and Transportation buildings as part of plan – Will we be address Farina and Transportation? Can transportation be moved off site?
<p>2.3 Need to consider educational impact against the cost.</p>	<p>Considerations: Educational Model and Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Functionality • Do it right verses just doing it • Adaptability • ADA Compliance
<p>2.4 Capital Project Master Plan breakout from the Master Plan.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage ongoing maintenance via Preventative Maintenance Program • Maintain existing buildings including new buildings and construction project • Include a funding plan in the budget that supports the plan.

ACCESSIBILITY

<p>3.1 Increase available spaces to: 1) Bring currently outsourced programs back into the high school and 2) Provide opportunities for the development of new programs and supports for all students.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current building cannot accommodate certain programs and courses for students. • A new building allows us to expand the programs we offer • Currently outsourcing programs to the IU • Cost to the IU for student attendance and transportation • Lost instructional time due to transportation to the IU • Bringing new programs back to the high school would require additional staff • Providing our own programs provides positive outcomes for students and more time with their non-disabled Methacton peers
<p>3.2 Create an ADA friendly educational environment that provides consideration beyond that of the current code to optimize access and learning for all students.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access points in the current building (there are a limited number of elevators and lifts, they are not centrally located, and they sometimes break down) • Campus is spread out and takes up a lot of space • Doors ways are difficult to maneuver if you are in a wheelchair • Few bathrooms are accessible for students to completely support themselves and be independent • Locker rooms-lack of privacy • Lack of gender-neutral bathrooms and providing spaces for students that need assistance • Current pool does not have easy access in or out of the pool; it also does not have a chair lift

SUSTAINABILITY

<p>4.1 Reduce energy consumption.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessen our negative impact on the environment • Reduce costs • Improved HVAC • Better Lighting- efficiency (automatic shutoff) and aesthetic (natural light)
<p>4.2 Decrease our physical footprint while increasing spaces to gather.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More environmentally friendly-energy efficiency • Better opportunities for students to work together • Reduce waste and costs • Less wasted space- lockers, long corridors • Improved layout- better flow, reduced travel time between classes • Multi-use space- Gym that could also host an assembly for full school

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<p>4.3 Ensure spaces are more accessible to the community.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build community engagement • Promote community buy in • Optimize our resources • Enhance sense of belonging • Branding • Separate entrances to community spaces from classrooms • Create desired spaces for use • More parking • Ability to allow safe entry from within the space • Create outdoor spaces- fields and classrooms
<p>4.4 Decrease our Environmental Footprint.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More environmentally friendly-energy efficiency • Better opportunities for students to work together • Reduce waste (including food waste) and costs • More robust recycling program • Reduce diesel emissions • Improve pool- reduce chemical use, eliminate leaks, functionality • Improved building materials- insulation • Eliminate sewer treatment plant • Better traffic flow- car and bus • Sidewalks to promote walking

SEWER PLANT/CENTRAL OFFICE & TRANSPORTATION BUILDINGS

<p>5.1 Explore the budgetary requirements of installing a pump station to discharge to the Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority.</p> <p>5.2 Enter into an intra-municipal agreement with Worcester and Lower Providence Townships to connect the MHS campus to a public sewer system.</p> <p>5.3 Determine the property and capital costs of running the sewer line into the Lower</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety issues due to buses going on and off campus causes pedestrian and driver concerns • Processing raw sewage in a full-service treatment plant on campus is a safety and liability concern • Sewer plant requires a specialized company to maintain the facility which costs additional funds • Sewer plant will need significant upgrades as the plant is aging • Buildings on campus have significant needs that must be addressed in upcoming years • Connect the Methacton High School campus sewer to the existing Lower Providence Township municipal sewer system located near the campus property and eliminate the on-campus sewer treatment plant. • Relocate the Administration Building to another district facility and either repurpose the existing structure to non-office related usage or remove the structure entirely.
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<p>Providence public sewer system. This is the only option that removes the need for treatment.</p> <p>5.4 Relocate the administrative building to a new location.</p> <p>5.5 Repurpose other facilities in the district to house the administration building.</p> <p>5.6 Relocate the transportation center to a new location.</p> <p>5.7 Repurpose the current administrative building for other needs (ex: maintenance offices, grounds, storage space, etc.)</p> <p>5.8 Repurpose the existing land (transportation facility) for use as athletic fields and/or parking.</p> <p>5.9 Improve overall traffic and safety on the HS campus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate the Transportation Center to another location and repurpose the space for parking or fields. • New space could be utilized for additional High School programming • New space could be utilized for additional parking for staff, students, and sports events
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STUDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

<p>6.1 Look at all current large group gathering areas and re-purpose or re-design them. Areas in current format are not suitable for our students (LGI, Cafeteria, auditorium, library)</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack opportunity for instructional time, engagement and collaboration • small, old and dim and do not promote a culture of belonging, pride • poor ventilation, crowded, dark, smelly and old carpets/furniture/fixtures, • outdated
<p>6.2 Create additional spaces for locker rooms so that equipment is</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No space/room for ALL athletes • Not clean/outdated

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<p>not stored in classrooms- poor use of classroom spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not accessible • Because of the lack of space in locker rooms, classrooms have become dumping grounds for athletes materials/equipment therefore causing an additional issue in classrooms- crowded and distracting for instruction
<p>6.3 Expand hallways- Remove lockers and expand so that students can move about freely in hallways.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowded and small • Cause class lateness • Add to student stress and anxiety
<p>6.4 Create spaces throughout the building for students that promote the culture of the building, tied directly into “spaces” above; create open/flexible seating option areas throughout by having lunch and learn spaces, places and options.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are NO spaces that promote this atmosphere • Does not exist in current HS format
<p>6.5 Address the lighting all throughout the building, sound and lighting improvements</p>	<p>Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting is old, dim/outdated/inconsistent throughout the building • Building speaker system is old and cannot be heard and is inconsistent throughout the building • Not safe if cannot be heard by students and staff
<p>6.6 Give the building a facelift that speaks to the WHO we are of MHS- building a entrance that is inviting and create a school bookstore that promotes all MHS merchandise.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current building is old/outdated • There is not school bookstore or merch spot • Students do not feel prideful about their school and want to!
<p>6.7 Address and remediate the current HVAC system and indoor air quality.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current system is old/outdated • Temperatures are not consistent throughout the building • Lose power often, disruptive
<p>6.8 Address the cellular capacity and add</p>	<p>Considerations:</p>

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<p>charging stations throughout the building.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cellular capacity is lacking all over- disrupts learning and potentially unsafe • There are dead zones all over the building for cellular and Wi-Fi- disrupts learning and potentially unsafe • There are no charging stations
<p>6.9 Provide students access to the building at set hours via swipe system for access, lunch and bookstore- tie the student ID into all.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no current swipe system for students • Students have limited access to the building even as athletes or clubs before during or after school • Staff have limited access
<p>6.10 Review current HS schedule and seek options for changes to the current schedule through block scheduling, later start time.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cannot get all of their desired course offerings • Too many separate schedules running (split schedules) at same time • Course availability is lacking
<p>6.11 Allow students more time at lunch for lunch and learn OR time that they can leave campus.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no mechanism in place that allows for flexibility for students • Current spaces and schedule do not allow for lunch/learn activities

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

<p>7.1 Overhaul the HVAC system to improve air quality/climate within the building.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are charged with keeping our students & staff safe (It is our #1 priority.) • The current HVAC could present health concerns, discomfort, and safety issues. • The overall learning environment is impacted by the HVAC system • Less absenteeism • Possible increase in participation in Music program (band/chorus) due to improved air quality • Increase attention/focus on instruction with less noise during instruction • Staff satisfaction • Free up resources as staff are currently emptying dehumidifiers during the day • Positive student outcomes, overall
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe a complete overhaul of the HVAC system is needed and would best be accomplished through new construction.
7.2 Improve safety by building a new main entrance, installing alerts for doors left open, and improving Wi-Fi and cellular connectivity.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety in building via main entrance Number of exterior doors is a concern & need alerts when doors are left open Footprint of building inside has many “hiding spots” Improved Wi-Fi-cell service Increased security presence Safer School Improved Mental Health of staff and students Possible increase in engagement and student achievement
7.3 Create innovative learning spaces to provide more opportunities for collaboration, engagement, and authentic learning.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The High School is the flagship of the district. Creating a collaborative environment would align to life post-HS (work/college) The current set up is inadequate. Need Consistent internet connectivity and charging stations We need to think and plan for students of the future! Improved learning spaces for our students (Both inside and out) Modern technology and connectivity Flexible Seating Visually appealing and safe Increased engagement, achievement and collaboration Reduce negative behaviors Create curricular opportunities that 21st century students need Increased attendance, enrollment, and staff retention Increased school spirit and positivity
7.4 Provide proper spaces for music program, science program, Life Skills Education, ELD program, Technology Education program, and FCS program along with proper sized spaces and locations within building for offices and hallways that provide a high level of accessibility and movement.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus and Building are antiquated and no longer meet the needs of current or future generations. We have to invest in the needs of students now and 50 years from now The current campus and building limit opportunities and student achievement
7.5 Address the congestion inside building by	<p>Considerations:</p>

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<p>removing lockers and connecting the building on the second floor and address the congestion outside by fixing traffic flow, campus safety, and parking. In the long term, we recommend new construction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Flow (Inside & Outside) and parking was not designed for our current usage. There is not enough entrances/exits onto and off of the campus. Parking is non-existent for visitors, and we do not have enough handicapped parking. • Interior Concerns • Size of hallways (length and width) • Flow of building • Footprint of building • Congestion causes a number of issues Inside & Outside • frustration and behaviors • anxiety about being late to class, or close proximity in crowded spaces • tardiness and missed instructional time • safety concerns • \Parking impacts the nearby community • Students parking on roads, church parking lots, etc. • Drop-off creates a bottleneck which makes it difficult for other cars to pass by the HS
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CAMPUS SAFETY/BUILDING SAFETY

<p>8.1 Improve traffic flow on and off campus for regular day traffic and emergency situations.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic delays arriving and departing from school; issue will be exponentially worse during an actual emergency
<p>8.2 Increase campus exterior lighting to improve visibility, deterrence, and surveillance.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor visibility after hours and winter months in the morning
<p>8.3 Harden the safety and security of outdoor common areas.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just what is says there
<p>8.4 Ensure the safety and security of students during a renovation or construction project.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If renovation is the option, district must be cognizant of the construction plan so students and staff are not in areas of potential danger during the process.
<p>8.5 Provide reliable cell and Wi-Fi service throughout the building.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell service and Wi-Fi are an issue throughout the building.
<p>8.6 Provide an internal building flow and movement conducive to</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic in hallways is difficult with no second story connection

the educational program.	
8.7 Construct spaces designed to support instruction during the day and to manage visitors and guests during the day and after hours.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separating educational space from activities and athletics space
8.8 Take a balanced approach among aesthetics and safety when considering renovation/new construction on the campus or the building.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't have too much glass in the building that weakens the safety measures

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, BAND ROOM, CHORAL ROOM, WEST WING CLASSROOMS (ZONE1)

9.1 Build a state-of-the-art facility that will prepare our student body for their current interests and desired careers, inspire our faculty and staff and engage our community.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our current space limits our ability to showcase the outstanding work of our students & staff. It also limits community events and possibilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage a new space to expand our current offerings & produce top-tier talent (students/staff) • Allows for community involvement & Methacton to be a premier destination • National speakers, conferences, and entertainment for the community, staff, and students • Expansion of cross-curricular activities • Opportunity to expand our thriving arts department and work collaboratively with staff and community • Positive impact on property value
9.2 Create collaborative classrooms/hallway spaces/accessibility.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current space is not collaborative or large enough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of space layout allows for preparation for workforce/post-high school experience • Better mental health for students - allow for student choice • Pride and ownership in the building for students, staff, and community (aesthetics)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater ability for students to have access to experts in their field/cross-curricular work
9.3 Provide large multi-use meeting spaces that can accommodate flexible groups.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, student groups/activities are bumped and/or moved, and cannot meet the needs of all the activities, athletics, and other meetings at the same time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow different activities to occur on the same night/various events Host community events Allow for groups of 20 – 200 Allow all groups to have access

HIGH SCHOOL KITCHEN, POOL, BOILER ROOM, MAIN GYM (ZONE2)

10.1 Create standalone athletic wing that contains pool, gyms, weight room, locker/team rooms, etc. that will allow for parking, accessibility, and visitor management/security.	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovations would be very costly and would not address many of the listed concerns Location of the Athletic Spaces and Access from the Outside An all-encompassing athletic/activity wing would create easier access for the public/spectators and provide security to the rest of the building Elevation of the pool/main gym (pool leads directly down into the main gym) Systems are dated and trying to repair and update is challenging and costly Challenges with humidity, temperature control, and air quality in the large group areas within Zone 2 Size of the Main Gymnasium Space is too small for larger sporting events for both participants and spectators Gymnasium is too small to have the entire student body – pep rally example Storage for physical education and athletics/activities is a huge challenge Gymnasium/Pool locker rooms and team rooms are dated and in need of repair Overall size of the cafeteria and serving area is undersized, creating the potential for longer lines and wait times Concerns Regarding the Methacton High School Pool Area that Led to Recommendations Underneath the pool is decrepit in areas and we have an ongoing leaking problem
10.2 Create world-class natatorium/pool.	
10.3 Right size spacing of rooms to be more appropriate for usage.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool storage areas are limited and outdated • Need for a larger pool • Need for a larger pool lobby • Spectator seating within the pool area presents challenges • Accessibility for handicapped swimmers/spectators (ADA Compliance) • Hot, humid and limited spectator seating within the pool area
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HIGH SCHOOL ART ROOM, SCIENCE CLASSROOMS, TECH ED CLASSROOMS, ATHLETICS OFFICE (ZONE 3) + LGI, PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE, MATH LABS (ZONE 4)

<p>11.1 Provide dedicated office spaces in closer proximity to the athletics/activities spaces within the building.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The athletic office should be located closer to the areas where athletics take place in order to address issues that arise in a timely manner. • The principal’s office should be located closer to the main entrance to meet the demands on scheduling conferences with parents and visitors without them having access to students in hallways and classrooms. • In the current high school building there are not spaces available to effect either of these.
<p>11.2 Improve ventilation/HVAC/Wi-Fi/cellular in the building.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wi-Fi/Cellular service in the East wing is extremely poor. Staff need to exit the building to gain service for cell phone calls. Students are frequently unable to make digital passes in these locations. • The HVAC/Ventilation system is erratic at best as it is throughout the entire building.
<p>11.3 Develop a S.T.E.A.M. (Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math) Center for collaboration and engagement for all students, staff and community on a first floor location with natural sunlight.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for a central area for engagement and collaboration for students. The current Tech. Ed. Room is on the second floor. This creates a difficult circumstance for acquiring necessary heavy materials for student projects. It creates a limitation on extensive woodworking and building projects. • The current art rooms are located on the interior venue of the East wing. There are no windows or sources of natural light. Ideally, these rooms would be located on the first floor and have large windows with direct access to an outdoor courtyard.

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<p>11.4 Provide flexible learning spaces for instruction.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently students who are assigned small group tasks opt to perform their work in the hallway. This creates a safety issue. There are no flexible learning spaces or hallway alcoves for them to gather as a small group for collaboration.
<p>11.5 Provide an internal building flow and movement conducive to the educational program.</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current building lacks opportunities for smooth transition and efficiency. There are bottlenecks at certain points necessitated by fire doors in the halls. • The halls at ten feet wide are insufficient for an effective flow of student traffic when 1600 students are trying to traverse the school simultaneously. • There is no direct access from the second floor of the West wing to the second floor of the East wing. • Students needing to make this class change always exceed the 6 minutes of passing time and arrive to class late.

Superintendent’s Note:

It is with great appreciation that our students, staff and community have given of their time and expertise to provide input into these recommendations. As we plan for our future, together, it gives me great promise that our community is invested in the future of Methacton Schools.

The Appendix includes the subcommittee notes from their work in the fall of 2023.

This committee may be called upon in the future to advise the Administration and the Board of School Directors during any phase of the planning process.

This report will be presented to the Board of School Directors on Tuesday February 20, 2024.



February 20, 2024

Recommendation Report

APPENDIX

Subcommittee Notes