



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
126

2025-2035

FACILITY MASTER PLAN

*A strategic roadmap
addressing current and
future facility needs to
ensure a safe, supportive
learning and working
environment aligned with
the District's mission and
vision.*

MARCH 2025

Embracing Our Past, Enhancing Our Present, and Enlightening Our Future.



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Board of Education & Superintendent



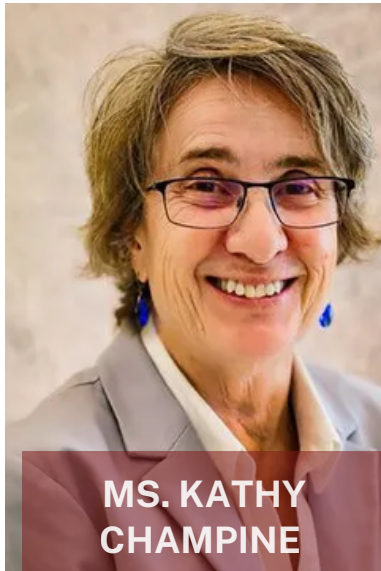
**MR. JERRY
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**MR. CHRISTOPHER
BENITEZ
VICE PRESIDENT**



**MS. PATRICIA
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SECRETARY**



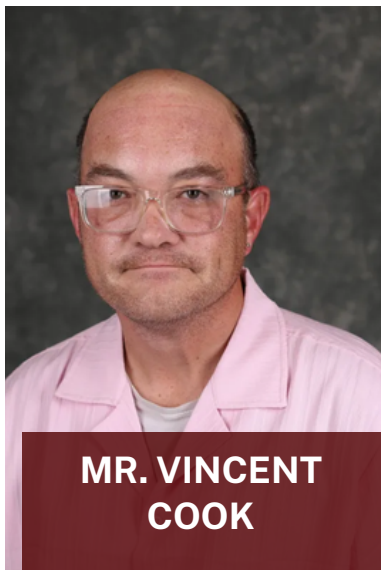
**MS. KATHY
CHAMPINE**



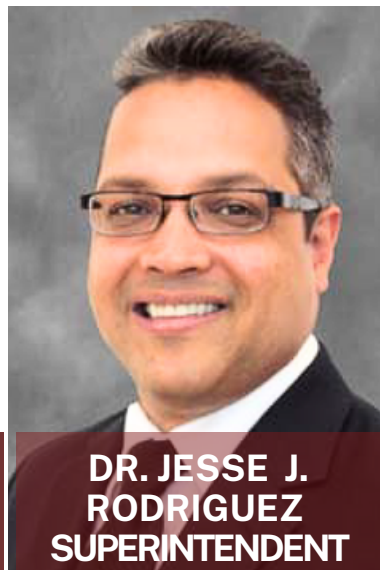
**DR. CIERA
MCNEAL**



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SCOTT**



**MR. VINCENT
COOK**



**DR. JESSE J.
RODRIGUEZ
SUPERINTENDENT**



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
126



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Acknowledgements

Wold Architects and Engineers is pleased to submit to Zion-Benton Township High School District 126 the following report related to the Facilities Master Plan for the District buildings.

We wish to thank the Executive Cabinet, building Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Students and Community members who contributed their time in providing the resources, input, and other information necessary to complete the Facilities Master Plan.

We are prepared to aid the District with any additional analysis and services required to explore the implications of this report and find ways to support ZBTHSD 126 continue its pursuit for educational excellence and future-forward learning. Thank you for your consideration.

Wold Architects and Engineers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Andrews", written over a horizontal line.

Alison Andrews

Principal-in-Charge | PK-12 Educational Planner



FMP Mission Statement

Develop a comprehensive long-range Facilities Master Plan with one “best” scenario for recommendation to the School Board

FMP Vision Statement

Zion-Benton Township High School District 126 will have a comprehensive long-range Facilities Master Plan to invest in facilities that accommodates enrollment, instruction, programming, and student support over the next 10 years, and reflects efficient and sustainable fiscal practices.

FMP Guiding Principles

- Provide a **safe and supportive learning** environment that promotes a positive climate and culture for **all students and staff**.
- Invest in District facilities to **empower** creativity, adaptability and innovation, foster **equity**, and support pursuit of the highest standards of **excellence for all learners**.
- Provide **future-forward learning environments** that incorporate the key elements of 21st century learning design, include meaningful **hands-on learning** opportunities, and support **personalized learning for all students**.
- District buildings and learning environments will be a **place of pride and opportunity** for **all students and staff**.



Executive Summary

Zion-Benton Township High School District 126 partnered with Wold Architects and Engineers to develop a Facilities Master Plan (FMP) through an inclusive process. The goal was to identify the District's facility needs and evaluate investment strategies aligned with its Guiding Principles. The FMP emphasizes flexibility, fiscal responsibility, and sustainability while ensuring facilities support the evolving needs of 21st-century education.

Stakeholder engagement included group discussions and electronic surveys with over 400 students, 40 faculty and staff members, and 50 community members. This inclusive approach ensured that diverse perspectives were valued and integrated into the planning process. Through this engagement, key priorities emerged, including quality learning environments, restrooms, safety and security, wayfinding, and student well-being. The District remains committed to embracing diverse ideas to create a plan that meets the evolving needs of its community. With broad stakeholder input, the FMP Committee prioritized these strategies and developed recommendations for the Board of Education. Prioritized strategies include updating classroom finishes, upgrading restrooms, addressing Health and Life Safety violations, adding air-conditioning to physical education spaces, and updating student locker rooms. While these are key priorities, other facility needs are equally important and may be addressed alongside priority areas if cost savings or District needs allow. The plan also integrates strategic design criteria to ensure cost-effective, future-forward solutions and recommends ongoing investments in infrastructure and facility sustainability.

The Board of Education previously approved facility investments for 2025 and 2026. Given pending projects, new priority investments will not begin before 2027. The phased implementation will align with the District's funding strategy and construction feasibility within summer schedules to maximize efficiency and minimize disruption. Once approved, work will include developing a fiscally responsible funding strategy, leveraging the plan to secure future funding opportunities, and proactively positioning the District as a safe, secure, and high-performing School District.



FMP Committee Meetings

Meeting Date	Meeting Agenda
November 6, 2024 – FMP Committee Meeting #1	• Process Overview and FMP Committee Role • Establish Educator Survey Questions • Discuss District Objectives and Goals
November 20, 2024 – FMP Committee Meeting #2	• Finalize Mission and Vision • Discuss FMP Guiding Principles • Feedback from Stakeholder Engagement • Prepare Community Town Hall Presentation
December 11, 2024 – FMP Committee Meeting #3	• Feedback from Continued Stakeholder Engagement including Community Town Halls • Finalize Guiding Principles • Discuss Emerging Themes for District-wide Needs • Prepare BOE Update Presentation
January 8, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #4	• Feedback from Continued Stakeholder Engagement • Create Need Statements based on Emerging Themes and Stakeholder Input • Discuss Investment Strategies to Address each Need Statement
January 22, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #5	• Feedback from Continued Stakeholder Engagement • Continued Discussion of Investment Strategies to Address each Need Statement • Prepare Community Town Hall Presentation
February 5, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #6	• Feedback from Community Town Hall Meetings • Review Prioritization of Investment Strategies
February 12, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #6B	• Review Opportunity Diagrams • Discuss FMP Investment Strategy Matrix • Prepare BOE Update Presentation
February 19, 2025 - FMP Committee Meeting #7	• Consensus on Priority 1 Investment Strategies and Design Criteria • Discuss BOE FMP Recommendation
March 5, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #8	• Review FMP DRAFT Report • Prepare BOE Recommendation Presentation



FMP Committee Members

- Dr. Jesse Rodriguez, Zion-Benton THSD 126 jessie.rodriguez@zb126.org
- Cynthia Moreno, Zion-Benton THSD 126 cynthia.moreno@zb126.org
- Dr. Chris Pawelczyk, Zion-Benton THSD 126 chris.pawelczyk@zb126.org
- Dr. Cheri Bridge, Zion-Benton THSD 126 cheri.bridge@zb126.org
- Dr. Jim Woell, Zion-Benton THSD 126 james.woell@zb126.org
- Dr. Melissa Digangi, Zion-Benton THSD 126 melissa.digangi@zb126.org
- Jacob Carlson, Zion-Benton THSD 126 jacob.carlson@zb126.org
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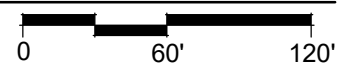


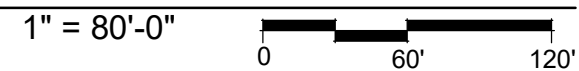
Building Utilization Diagrams

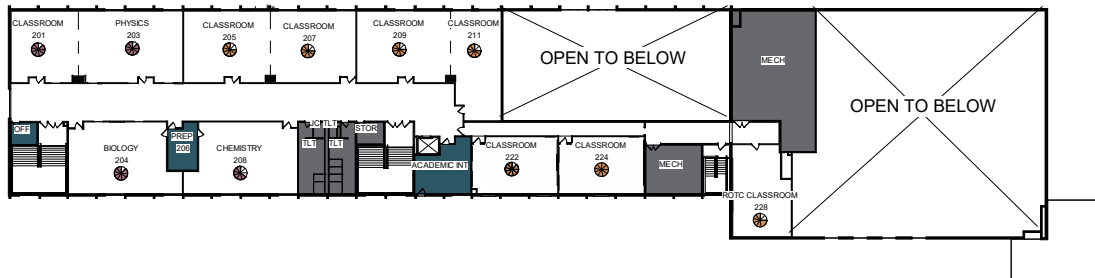
Principal interviews were conducted at each building to review the existing utilization of the building and identify inadequacies and missing components needed to support educational and instructional goals. All rooms were identified based on function and building schedules were provided to understand utilization throughout the day. Facility diagrams with colored zones were created to indicate the facilities current utilization for the 2024-2025 school year. From the Principal interviews, Wold is able to identify existing teaching stations, special education spaces, exploratory classrooms, staff, and student management areas, and building support spaces.

For a high school, a utilization rate is calculated to account for building scheduling. The *Utilization Rate* is the number of periods in a day that each space is used out of the total periods available. The rate is expressed as a percentage and is applicable to secondary level schools to recognize the scheduled rotation of students through teaching stations and the need for planning time for educators, which can occur within classrooms. The higher the utilization rate is in a facility, the more efficiently space is utilized.

It is common for the Utilization Factor to vary slightly room by room to accommodate either more spaces being utilized full time (or less). However, after studying the conditions both room-by-room, and hour-by-hour for many schools, Wold has determined that 85% is a fairly common utilization point when a building appears “full” to administrators, and 90% is when it feels overcrowded. This is largely due to the fact that some spaces are not as easily accommodating as others. For example, a classroom space could be used for a wide number of subjects, while a gymnasium or specialized lab are specifically designed for those functions and would not be appropriate environments for other coursework.







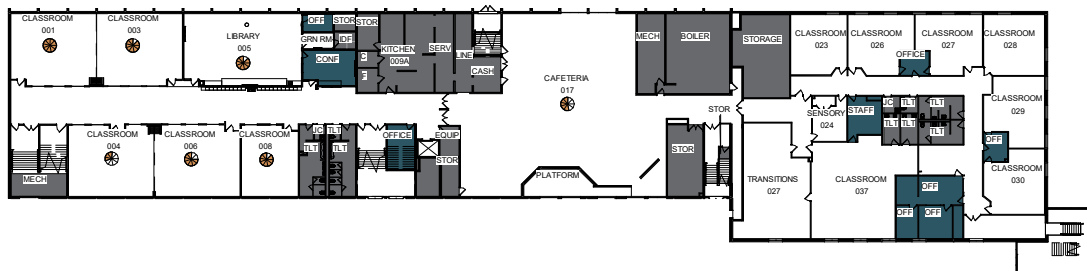
ZBE UPPER LEVEL UTILIZATION DIAGRAM

1" = 80'-0"
0 60' 120'



ZBE MAIN LEVEL UTILIZATION DIAGRAM

1" = 80'-0"
0 60' 120'



ZBE LOWER LEVEL UTILIZATION DIAGRAM

1" = 80'-0"
0 60' 120'

-  TEACHING STATION
-  STAFF & STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACES
-  MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE
-  RESOURCE & INTERVENTION SPACE
-  SUPPORT SPACE

TEACHING STATIONS	23
UTILIZATION RATE	81%
ALTERNATE CLASSROOM UTILIZATION SPACES	0

**PHASE I:
IDENTIFYING THE
NEEDS**



Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

- November 13, 2024 – Facility Team Meeting
- November 13, 2024 – ZBTHS Admin Meeting
- November 13, 2024 – ZBE Admin Meeting
- November 14, 2024 – ZBE Staff Meeting
- November 19, 2024 – ZBTHS Faculty Meeting
- November 21, 2024 – ZBTHS Faculty Meeting
- December 3, 2024 – ZBTHS Community Town Hall
- December 5, 2024 – ZBE Community Town Hall
- February 3, 2025 – ZBTHS Community Town Hall
- February 4, 2025 – ZBE Community Town Hall

- Faculty and Staff Electronic Survey (ZBTHS and ZBE)
- Community Electronic Survey
- Student Focus Groups (ZBTHS and ZBE)
- Student Electronic Survey (ZBTHS and ZBE)

Emerging Themes

Emerging themes are common topics that were noted throughout the stakeholder engagement process. Nearly all of the stakeholder feedback from both the in-person discussions and electronic surveys can be consolidated into one of the topics below:

- Learning Environment Improvements
- Site and Facility Infrastructure
 - Site Drainage Improvements
 - Exterior Envelope
 - Exterior Lighting and Security
 - Building Systems and Infrastructure
 - Restroom Repair and Upgrades
 - Health and Life Safety Concerns
 - Building Generators
 - Transportation Building Improvements
 - Parking Lot Improvements
 - Electric Bus Infrastructure
- Safety and Security
- Building Flow, Wayfinding, and Congestion
- Consolidation of Administrative Spaces and Operations
- Overall Building Environment, Appearance
- Occupant Well-being and Support
- Community Use/Partnership
- Multi-functional Large Group Space
- Physical Education and Athletic Spaces
- Space for Expanded Programming
- Outdoor Learning Opportunities



Need Statements

- Need Statement A:** Improve District learning environments.
- Need Statement B:** Improve and maintain site and building infrastructure for facility longevity.
- Need Statement C:** Improve building flow and wayfinding to optimize layout and reduce congestion.
- Need Statement D:** Incorporate safety and security enhancements to align with District policies.
- Need Statement E:** Reorganize student and staff management spaces to optimize layout and improve operational efficiencies.
- Need Statement F:** Provide interior building environments and exterior facility appearances that promote school pride.
- Need Statement G:** Identify opportunities to enhance student and staff well-being and increase space for student support.
- Need Statement H:** Identify opportunities to accommodate Community use of facilities.
- Need Statement I:** Provide multi-functional large group spaces to support varied programming and building flexibility.
- Need Statement J:** Improve physical education environments and support spaces.
- Need Statement K:** Identify opportunities to expanded programming now and in the future.
- Need Statement L:** Provide outdoor space and learning opportunities.
- Need Statement M:** Improve and maintain building site circulation and parking.

PHASE II: OPTION DEVELOPMENT



Investment Strategies

Need Statement A: Improve District learning environments.

Strategy 1: Update finishes at all classrooms to align with the District standard for learning environments.

Strategy 2: Update ZBE Science Classrooms to align with 21st century standards for flexible learning.

Strategy 3: Address inadequate classroom size, and shape at ZBTHS.

Strategy 4: Update Special Education Program classrooms to meet needs of curriculum and align with the District standard for learning environments.

Strategy 5: Address additional needs at newly renovated/new spaces.

Need Statement B: Improve and maintain site and building infrastructure for facility longevity.

Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with the District standard and meet accessibility requirements.

Strategy 7 (annual O&M): Utilize comprehensive, long-range planning to continue restoration and repair of facility exterior envelope, infrastructure, and site.

Strategy 8: Provide air-conditioning at physical education and athletic spaces.

Strategy 9: Incorporate infrastructure improvements in areas being renovated.

Strategy 10 (2026 Renovations): Upgrade Transportation Building facility and parking lot to support the long-term vision of District.

Need Statement C: Improve building flow and wayfinding to optimize layout and reduce congestion.

Strategy 11: Update interior signage to support wayfinding.

Strategy 12: Consider opportunities to widen corridors in future projects where space is being reconfigured.

Strategy 13: Consider opportunities to better utilize large corridor intersections or alcove spaces that currently stop the flow of corridor traffic and increase congestion.

Need Statement D: Incorporate safety and security enhancements to align with District policies.

Strategy 14/16 (2026 Renovations): Increase exterior lighting and provide cameras at exterior parking lots for safety and security.

Strategy 15: Provide card access to all interior spaces (includes classrooms, offices, support spaces).

Strategy 17: Enhance the PA system to support building communication and safety.

Strategy 18: Continue to systematically enhance wall and glass systems for bullet-resistance.

Need Statement E: Reorganize student and staff management spaces to optimize layout and improve operational efficiencies.

Strategy 19: Develop a Vision for the reconfiguration of the ZBE staff and student management areas.

Strategy 20: Develop a Vision for the reconfiguration of the ZBTHS staff and student management areas.

Strategy 21: Renovate Departmental Offices.

Need Statement F: Provide interior building environments and exterior facility appearances that promote school pride.

Strategy 23: Incorporate school colors, logo, and branding in all renovation projects.



Need Statement G: Identify opportunities to enhance student and staff well-being and increase space for student support.

Strategy 25: Explore opportunities to create additional space for student and staff collaboration.

Strategy 26: Increase the opportunity for natural light, openness and borrowed light in all occupied environments.

Need Statement H: Identify opportunities to accommodate Community use of facilities.

Strategy 27: Consider needs of outside Community organizations when renovating existing spaces.

Strategy 28: Explore opportunities to cultivate Community partnerships and strengthen curriculum connection.

Strategy 31: Explore opportunities for ZBTHSD 126 to offer Community/adult learning programs.

Need Statement I: Provide multi-functional large group spaces to support varied programming and building flexibility.

Strategy 32: Enhance Cafeteria procedures to increase efficiency for students and staff.

Strategy 34: Explore need for additional medium group size meeting space at ZBTHS.

Strategy 35: Explore opportunities at ZBE to gather the full building enrollment for assemblies, presentations, and events.

Need Statement J: Improve physical education environments and support spaces.

Strategy 36: Implement improvements at ZBTHS baseball field.

Strategy 37: Implement improvements at ZBTHS softball field.

Strategy 38: Implement improvements at ZBTHS tennis courts.

Strategy 39: Update locker room environments to align with District expectations.

Strategy 40: Address outdated and undersized bleacher seating in athletic environments.

Strategy 41: Address outdated and worn athletic environments.

Strategy 42: Improve worn and dated athletic training space at ZBTHS.

Need Statement K: Identify opportunities to expanded programming now and in the future.

Strategy 43: Explore Opportunities to increase available space for Physical Education at ZBE.

Strategy 44: Explore need for expanded programming and determine associated space needs.

Need Statement L: Provide outdoor space and learning opportunities.

Strategy 46: Explore improvements to the ZBTHS courtyard to create an environment appropriate for learning and collaboration.

Need Statement M: Improve and maintain building site circulation and parking.

Strategy 47: Perform a traffic study at ZBTHS to identify root cause of challenges and explore improvement strategies.

Strategy 48: Implement improvement strategies identified during the Traffic Study.



Building Opportunity Diagrams

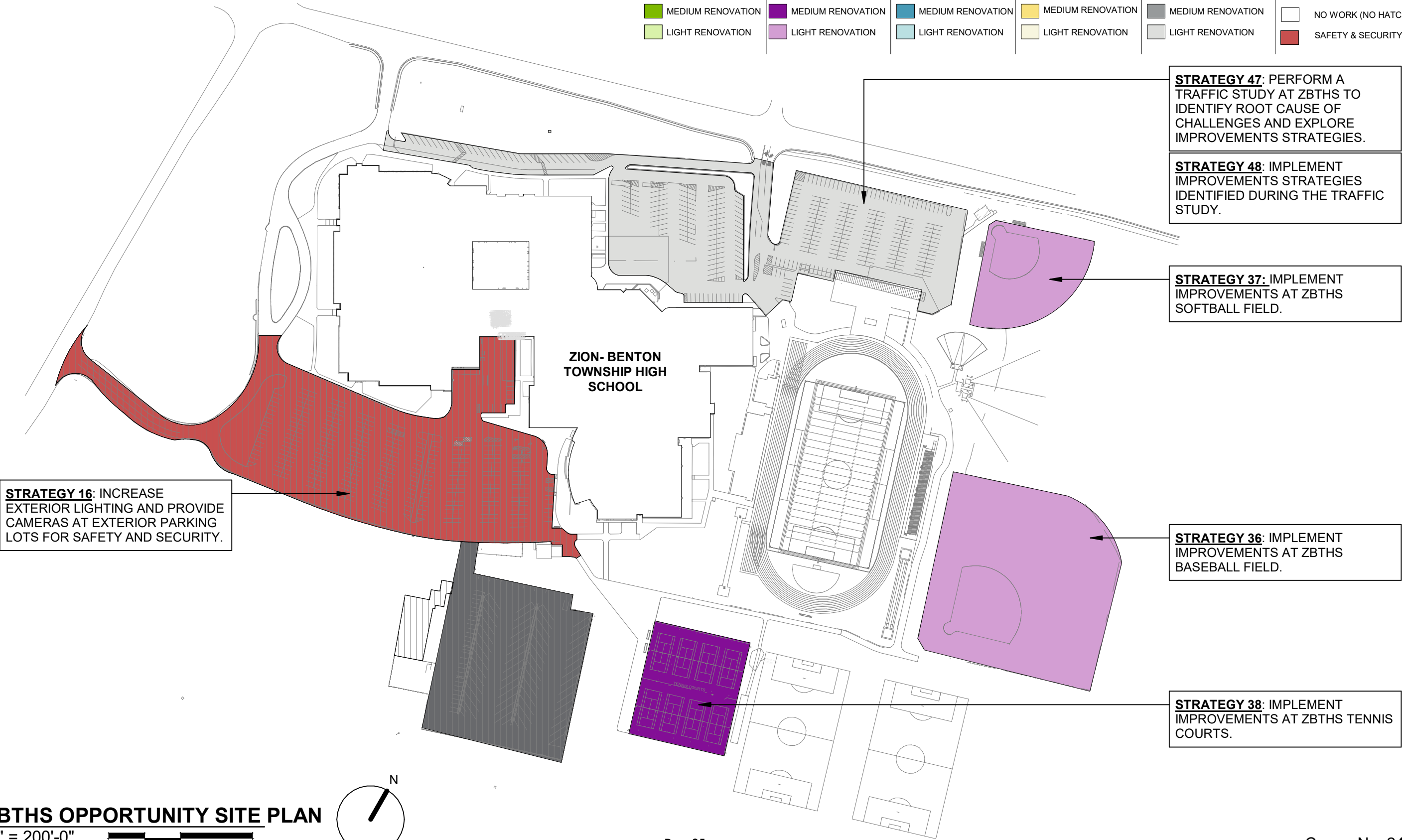
As a result of the Stakeholder engagement process, the areas of need were identified at each site and building. In the diagrams that follow, Investment strategies are depicted and color-coded to indicate the potential level of investment required (light, medium or heavy) to address the needs identified.

- A light renovation assumes a scope of work that is limited by the existing structural configuration of space(s). This scope of work primarily includes upgrades to the finishes, lighting, technology, and furniture.
- A medium renovation also assumes a scope of work that is confined by the existing structural layout of space(s); however, acknowledges some element of the investment that is more invasive to the overall configuration of systems within the space(s). This may include, but is not limited to, building new non-load-bearing walls, minor structural reinforcing, cutting in new openings into existing walls, saw-cutting of the existing floor slab, demolition to remove built-in elements existing within the space, and specific mechanical system upgrades.
- A heavy renovation assumes a scope of work that reconfigures space. This may include, but is not limited to, all elements included in light and medium renovation and the following: demolition of non-loadbearing and loadbearing walls, major structural reinforcing of existing elements, structural reconfiguration to support a revised layout of space(s) and major mechanical, electrical or technology systems upgrades.

These diagrams are not intended to be final solutions or the recommended investments resulting from the FMP process, but function as conversation starters and reference diagrams to further refine and prioritize forthcoming discussions.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY





STRATEGY 3: ADDRESS INADEQUATE CLASSROOMS SIZE, SHAPE AND SEPARATION FROM ADJACENT SPACES AT ZBE AND ZBTHS CLASSROOMS.

STRATEGY 21: RENOVATE ZBTHS DEPARTMENT OFFICES.

STRATEGY 6: UPGRADE RESTROOMS TO ALIGN WITH DISTRICT STANDARD AND MEET ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

STRATEGY 4: UPDATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM CLASSROOMS TO MEET NEEDS OF CURRICULUM AND ALIGN WITH DISTRICT STANDARD FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

STRATEGY 32: ENHANCE CAFETERIA PROCEDURES TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF.

STRATEGY 20: RECONFIGURE THE ZBTHS STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT AREAS.

STRATEGY 46: EXPLORE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ZBTHS COURTYARD TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATE FOR LEARNING AND COLLABORATION.

STRATEGY 5: ADDRESS ADDITIONAL NEEDS TO NEWLY RENOVATED/ NEW SPACES.

STRATEGY 39: UPDATE LOCKER ROOM ENVIRONMENTS TO ALIGN WITH DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS.

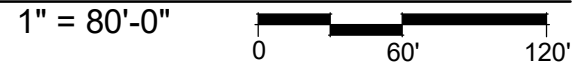
STRATEGY 8: PROVIDE AIR-CONDITIONING AT PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC SPACES.

STRATEGY 42: IMPROVE WORN AND DATED ATHLETIC TRAINING SPACES AT ZBTHS.

STRATEGY 40: ADDRESS OUTDATED AND UNDERSIZED BLEACHER SEATING IN ATHLETIC ENVIRONMENTS.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY

ZBTHS MAIN LEVEL OPPORTUNITY DIAGRAM





STRATEGY 1: UPDATE FINISHES AT ALL CLASSROOMS TO ALIGN WITH THE DISTRICT STANDARDS FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

STRATEGY 21: RENOVATE ZBTHS DEPARTMENT OFFICES.

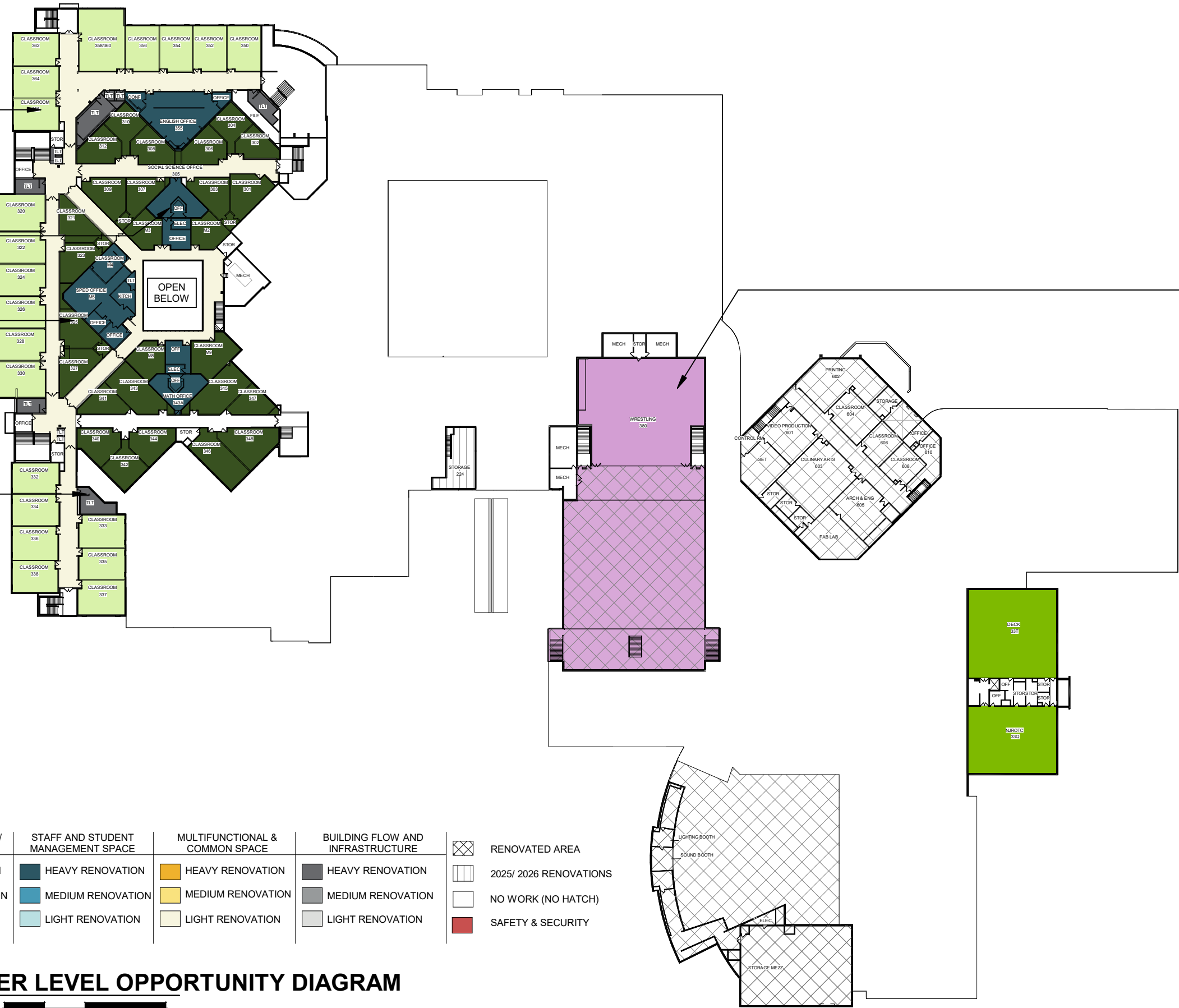
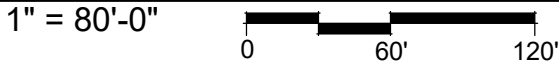
STRATEGY 3: ADDRESS INADEQUATE CLASSROOM SIZE, SHAPE AND SEPARATION FROM ADJACENT AT ZBE AND ZBTHS CLASSROOMS.

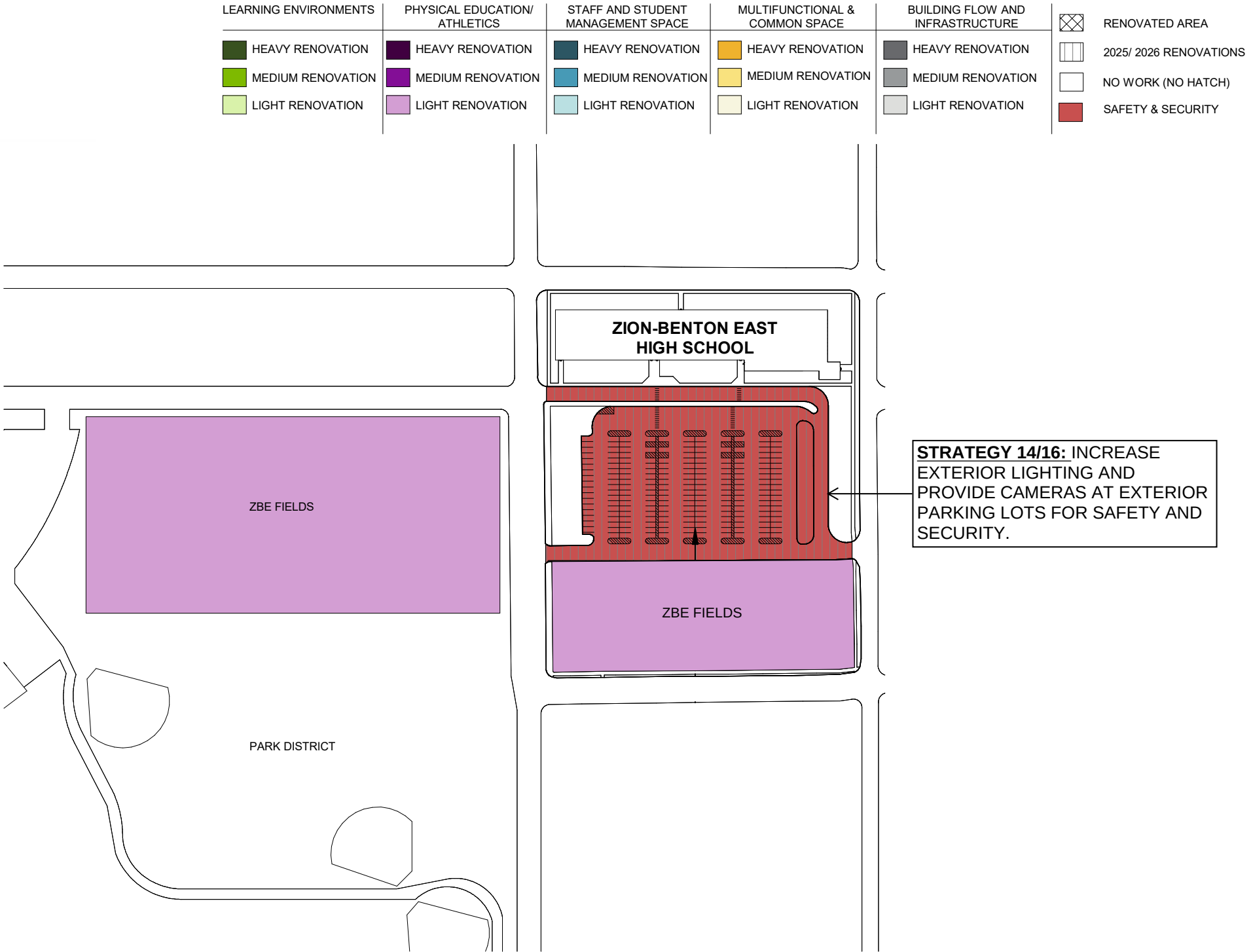
STRATEGY 6: UPGRADE RESTROOMS TO ALIGN WITH DISTRICT STANDARD AND MEET ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

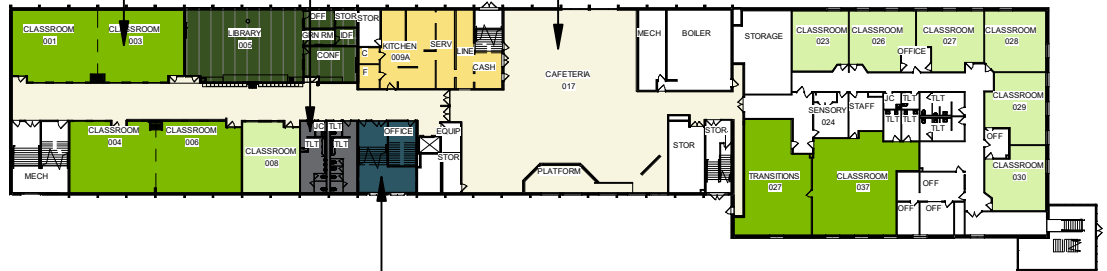
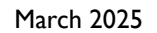
STRATEGY 41: ADDRESS OUTDATED AND WORN ATHLETIC ENVIRONMENTS.

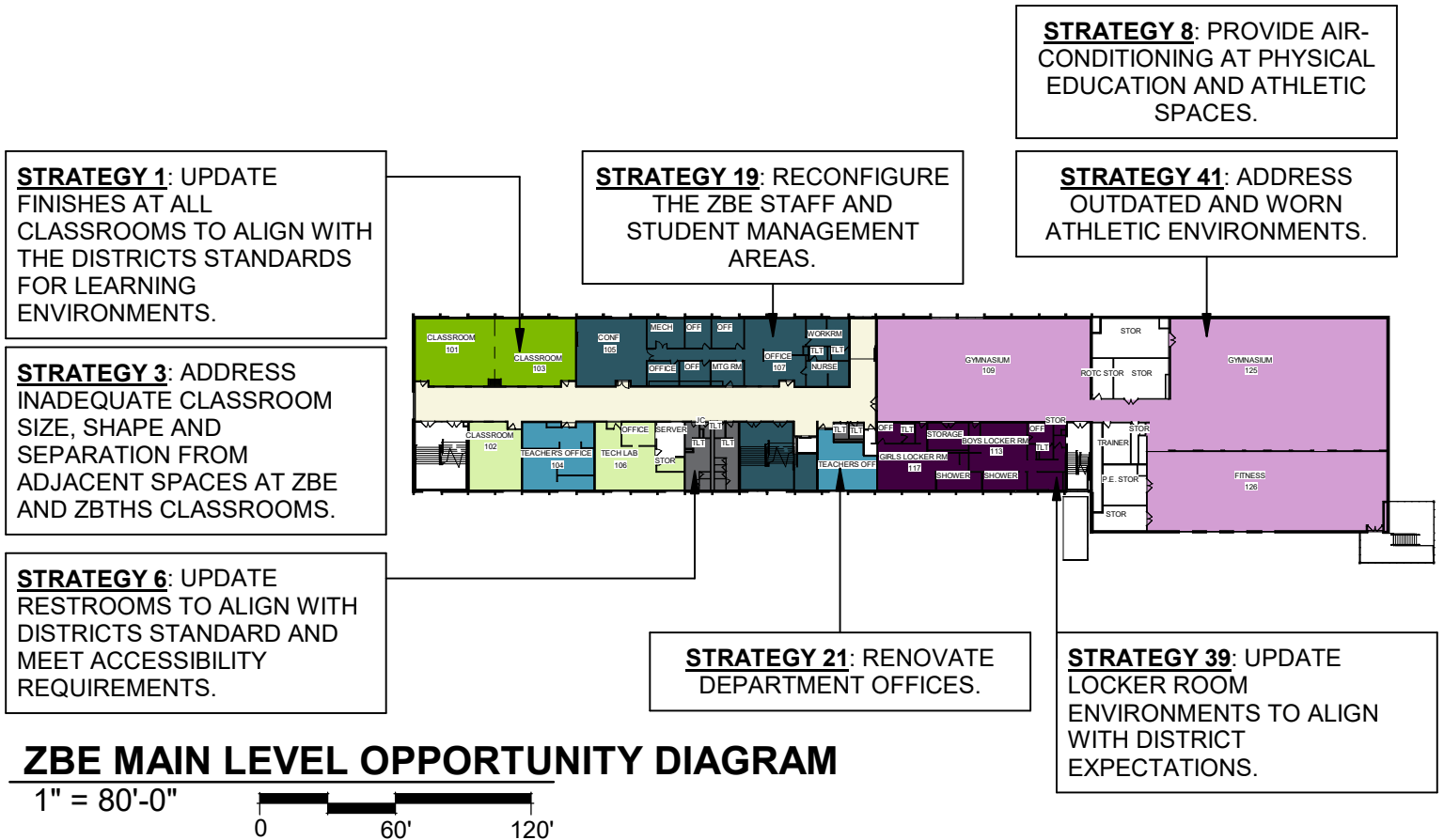
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY

ZBTHS UPPER LEVEL OPPORTUNITY DIAGRAM









LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY



STRATEGY 2: UPDATE ZBE SCIENCE CLASSROOMS TO ALIGN WITH THE 21ST CENTURY SCIENCE CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR FLEXIBLE LEARNING.

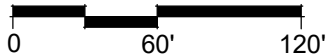
STRATEGY 3: ADDRESS INADEQUATE CLASSROOM SIZE, SHARE AND SEPARATION FROM ADJACENT SPACES AT ZBE AND ZBTHS CLASSROOMS.

STRATEGY 6: UPDATE RESTROOMS TO ALIGN WITH DISTRICTS STANDARD AND MEET ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.



ZBE UPPER LEVEL OPPORTUNITY DIAGRAM

1" = 80'-0"



LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY



2025 & 2026 Investment Strategies and Planning Criteria

In multiple instances stakeholder feedback was related to facility investments that have already been identified and prioritized by the Board of Education. The investment strategies below and areas of the District buildings identified on the subsequent site and floor plans have been approved by the Board of Education to be addressed in either 2025 or 2026 District Renovations.

2026 Summer Investment Strategies

Strategy 7 (annual O&M): Utilize comprehensive, long-range planning to continue restoration and repair of facility exterior envelope, infrastructure, and site.

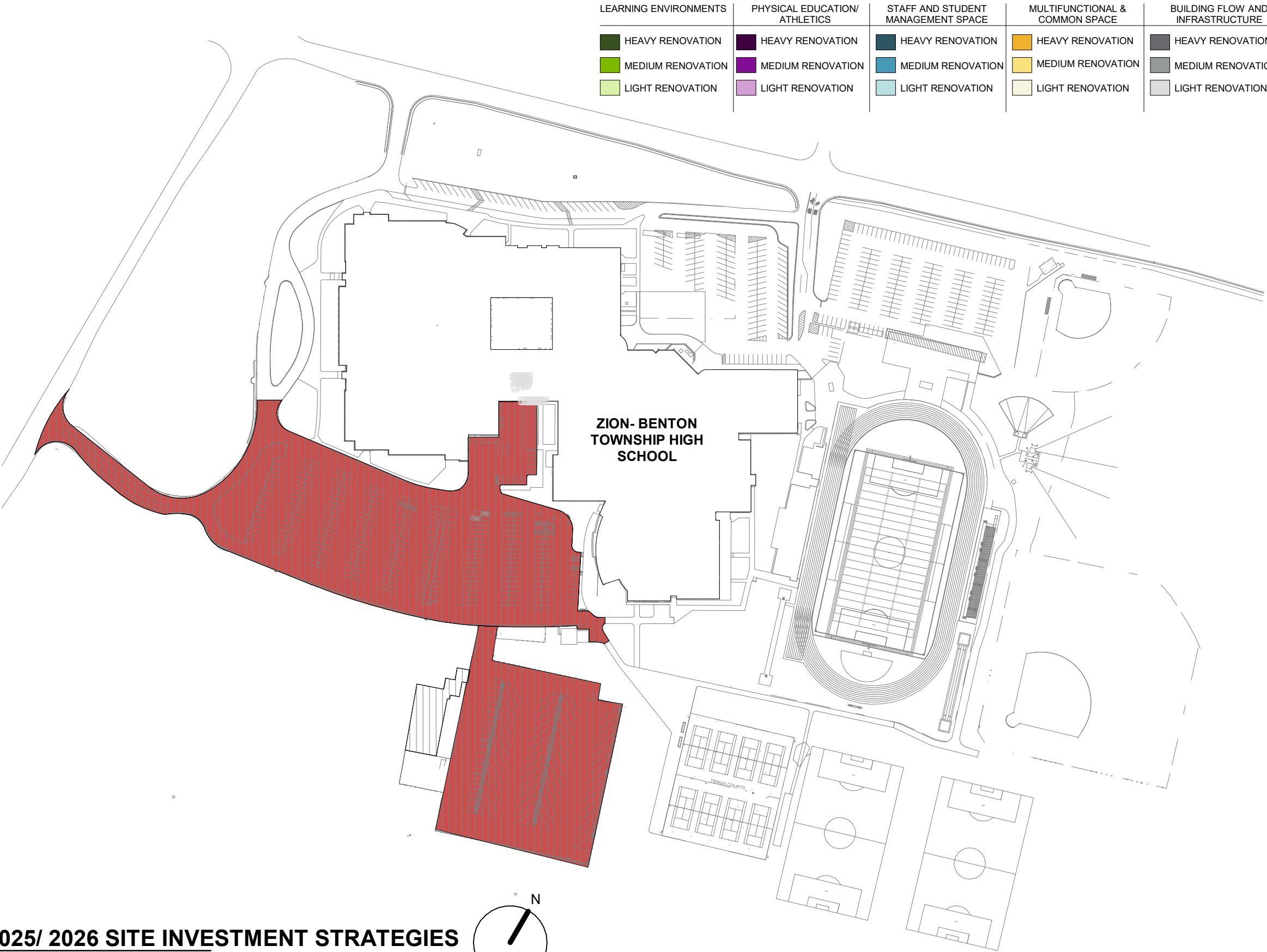
- **Criteria 6:** Explore opportunities to provide back-up generators at critical systems and operational elements to protect building longevity and decrease learning loss.
- **Criteria 7:** Continue systematic asphalt paving and parking lot repairs and restoration.

Strategy 10: Upgrade Transportation Building facility and parking lot to support the long-term vision of District.

- **Criteria 1:** Enhance infrastructure to support electric buses including installation of charging stations and reorganization of the lot to support flow.
- **Criteria 2:** Upgrade infrastructure and finishes to provide an appropriate long-term environment.

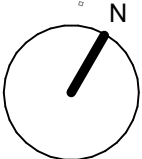
Strategy 14/16: Increase exterior lighting and provide cameras at exterior parking lots for safety and security.

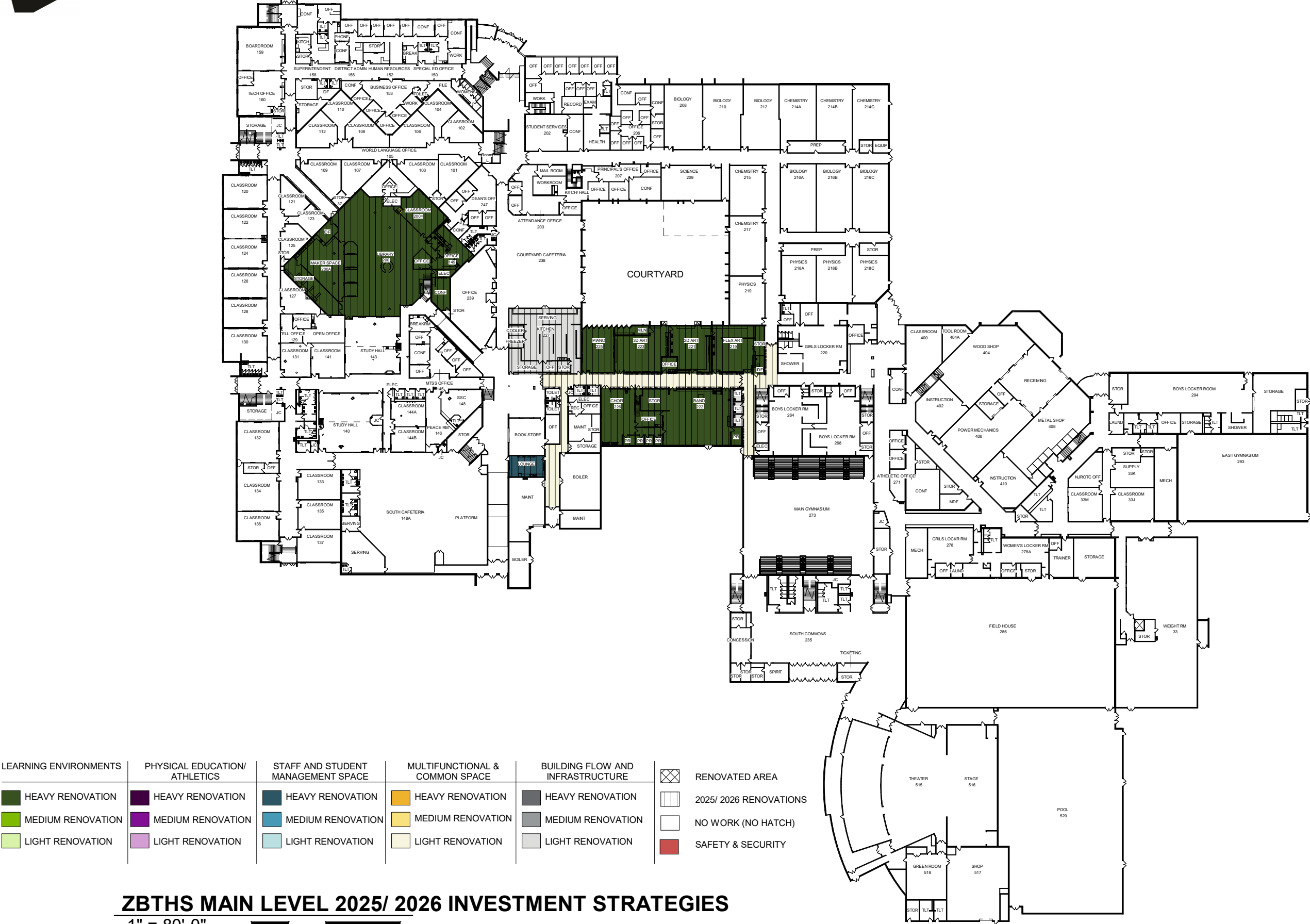
- **Criteria 1:** Update old fixtures and increase light levels at the South parking lot of ZBTHS.
- **Criteria 2:** Increase the amount of lighting at the exterior public areas adjacent to athletic fields.
- **Criteria 3:** Update old fixtures and increase light levels at ZBE.
- **Criteria 4:** Install new system at ZBE for exterior cameras.
- **Criteria 5:** Enhance system at ZBTHS for exterior cameras.



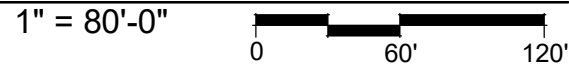
ZBTHS 2025/ 2026 SITE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

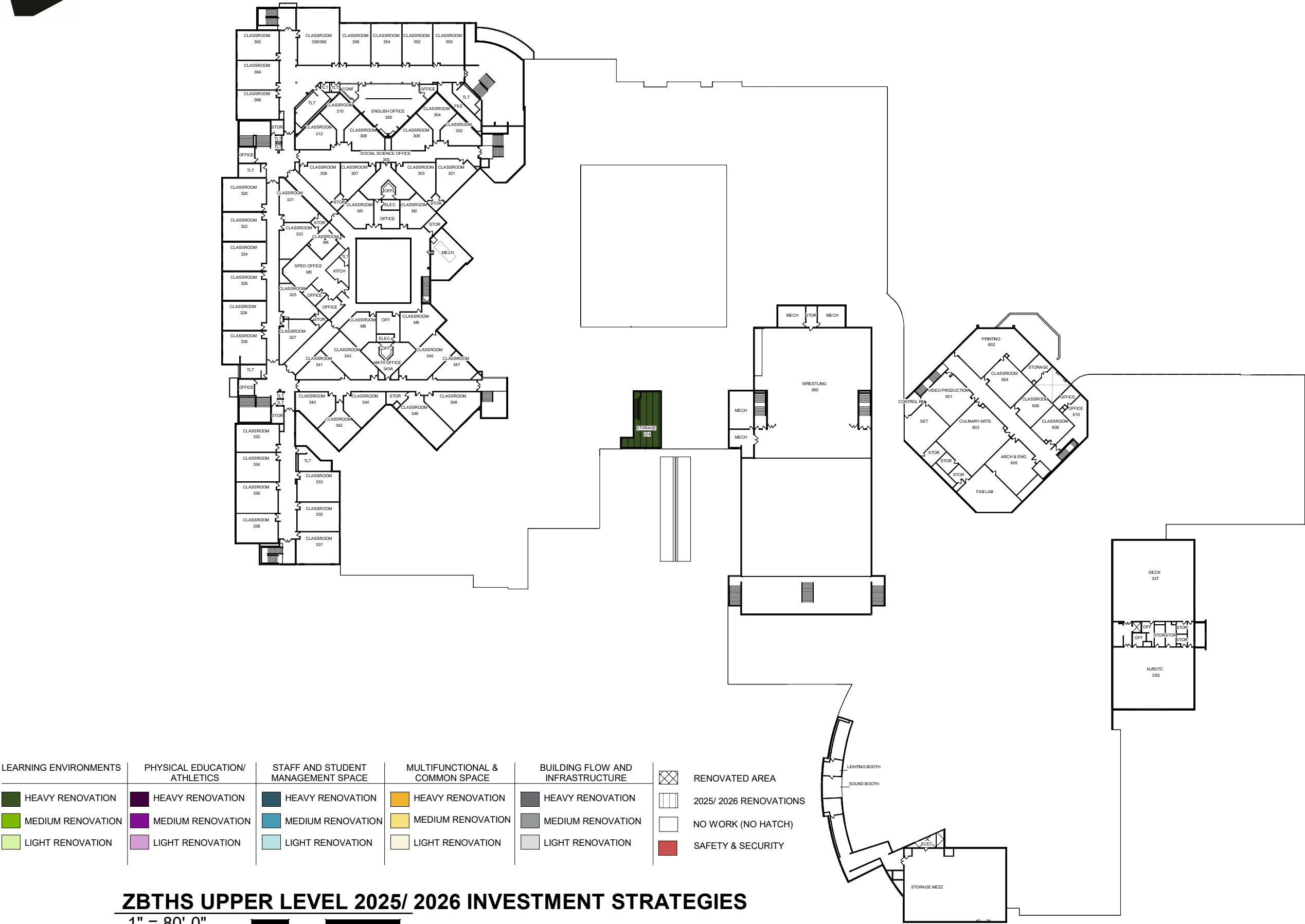
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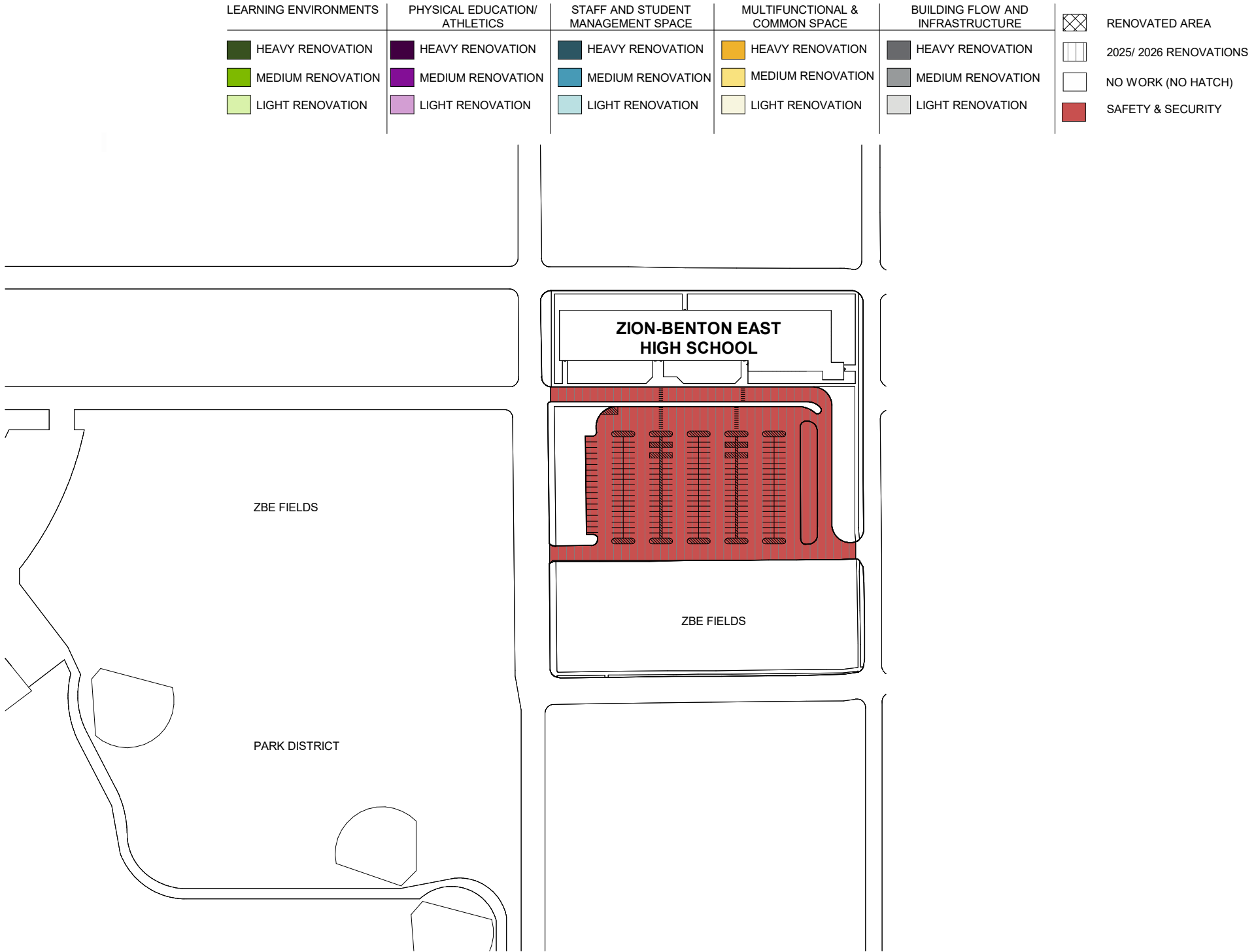




ZBTHS MAIN LEVEL 2025/ 2026 INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

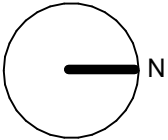
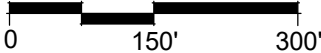


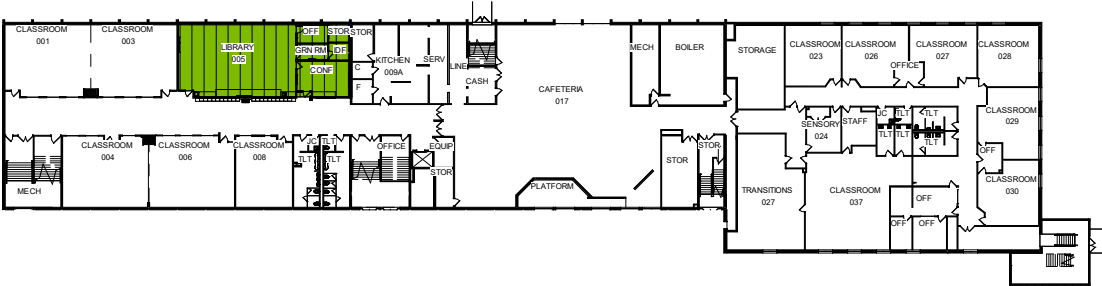




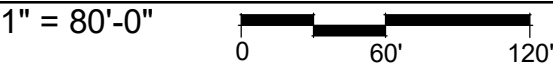
ZBE 2025/2026 SITE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1" = 200'-0"





ZBE LOWER LEVEL 2025/ 2026 INVESTMENT STRATEGIES



LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY

**PHASE III:
FMP COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**



‘Priority 1’ Investment Strategies and Planning Criteria

These Investment Strategies were identified as being the highest priority and most impactful strategies in alignment with the Guiding Principles of the Facilities Master Plan. These investment strategies support the Mission and Vision of the District to enhance safety and security, to provide flexible future-forward learning environments and to create learning environments that are a place of pride. The strategies listed below are identified on the subsequent site and floor plans and color-coded to indicate the potential level of renovation required (light, medium or heavy) to address the planning criteria identified based on Needs identified through the Facilities Master Planning process.

*Criteria highlighted in **purple** below indicate planning criteria that are recommended to be explored during the future design process but may be cost or space prohibitive and ultimately not addressed during the Priority 1 FMP investment timeline.*

Priority 1 Investment Strategies

Strategy 1: Update finishes at all classrooms to align with the District standard for learning environments.

- **Criteria 1:** Update finishes including flooring, paint, writing surfaces, ceilings, lighting, technology, and furniture.
- **Criteria 2:** At ZBE address old built-ins that are limiting classroom flexibility.
- **Criteria 3:** Eliminate mobile partitions and enhance acoustical separation between classrooms.

Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with the District standard and meet accessibility requirements.

- **Criteria 1:** Update finishes at existing restrooms including flooring, paint, fixtures, toilet partitions, accessories, ceilings, and lighting.
- **Criteria 2:** Explore opportunity to provide additional single-use restrooms for staff in future projects.
- **Criteria 3:** Explore opportunity to provide new multi-use restrooms with adjacencies to Science and CTE classrooms.

Strategy 8: Provide air-conditioning at physical education and athletic spaces.

- **Criteria 1:** Update mechanical system at ZBTHS Gymnasium.
- **Criteria 2:** Update mechanical system at ZBTHS Field House.
- **Criteria 3:** Update mechanical system at ZBE Gymnasiums.

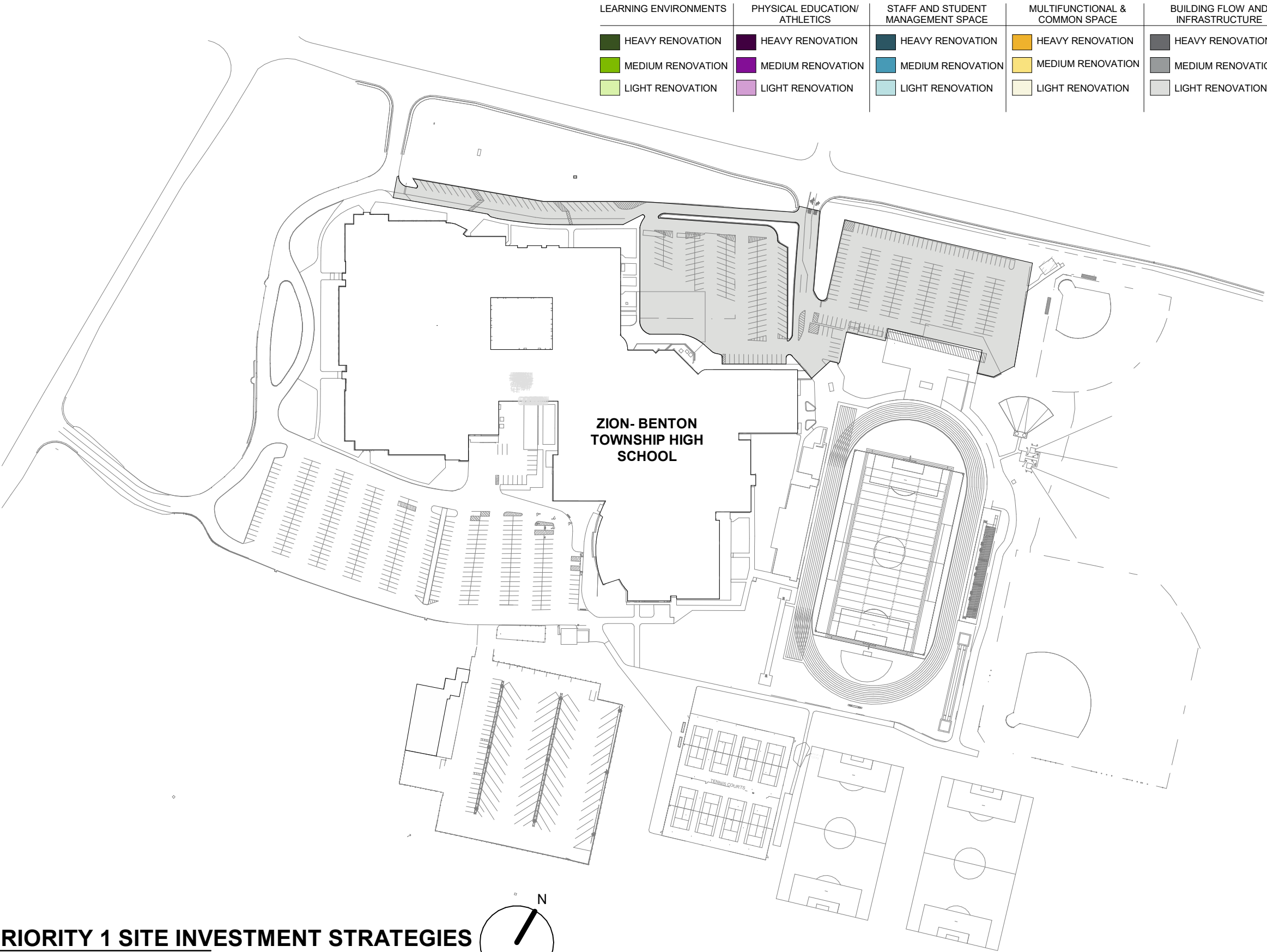
Strategy 39: Update locker room environments to align with District expectations.

- **Criteria 1:** Include finishes, partitions, fixtures, and benches.
- **Criteria 2:** Remove multi-user shower rooms and utilize space to increase capacity for lockers, restrooms, and storage.
- **Criteria 3:** Update plumbing to accommodate new fixtures.
- **Criteria 4:** Consider improvement of supervision site lines during renovation.
- **Criteria 5:** Include opportunities to enhance student privacy, include individual changing and shower stalls.

Strategy 47: Perform a traffic study at ZBTHS to identify root cause of challenges and explore improvement strategies.

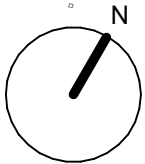
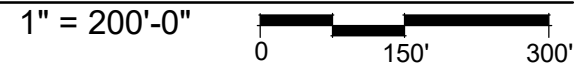
Strategy 48: Implement improvement strategies identified during the Traffic Study.

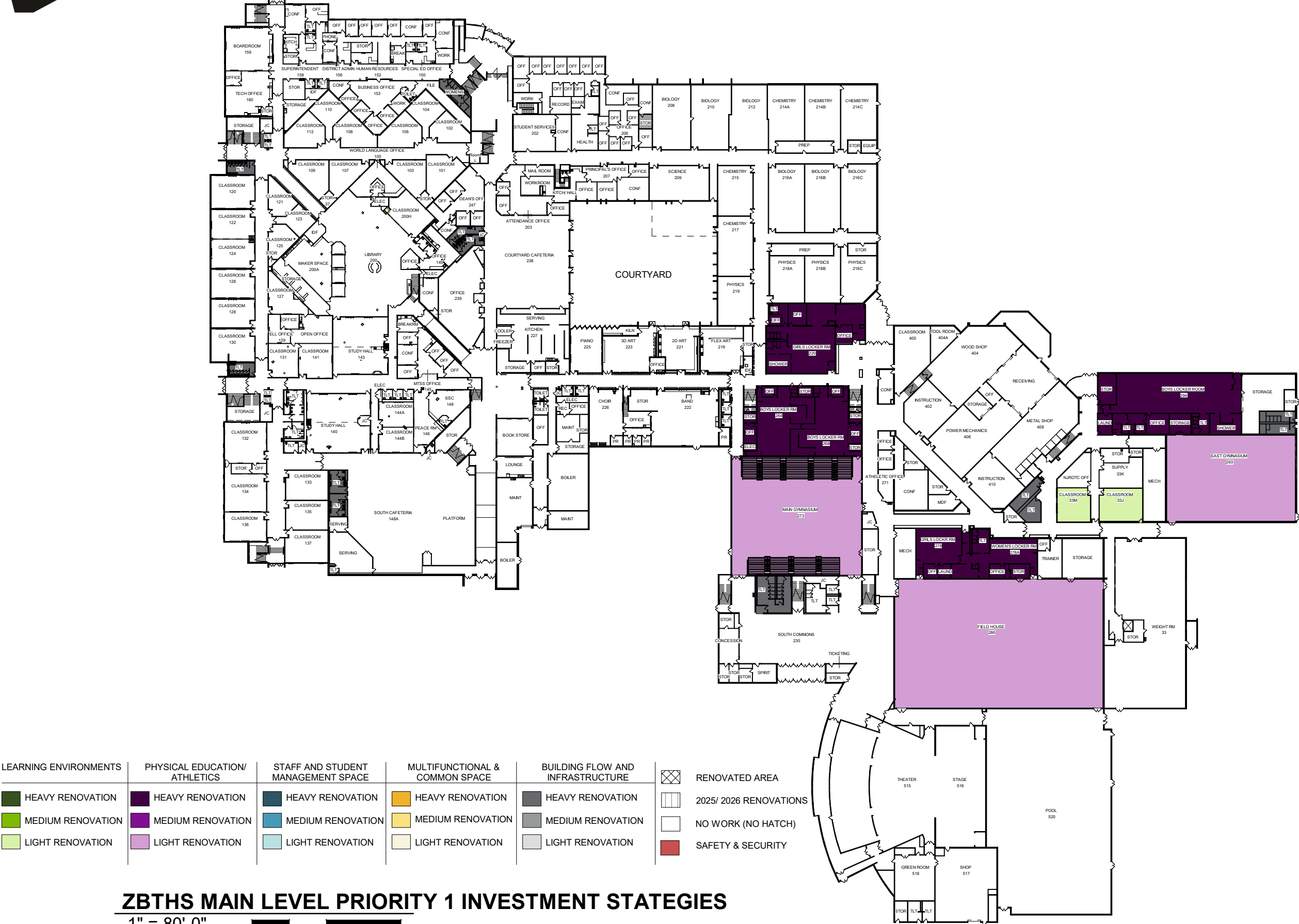
- **Criteria 1:** Include signage, wayfinding, and landscaping to create an easily identifiable flow of traffic.
- **Criteria 2:** All considerations and improvements should maintain safety and security as the priority.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY

ZBTHS PRIORITY 1 SITE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

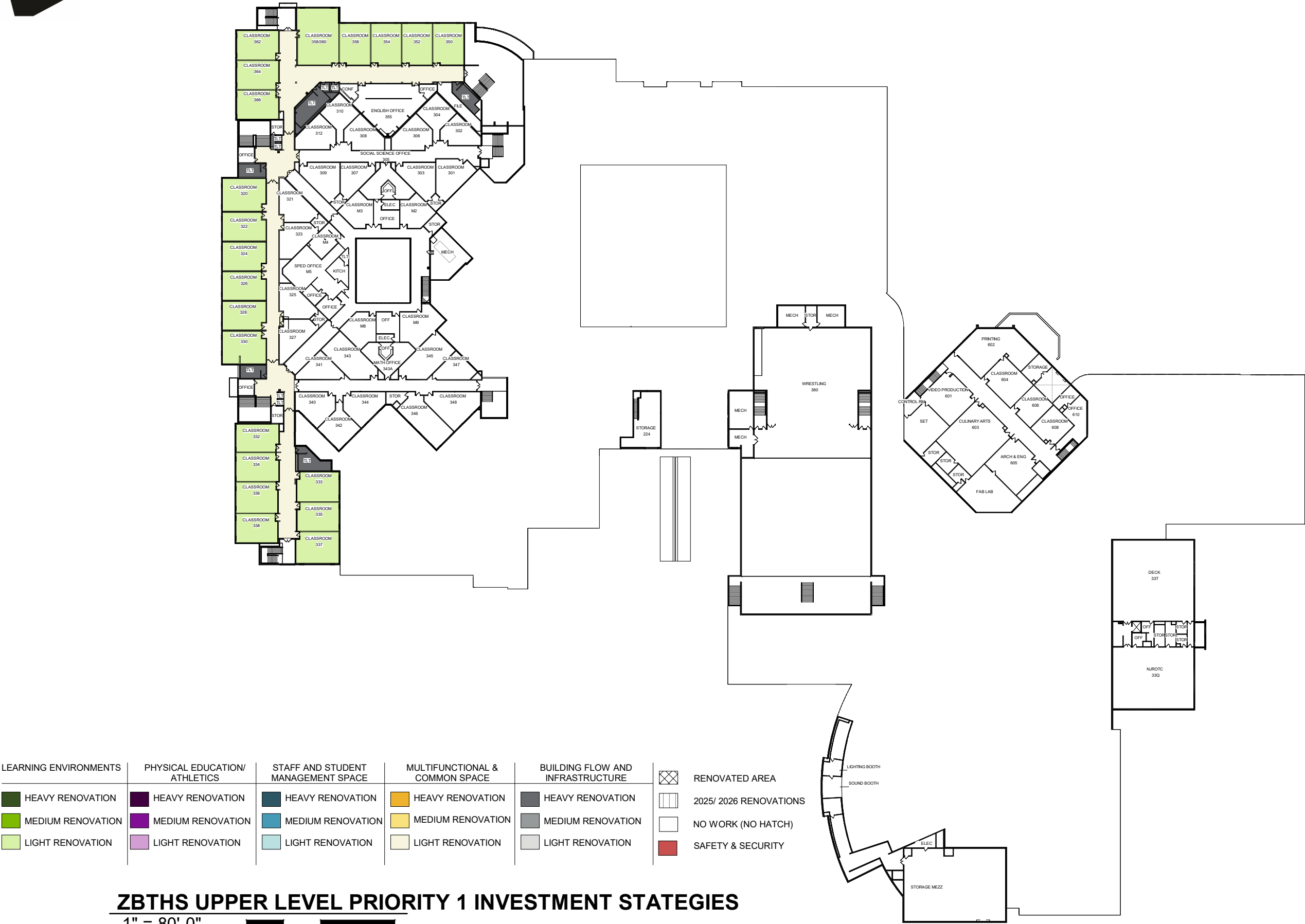


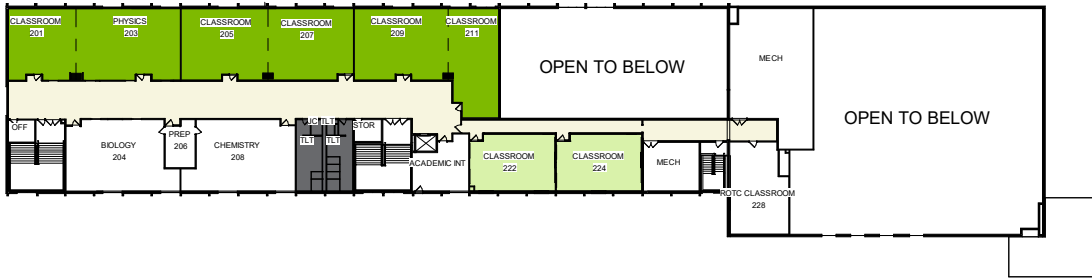


ZBTHS MAIN LEVEL PRIORITY 1 INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"

0 60' 120'

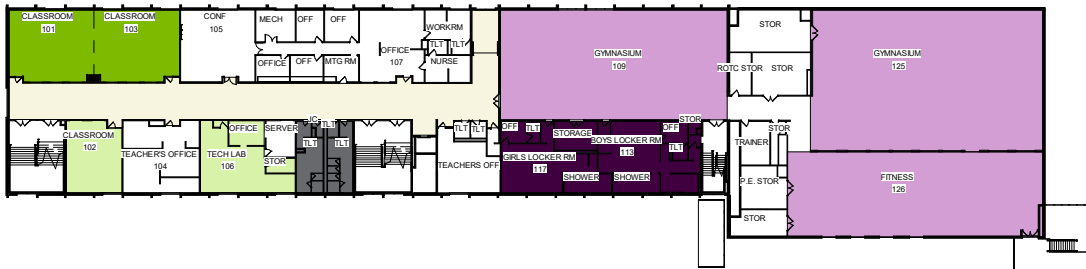




ZBE UPPER LEVEL PRIORITY 1 INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"

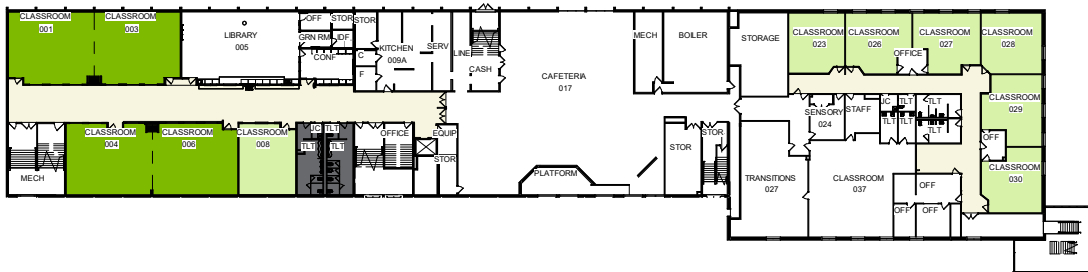
0 60' 120'



ZBE MAIN LEVEL PRIORITY 1 INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"

0 60' 120'



ZBE LOWER LEVEL PRIORITY 1 INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"

0 60' 120'

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY

ZBTHS DISTRICT 126
FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
PRIORITY 1 (YEARS 1-5)



		COST IMPACT*		PER SPACE COST		NOTES
STRATEGY 1 - CRITERIA 1		\$ 2,407,275		\$ 53,495.00		*COSTS BASED ON 2025
STRATEGY 1 - CRITERIA 2		\$ 1,198,500		\$ 85,607.14		**ADD 3%-5% PER YEAR FOR INFLATION
STRATEGY 1 - CRITERIA 3		\$ 620,775		\$ 103,462.50		***FUNDING STRATEGIES AND GRANTS MAY ALTER
						THE PRIORITY OF ANY STRATEGY
STRATEGY 6 - CRITERIA 1		\$ 5,244,000		\$ 131,100.00		
STRATEGY 6 - CRITERIA 2		ANALYSIS REQ'D		\$ 150,000.00		
STRATEGY 6 - CRITERIA 3		ANALYSIS REQ'D		\$ 400,000.00		
STRATEGY 8 - CRITERIA 1		\$ 3,100,262				
STRATEGY 8 - CRITERIA 2		\$ 465,141				
STRATEGY 8 - CRITERIA 3		\$ 1,312,058				
STRATEGY 39		\$ 6,091,855				ALL LOCKER ROOMS CONSIDERED FOR RENOVATION
						TO BRING UP TO DISTRICT STANDARDS
STRATEGY 47		ONGOING				
STRATEGY 48 - CRITERIA 1		FOLLOWS S47				
STRATEGY 48 - CRITERIA 2		FOLLOWS S47				
	YEAR 1-5 TOTAL	\$ 20,439,866				
	PER YEAR AVG	\$ 4,087,973				



On-Going Investment Strategies and Planning Criteria

These Investment Strategies include planning criteria related to the life cycle of the District's facilities and have been systematically implemented over time. While many of the planning criteria listed below may have previously been included in annual investments these investment strategies will continue to be ongoing needs. The FMP Committee's recommendation is to continue annual investments in one or more of these strategies either as a standalone effort or included with other priority investment strategies where applicable and appropriate.

Ongoing Investment Strategies (systematic improvements)

Strategy 7 (annual O&M): Utilize comprehensive, long-range planning to continue restoration and repair of facility exterior envelope, infrastructure, and site.

- **Criteria 1:** Continue systematic roofing restoration.
- **Criteria 2:** Continue systematic exterior tuckpointing.
- **Criteria 3:** Master Plan timeline to systematically replace and upgrade exterior windows at ZBTHS.
- **Criteria 4:** Continue systematic upgrade of mechanical systems and equipment.
- **Criteria 5:** Continue systematic approach to addressing identified Health and Life Safety concerns.
- **Criteria 8:** Explore enhancements to site drainage systems to reduce standing water on site and increase availability of exterior fields for PE and athletics.

Strategy 9: Incorporate infrastructure improvements in areas being renovated.

- **Criteria 1:** Systematically remove old, outdated cabling; update/upgrade cabling and infrastructure.
- **Criteria 2:** Systematically extend Fire Suppression system into unprotected areas.
- **Criteria 3:** Systematically update clock and speaker system in occupied areas.
- **Criteria 4:** Address layout and access at existing IDF locations, consider future expandability.



Layered Investment Strategies and Planning Criteria

These Investment Strategies should be considered in any and all future design processes. Some planning criteria are more tangible and easily accommodated, while other planning criteria represent means to enhance the overall quality of the facilities and learning environment but may be cost or space prohibitive if applied to all future investments. Therefore, the FMP Committee's recommendation is to explore this list during all future investments and consider including the planning criteria in the scope of work where applicable and appropriate.

Layered Investment Strategies (included in all future investments)

Strategy 12: Consider opportunities to widen corridors in future projects where space is being reconfigured.

Strategy 13: Consider opportunities to better utilize large corridor intersections or alcove spaces that currently stop the flow of corridor traffic and increase congestion.

- **Criteria 1:** Reduce/reallocate underutilized corridor space that is not supporting the flow of traffic.
- **Criteria 2:** Be intentional in areas of renovation to limit underutilized or difficult to supervise spaces.

Strategy 17: Enhance the PA system to support building communication and safety.

- **Criteria 1:** Improve system by adding speakers at ZBE to address areas that are currently underserved.
- **Criteria 2:** Continue systematic upgrades to system in areas of renovations at ZBTHS.
- **Criteria 3:** Update PA system through future renovation work in previously renovated areas at ZBTHS.

Strategy 18: Continue to systematically enhance wall and glass systems for bullet-resistance.

Strategy 23: Incorporate school colors, logo, and branding in all renovation projects.

- **Criteria 1:** Explore opportunities during renovations projects to include interior enhancements that represent the department or subject area of that area of the building.
- **Criteria 2:** Explore opportunities during renovation projects to include imagery that represents the student population and celebrates student work and accomplishment.

Strategy 25: Explore opportunities to create additional space for student and staff collaboration.

- **Criteria 1:** During department office renovations consider dedicated/appropriate space for small group collaboration between students and faculty.
- **Criteria 2:** During office renovations consider opportunities to enhance the welcoming nature of each space to promote collaboration and student support.
- **Criteria 3:** Explore opportunities to provide additional small group collaboration spaces.

Strategy 26: Increase the opportunity for natural light, openness and borrowed light in all occupied spaces.

- **Criteria 1:** Continue to explore opportunities to utilize openings and transparencies connecting spaces and corridors.
- **Criteria 2:** Do not reduce access to natural light through renovations.

Strategy 27: Consider needs of outside Community organizations when renovating existing spaces.

- **Criteria 1:** Identify storage locations to support needs of organizations/Community groups.
- **Criteria 2:** Explore opportunities to consolidate areas of the building most frequently used by visitors in order reduce security and supervision challenges.
- **Criteria 3:** At ZBE provide dedicated location to support food pantry needs.
- **Criteria 4:** Explore opportunities to provide exterior access to restroom facilities for use during outdoor activities and events.

Strategy 34: Explore need for additional medium group size meeting space at ZBTHS.

- **Criteria 1:** Space to accommodate 100-150 occupants.

Strategy 35: Explore opportunities at ZBE to gather the full building enrollment for assemblies, presentations, and events.



Further Exploration/Visioning Investment Strategies and Planning Criteria

These Investment Strategies include planning criteria that require further exploration by the District in order to establish the appropriate vision for addressing the identified needs. With additional exploration the District will establish the level of renovation required, if any, to address the needs, or may find that the planning criteria can be addressed operationally or programmatically in lieu of an investment in the physical space.

Further Exploration/District Visioning Investment Strategies

Strategy 3: Address inadequate classroom size, and shape at ZBTHS.

- **Criteria 1:** Eliminate triangular shaped classrooms or repurpose for programmatic needs.

Strategy 19: Develop a Vision for the reconfiguration of the ZBE staff and student management areas.

- **Criteria 1:** Consider operational adjacencies and efficiencies for the Main Office, Student Services, Social Worker, and Security offices.
- **Criteria 2:** Update finishes including flooring, paint, storage, ceilings, lighting, technology, and furniture.
- **Criteria 3:** Consider opportunities to accommodate in-school suspension, and meetings with visitors.
- **Criteria 4:** Address the entry stairs to create a more welcoming entrance with clear wayfinding for occupants and visitors.
- **Criteria 5:** Enhance the visibility to the exterior from the Main Office and Security staff.
- **Criteria 6:** Update exterior and interior wayfinding for visitors
- **Criteria 7:** Visitor access locations need to include appropriate security protocols, but also consider the quality of the experience, process efficiencies and site lines.
- **Criteria 8:** Improve exterior signage and wayfinding to direct visitors to the correct secure entry point.

Strategy 20: Develop a Vision for the reconfiguration of the ZBTHS staff and student management areas.

- **Criteria 1:** Consider operational adjacencies and efficiencies for Student Services, Attendance, Deans, Principals, and Security offices.
- **Criteria 2:** Update finishes including flooring, paint, storage, ceilings, lighting, technology, and furniture.
- **Criteria 3:** Explore opportunity to relocate the bookstore and reallocate the existing space for other uses.
- **Criteria 4:** Explore opportunity to provide paraprofessional lounge including storage of personal belongings.
- **Criteria 5:** Visitor access locations need to include appropriate security protocols, but also consider the quality of the experience, process efficiencies and site lines.
- **Criteria 6:** Improve exterior signage and wayfinding to direct visitors to the correct secure entry point.

Strategy 28: Explore opportunities to cultivate Community partnerships and strengthen curriculum connection.

- **Criteria 1:** Include internship and work study options for students.
- **Criteria 2:** Consider renovation opportunities to update facilities to align with curriculum objectives.

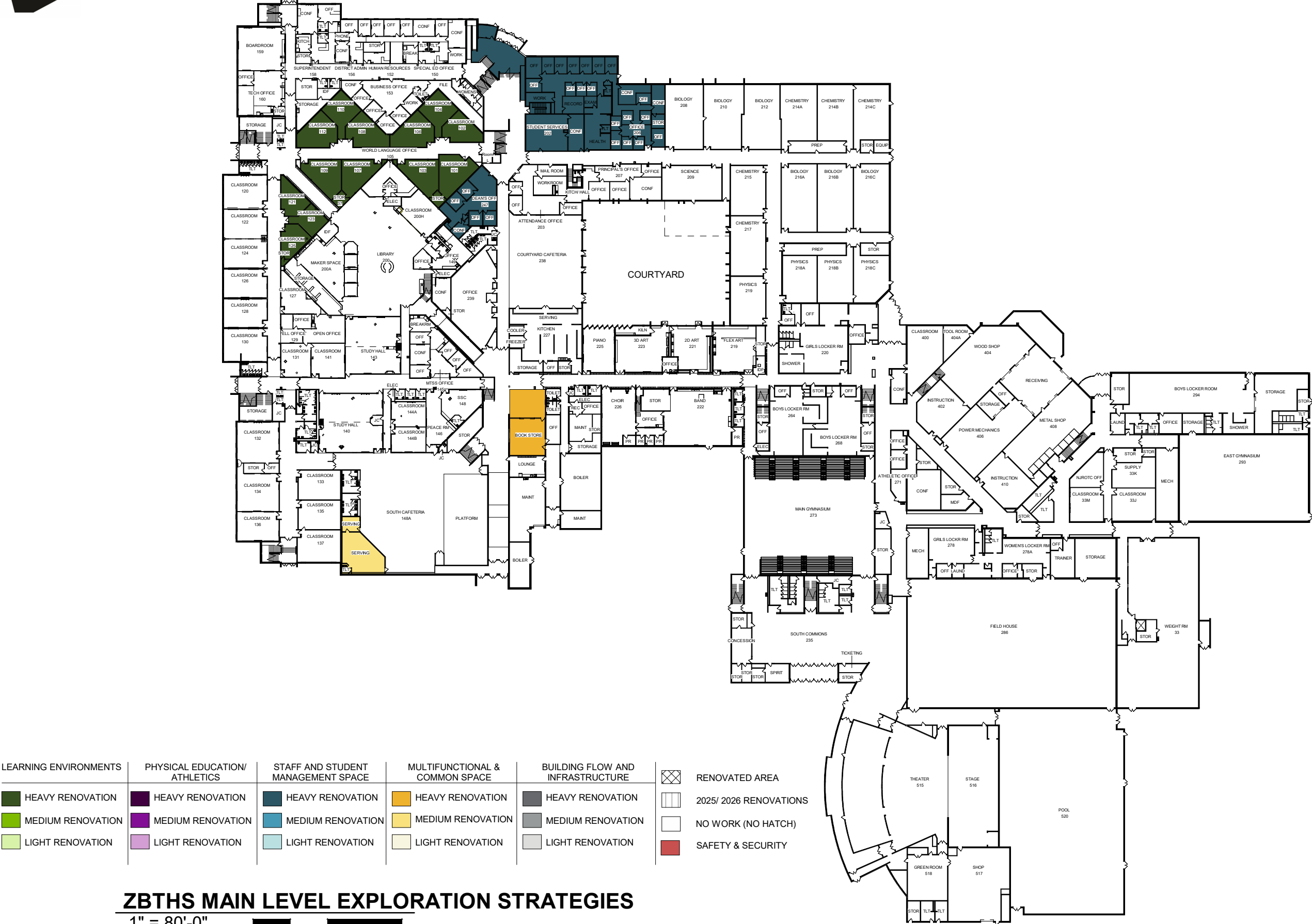
Strategy 31: Explore opportunities for ZBTHSD 126 to offer Community/adult learning programs.

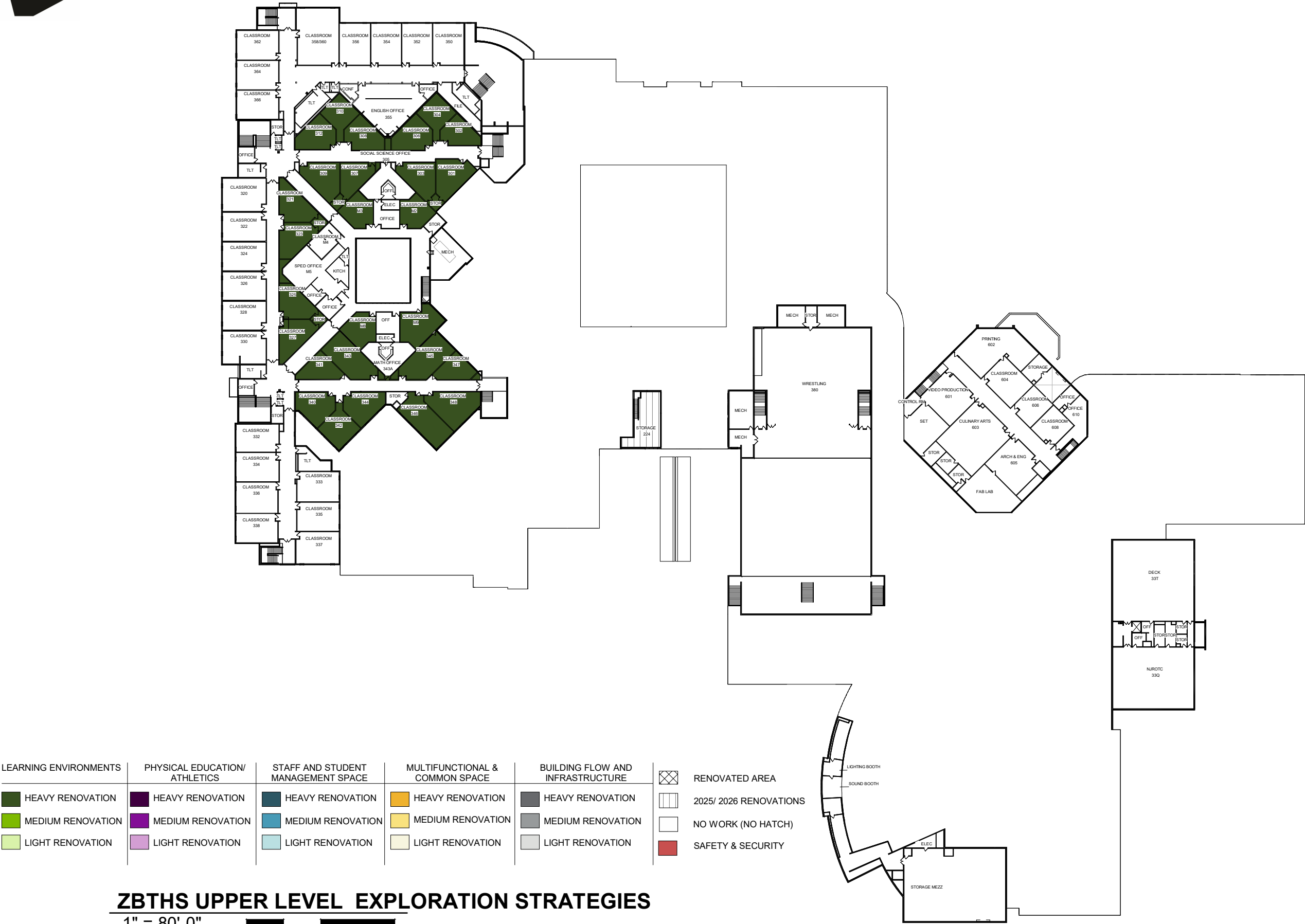
Strategy 43: Explore Opportunities to increase available space for Physical Education at ZBE.

- **Criteria 1:** Identify/create space for an indoor track.
- **Criteria 2:** Identify/create space for an indoor climbing wall to support Adventure Education.
- **Criteria 3:** Determine available space appropriate for ZAP, Transition and NJROTC physical education/movement breaks at ZBE.

Strategy 44: Explore need for expanded programming and determine associated space needs.

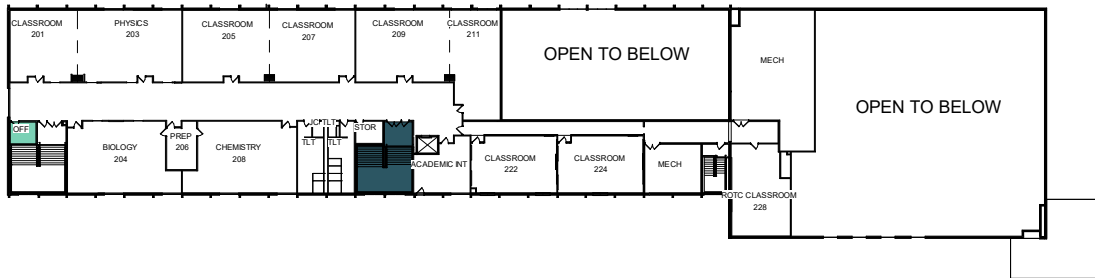
- **Criteria 1:** Consider expansion of ZBE offerings to limit transportation to remote sites.
- **Criteria 2:** Consider expansion of ZBTHS offerings to align with student demand and future forward curriculum development.





ZBTHS UPPER LEVEL EXPLORATION STRATEGIES

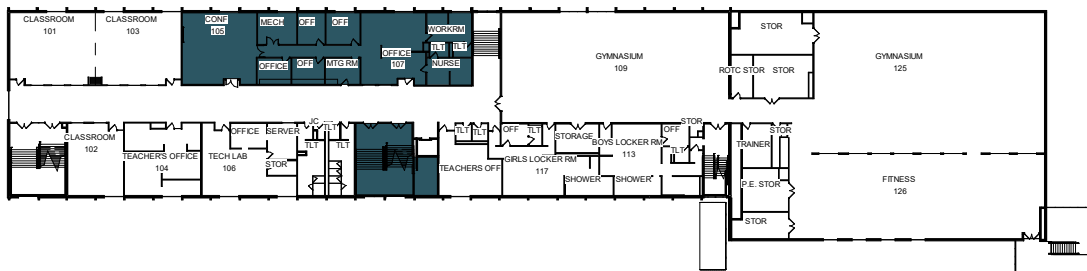
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ZBE UPPER LEVEL EXPLORATION STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"

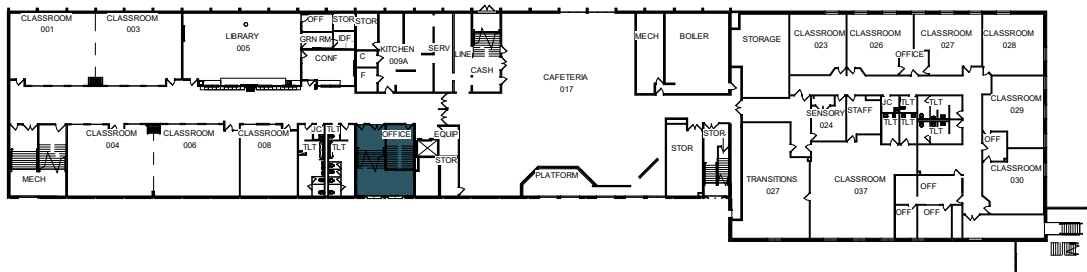
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ZBE MAIN LEVEL EXPLORATION STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"

0 60' 120'



ZBE LOWER LEVEL EXPLORATION STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"

0 60' 120'

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY



Remaining Priority Investment Strategies and Planning Criteria

These Investment Strategies are a secondary priority in addressing the identified needs of the District. The planning criteria listed below is still in alignment with the Guiding Principles of the Facilities Master Plan but provides a different level of impact to safety and security, flexible future-forward learning environments and learning environments as a place of pride. The investment strategies listed below are identified on the subsequent site and floor plans and color-coded to indicate the potential level of renovation required (light, medium or heavy) to address the planning criteria identified. The FMP Committee's recommendation is to maintain awareness of these investment strategies to allow the District flexibility of utilize targeted funding that may become available, or re-prioritize a strategy from this list as needed in the future, or to include planning criteria from this list in other investment opportunities where applicable and appropriate.

*Criteria highlighted in **green** below indicate planning criteria that are recommended to be layered into future Priority 1 design processes where applicable and appropriate.*

*Criteria highlighted in **purple** below indicate planning criteria that are recommended to be explored during the future design process but may be cost or space prohibitive and ultimately not addressed during the Priority 1 FMP investment timeline.*

Remaining Priority Investment Strategies

Strategy 2: Update ZBE Science Classrooms to align with 21st century standards for flexible learning.

- **Criteria 1:** Eliminate built-in casework and furniture limiting flexibility.
- **Criteria 2:** Update finishes including flooring, paint, writing surfaces, ceilings, lighting, technology, and furniture.

Strategy 4: Update Special Education Program classrooms to meet needs of curriculum and align with the District standard for learning environments.

- **Criteria 1:** Improve Life Skills classroom amenities to support full extent of curriculum.
- **Criteria 2:** Improve Transition Program classroom amenities to support full extent of curriculum.

Strategy 5: Address additional needs at newly renovated/new spaces.

- **Criteria 1:** Explore opportunities to increase storage and provide more flexible seating in ZBTHS science labs/classrooms.
- **Criteria 2:** Explore opportunities to enhance sound attenuation in CTE labs/classrooms.

Strategy 11: Update interior signage to support wayfinding.

- **Criteria 1:** Explore re-numbering of rooms to create a more organized and understandable system.
- **Criteria 2:** Increase interior signage to identify spaces and areas of the building.

Strategy 15: Provide card access to all interior spaces (includes classrooms, offices, support spaces).

- **Criteria 1:** Rough-in cabling during future renovation projects to prepare for overall system integration.
- **Criteria 2:** Explore student attendance component.

Strategy 21: Renovate ZBTHS Departmental Offices.

- **Criteria 1:** Update finishes including flooring, paint, storage, ceilings, lighting, technology, and furniture.
- **Criteria 2:** Include Department Chair office to support private conversations.
- **Criteria 3:** Include space for full departmental meetings.
- **Criteria 4:** Explore opportunities to include small group meeting space supporting collaboration between students and faculty.
- **Criteria 5:** Include kitchenette for departmental use.



Strategy 32: Enhance Cafeteria procedures to increase efficiency for students and staff.

- **Criteria 1:** At ZBTHS, explore specific needs related to food service options, student supervision and space needs.
- **Criteria 2:** At ZBE, explore separation between food service lines.
- **Criteria 3:** Update finishes, furniture, audio/visual and technology at ZBTHS.
- **Criteria 4:** Update finishes, furniture, audio/visual and technology at ZBE
- **Criteria 5:** Assess available storage adjacent to space to accommodate flexible furniture and reorganization of space to fit the current need.

Strategy 36: Implement improvements at ZBTHS baseball field.

- **Criteria 1:** Repair/replace infield to be in alignment with appropriate play surfacing standards.
- **Criteria 2:** Repair/replace backstop and gates to be in alignment with field standards. Install fencing at dugouts to enhance safety during events.
- **Criteria 3:** Refresh dugouts, including paint, to extend the life of each structure.
- **Criteria 4:** Explore future opportunities to install synthetic turf play surface at field to increase the availability for use. Include striping to accommodate baseball, soccer, and football.

Strategy 37: Implement improvements at ZBTHS softball field.

- **Criteria 1:** Provide safety screen at perimeter of field to enhance safety during events.
- **Criteria 2:** Evaluate recent improvements to infield and address any ongoing drainage issues at field.

Strategy 38: Implement improvements at ZBTHS tennis courts.

- **Criteria 1:** Replace tennis court surfacing to align with appropriate play surfacing standards. Include striping and netting.
- **Criteria 2:** Explore opportunity to repair/replace fencing at perimeter of courts.

Strategy 40: Address outdated and undersized bleacher seating in athletic environments.

- **Criteria 1:** Update bleacher seating in Field House.

Strategy 41: Address outdated and worn athletic environments.

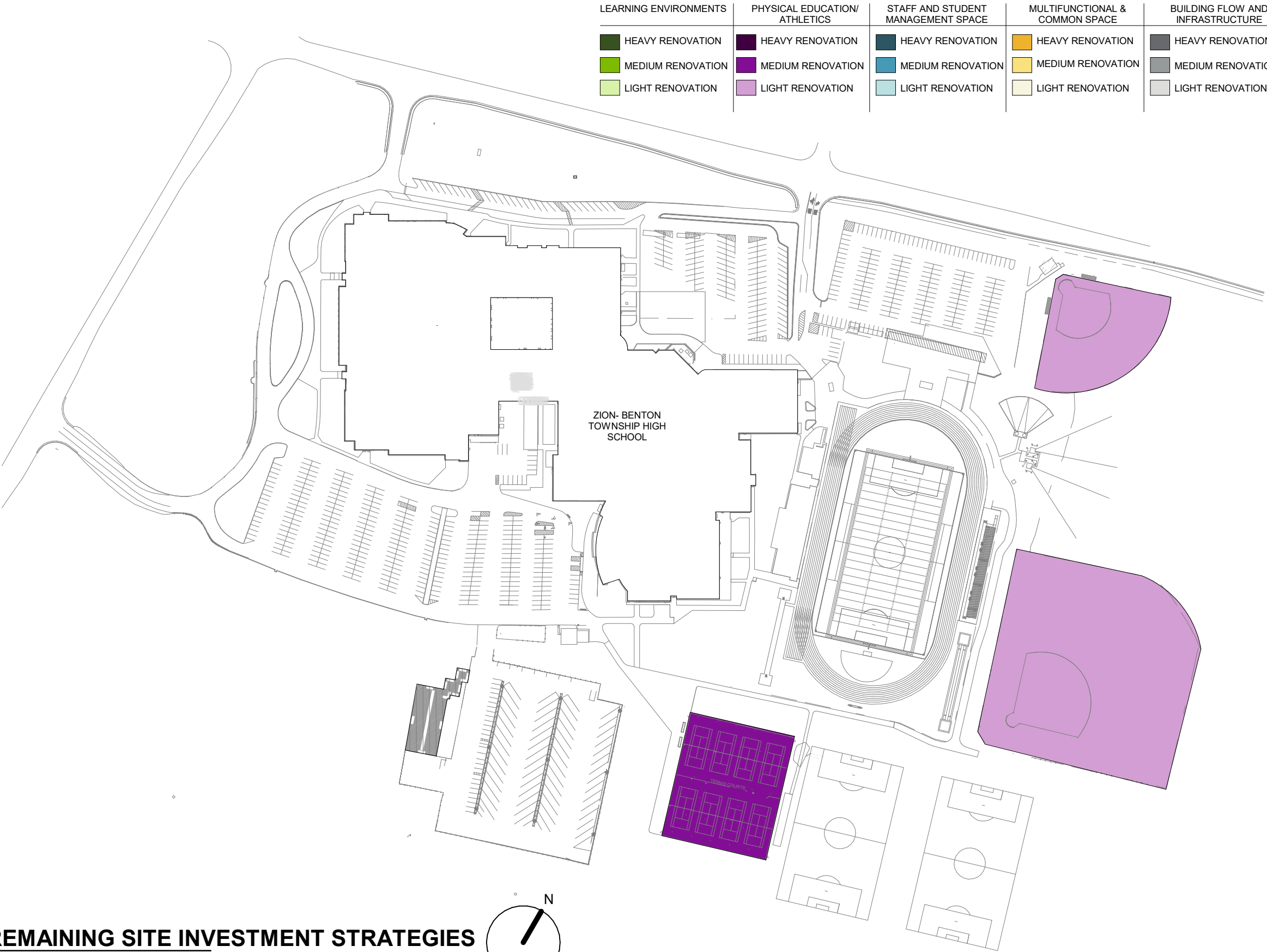
- **Criteria 1:** Replace wood flooring in ZBTHS Main Gymnasium.
- **Criteria 2:** Replace flooring at ZBTHS Field House.
- **Criteria 3:** Replace flooring at ZBTHS East Gymnasium.
- **Criteria 4:** Replace flooring at both ZBE Gymnasiums.
- **Criteria 5:** Update ZBTHS Wrestling Room including finishes and technology.

Strategy 42: Improve worn and dated athletic training space at ZBTHS.

- **Criteria 1:** Include updated finishes, fixtures, and furniture.
- **Criteria 2:** Consolidate/reimagine storage opportunities to enhance efficiencies.
- **Criteria 3:** Explore opportunity to utilize space in Booster Barn to support a remote athletic training location during outdoor events.

Strategy 46: Explore improvements to the ZBTHS courtyard to create an environment appropriate for learning and collaboration.

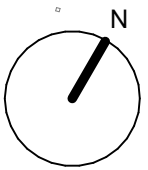
- **Criteria 1:** Include updated surfacing, furniture, technology, and landscaping.
- **Criteria 2:** Consider opportunities to collaborate with school programming to engage students in the vision and creation of this space.

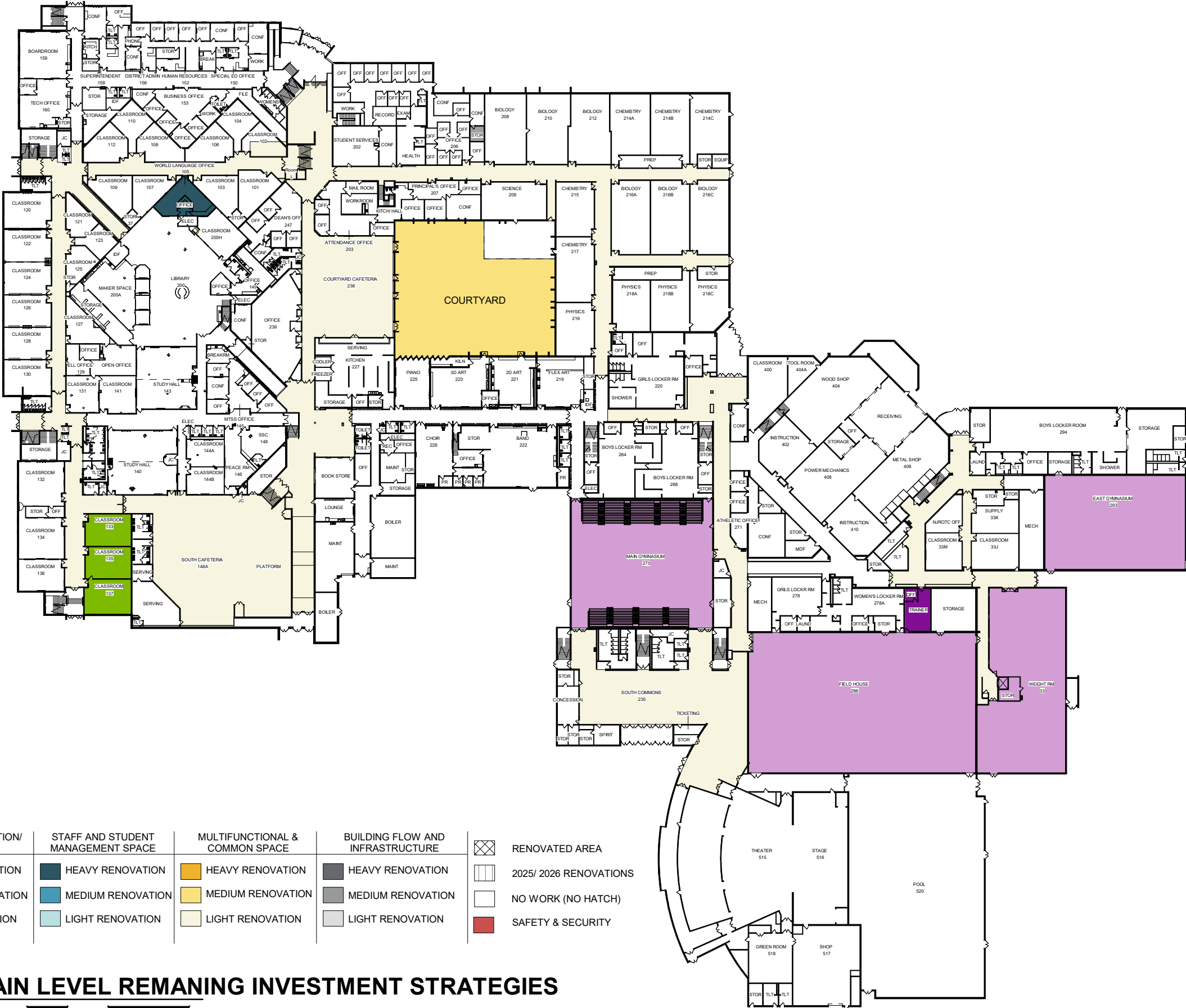


LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY

ZBTHS REMAINING SITE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

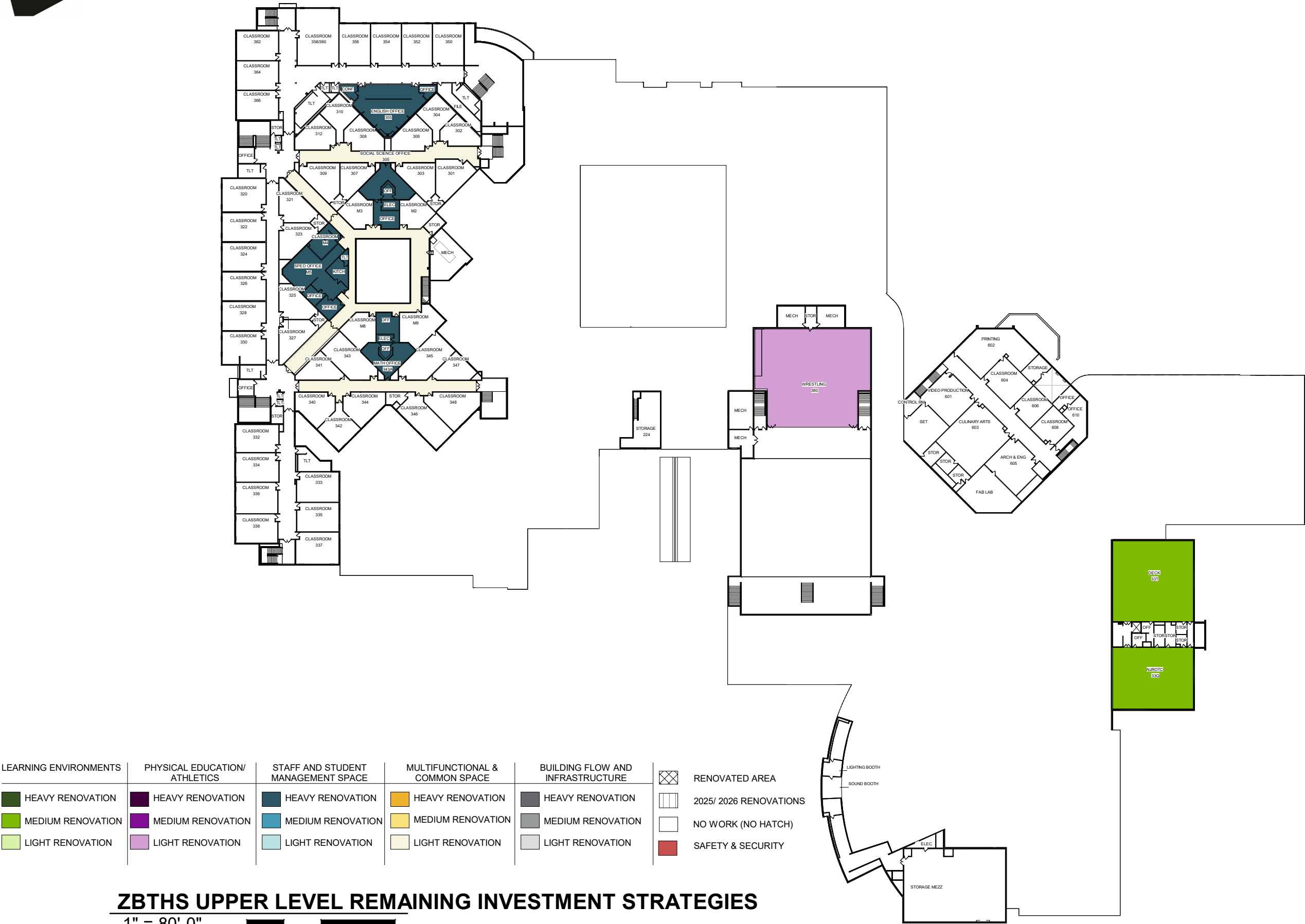
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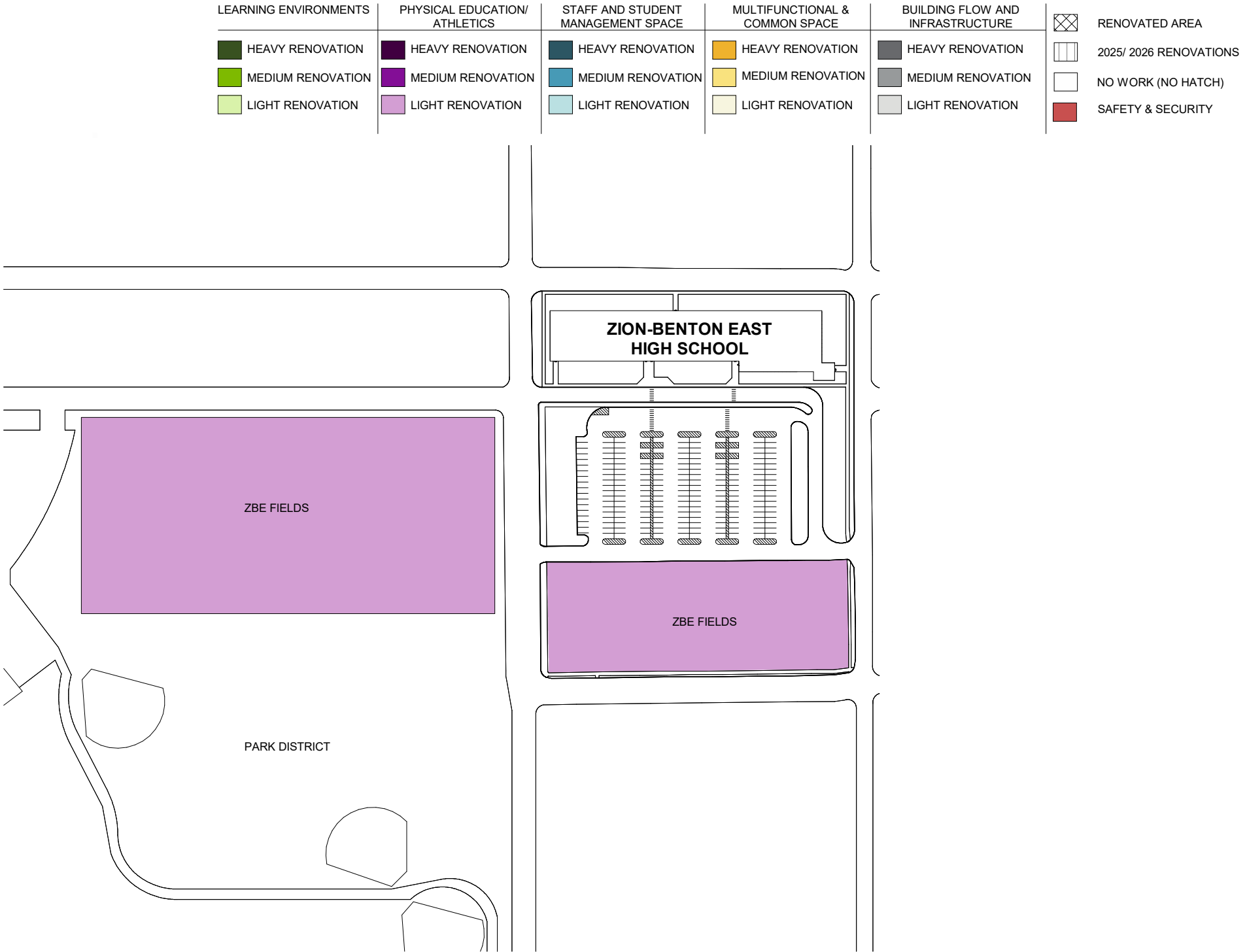




ZBTHS MAIN LEVEL REMANING INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

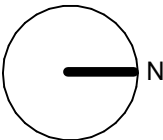
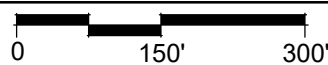
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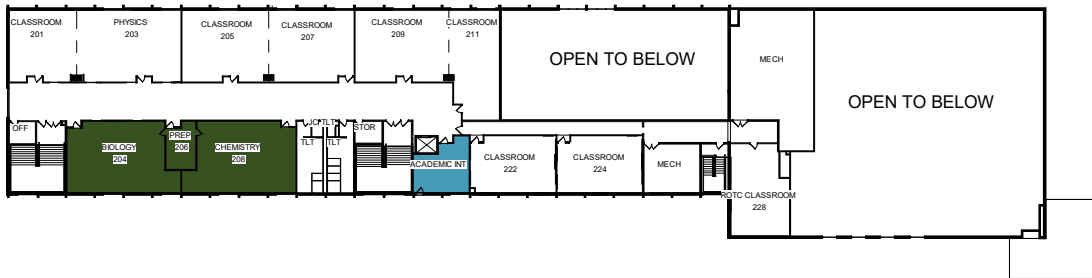




ZBE REMAINING SITE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

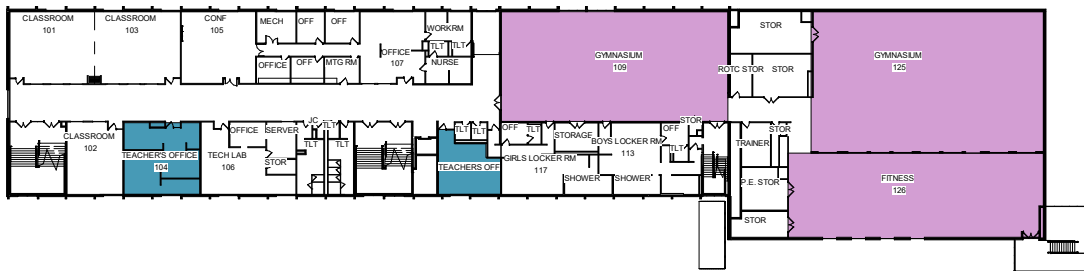
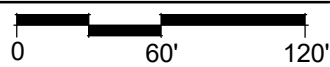
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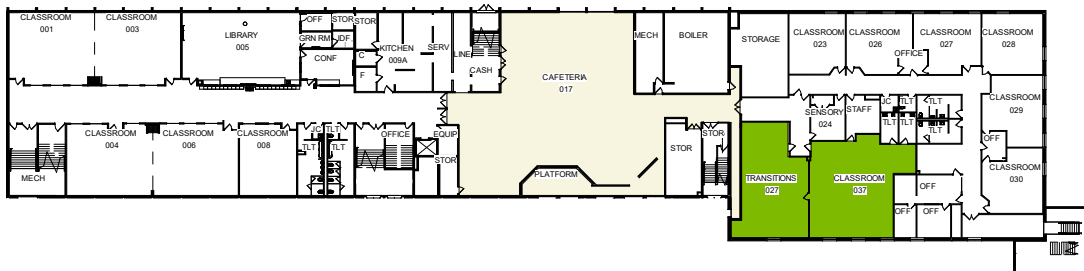
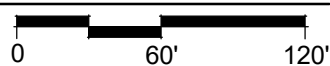
ZBE UPPER LEVEL REMAINING INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"



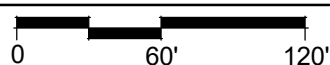
ZBE MAIN LEVEL REMAINING INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"



ZBE LOWER LEVEL REMAINING INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1" = 80'-0"



LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY

APPENDIX A

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Minutes



To: Attendees

From: Alison Andrews | AA

Date: November 19, 2024

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan
November 13, 2024, Facility Team Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Cyntheia Moreno, Zion-Benton THSD 126	cynthia.moreno@zb126.org
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Aiyana Grady, Wold Architects and Engineers	agrady@woldae.com

Discussion

- A. Introductions were made by the Group.
- B. Wold presented the Facility Master Planning Process and outlined the FMP process as follows:
 - 1. Phase 1: Identify the Needs
 - 2. Phase 2: Option Development
 - a. Consensus on Needs
 - b. Prioritization
 - c. Solutions aligned with Needs
 - 3. Phase 3: Facility Master Plan Recommendation
- C. The District noted that the 10-year Health & Life Safety survey is ongoing and should be wrapping up soon.
 - 1. The District will provide the final information from the survey once available.
 - 2. The ramp outside the ZBTHS Library was noted as an identified issue that came up due to non-compliance with ADA.
- D. The District discussed the Site issues that are ongoing and improvements that are being considered:
 - 1. Drainage issues are noted in the south parking lot, especially the southwest corner of the site. This area drains into the retention area to the south, but water is often puddled in this area and is a concern in the winter when temperatures cause the area to freeze.
 - 2. It was noted that the gas tanks are built in a swamp. The tanks are protected, but there is still a concern for the longevity of the equipment.



3. It was noted that the softball field on the east side of the site often holds water. The drainage in this area needs to be evaluated.
- E. The District discussed the priority facility needs at Zion-Benton Township High School:
 1. Roof condition needs:
 - a. Roof restoration has been used by the District as a cost-effective solution to extend the life of the roof. This process has been ongoing over the past few years.
 - b. The District typically does 2-3 sections of roof at a time.
 - c. The restoration process was noted to provide a new 20-year warranty.
 - d. The District will provide a map of the areas that have been restored and the areas that are in need of restoration, including any areas that have been more prone to damage and leaks.
 2. Exterior envelope system needs:
 - a. Tuckpointing work has been ongoing and needs to continue to be addressed in the coming years.
 - 1) The Courtyard was noted to be an area of high priority.
 - 2) It was noted that water leaks are an issue, but also that insects are entering the envelope and making nests.
 - b. The window systems on the west end of the building are a high priority due to constant leaks. Additionally, these locations do not create a weather tight condition allowing cold air into the space, impacting the interior environment during winter months.
 3. Mechanical system needs:
 - a. Unit S-1 serves the Girls' Locker Room and is original to the building. This unit needs to be replaced. Replacement should be considered in the next 1-3 years due to age.
 - b. Unit S-3, S-4 and S-6 serve the Gymnasium and are original to that portion of the building. These units continue to have parts break and need repair.
 - 1) It was noted that replacement parts are no longer available.
 - 2) Replacement should be considered in the next 1-3 years due to age.
 - c. AHU-1 and AHU-2 serve the Field House and Field House Locker Rooms. These units continue to break down and need repair.
 - 1) It was noted that when replaced, the pneumatic controls should be upgraded to an electronic controls system.
 - 2) The associated exhaust fans serving this unit should be replaced with the unit is replaced.
 - 3) Replacement should be considered in the next 1-3 years due to age.
 - d. RTU-1, RTU-2, RTU-3 are more than 20 years old and have continuous mechanical and electrical failures.
 - 1) These units serve a similar area of the building and should be considered for replacement at the same time.
 - 2) Replacement should be considered in the next 3-5 years due to age.



- e. RTU-4, RTU-5, RTU-6 are more than 20 years old and have continuous mechanical and electrical failures. These units serve a similar area of the building and should be considered for replacement at the same time.
 - 1) Replacement should be considered in the next 3-5 years due to age.
 - f. RTU-7, RTU-9 are more than 20 years old and have continuous mechanical and electrical failures. These units serve a similar area of the building and should be considered for replacement at the same time.
 - 1) Replacement should be considered in the next 3-5 years due to age.
 - g. The building exhaust fans were noted to all be reaching the end of their useful life. Many require repair, while others need to be replaced.
 - h. The District has been working to update all VAVs from their current pneumatic controls to an electronic controls system. This work is anticipated to be completed within the next year.
 - i. The building boilers were recently replaced and are in good condition.
4. Maintenance needs:
- a. It was noted that the fixtures and plumbing systems in the Boys' Locker Room and North Cafeteria Toilet Room need to be updated. These locations continue to breakdown and leak.
 - b. Building toilet rooms, in general, should be considered for updates due to age and functionality.
5. Proving a generator system to support the building systems is currently being discussed but is a high priority to protect the building's systems during power events.
6. LED lighting continues to be a priority for improvement in areas of interior renovation.
7. Extension of the existing fire protection system continues to be a priority for improvement in areas of interior renovation.
8. The building is over 95% asbestos-free. There have been small items found during recent construction projects at flooring glues and adhesives or elements buried in walls that could not previously be accessed for abatement.
- F. The District discussed the priority facility needs at Zion-Benton East:
- 1. The building exhaust fans are nearing the end of their useful life and should be evaluated for replacement in the next 3-5 years.
 - 2. It was noted that the boilers are over 15 years old and should be evaluated for suitability moving forward. Replacement may be needed in the next 7-10 years.
 - 3. It was noted that the classroom unit ventilators continue to have issues especially given they are running on 277-volt power. The District has the replacement motors to switch the units to 110-volt power, which would alleviate a number of the persistent issues.

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Jacob Carlson, Zion-Benton THSD 126

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Bonnie Felske, Zion-Benton THSD 126

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To: Attendees

From: Alison Andrews | AA

Date: November 19, 2024

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan
November 13, 2024, Zion-Benton East High School Principal Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Dr. Chris Pawelczyk, Zion-Benton THSD 126	chris.pawelczyk@zb126.org
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Alison Andrews, Wold Architects and Engineers	aandrews@woldae.com
Aiyana Grady, Wold Architects and Engineers	agrad@woldae.com

Discussion

- A. Introductions were made by the Group.
- B. Wold presented the Facility Master Planning Process and outlined the FMP process as follows:
 - 1. Phase 1: Identify the Needs
 - 2. Phase 2: Option Development
 - a. Consensus on Needs
 - b. Prioritization
 - c. Solutions aligned with Needs
 - 3. Phase 3: Facility Master Plan Recommendation
- C. The Group discussed the building utilization and identified areas of need:
 - 1. The Group noted that the Library is included in the 2025 renovations.
 - 2. The Group discussed the Cafeteria:
 - a. The District noted that the space is used for (2) periods of lunch, with approximately (200) students each period.
 - b. It was noted that there is a single serving line, which is typically congested. It would be ideal to subdivide the serving line into multiple locations.
 - c. It was noted that the platform is well-liked for presentations. It was noted that the (2) presentation screens at the front of the room are ideal but that a screen at the back of the space is desired.
 - d. The Cafeteria is also used for larger assemblies but cannot support the full student enrollment.
 - e. The space was noted to have good acoustics.



- f. The space was noted to need audio-video system updates.
- g. The furniture was noted to not be well-suited for programs and events other than lunch.
- h. The overall environment was noted to be sterile and not-inviting.
- 3. Training Room 105 is used for staff and team meetings.
 - a. The space is also reserved by teachers for classroom activities.
 - b. It was noted that the cabinets should be updated to better support the various storage needs of the space.
- 4. Technology Lab 106 was noted to be underutilized. The space is used for Technology support but is mostly used for storage of equipment and could be consolidated.
- 5. The Group discussed the Main Office:
 - a. The office includes space for the principal, assistant principal and (2) counselors.
 - b. Ideally the Main Office would have a connection to Student Services including the Social Worker.
 - c. Adjacency with security was noted to be important and incorporating the safety staff into the Main Office would be ideal.
 - d. The space does not create a sense of student service due to the layout of the workstations.
 - e. It was noted that the connection between the Nurse's Office to the Main Office is ideal and should remain.
 - f. The Mail Room is now a small meeting space. Displacing the Mail Room to another area of the building disconnected to the Main Office.
- 6. The Boys' and Girls' Locker Rooms were noted to need improvements including finishes and removal of multi-user showers. Additional lockers would ideally be located at areas of removed showers.
- 7. For Physical Education there are (2) Gymnasiums and a Fitness Room.
 - a. It was noted that ideally there would be a door separating the (2) gymnasiums for better access control and security of both spaces.
 - b. The large Gymnasium does not include bleachers and is not large enough for a spectator event.
 - c. It was noted that there are typically (2) teaching stations per period.
 - d. ZAP utilizes the Gymnasium for (3) sections per day.
 - e. Transition ideally utilizes the space for a movement break each day.
 - f. It was noted that the storage could be more intentionally subdivided for organization between classes and athletics.
 - g. Classroom 203 was a science lab with built-in cabinets, but after being renovated is now more flexible and can be used for classes other than science. This is the ideal flexibility for all classrooms.
 - h. Science Labs 204 and 208 have built-in casework and lab tables, which limits the flexibility of these classrooms.
 - i. The Academic Intervention room is used for small group meetings. The space is undersized for this ideal group size of 7-10 students.
 - j. ROTC Classroom was noted to feel isolated from the other classrooms.



- D. The Group discussed general needs for the building:
 - 1. Learning environments are in need of a refresh in finishes and furniture.
 - 2. Multiple classrooms are divided by a movable partition that does not provide adequate sound separation and would ideally be removed and replaced with a formal demising wall.
 - 3. It was noted that the building would benefit from 2-3 additional classrooms to support future elective offerings.
 - 4. It was noted that the building has a small school feel, which is ideal; however, the opportunity to grow and revise programming in the future needs to be available.
 - 5. It was noted that additional meeting space is needed for students and staff.
- E. The Group discussed the exterior of the building including parking, site flow and safety.
 - 1. The building is served by (10) full-size buses and 3-4 accessible buses. The bus lane is appropriately sized for the number of buses.
 - 2. It was noted that the separation between bus and parent drop-off and pick-up works well.
 - 3. The overall flow and layout of the parking lot is well-liked.
 - 4. The amount of parking was noted as sufficient for staff, students and visitors.
- F. The District identified the highest priority needs as follows:
 - 1. Overall refresh and rebranding of building
 - 2. Elimination of movable partitions
 - 3. Consolidation and reorganization of Administration, Security and Student Support
 - 4. Cafeteria Improvements

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Justin Wendt, Wold AE	jwendt@woldae.com



To: Attendees

From: Alison Andrews | AA

Date: November 19, 2024

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan
November 13, 2024, Zion-Benton High School Principal Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Dr. Chris Pawelczyk, Zion-Benton THSD 126	chris.pawelczyk@zb126.org
Bonnie Felske, Zion-Benton THSD 126	bonnie.felske@zb126.org
Dr. Diallo Brown, Zion-Benton THSD 126	diallo.brown@zb126.org
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Aiyana Grady, Wold Architects and Engineers	agrad@woldae.com

Discussion

- A. Introductions were made by the Group.
- B. Wold presented the Facility Master Planning Process and outlined the FMP process as follows:
 - 1. Phase 1: Identify the Needs
 - 2. Phase 2: Option Development
 - a. Consensus on Needs
 - b. Prioritization
 - c. Solutions aligned with Needs
 - 3. Phase 3: Facility Master Plan Recommendation
- C. The Group discussed the building utilization and identified areas of need:
 - 1. The classrooms in the 100-hallway were noted to need a refresh.
 - a. A refresh would be similar to what was previously done in the 120-hallways, including finishes, lighting, technology and furniture.
 - b. These classrooms were also noted as being challenging for instruction due to the shape and size. The triangular shape of each classroom creates unusable space.
 - 2. Classrooms 133, 135 and 137 were noted to need a refresh in finishes, technology and furniture.
 - 3. The North and South Cafeterias were discussed:
 - a. The District noted that both are available for the (6) periods of lunch each day.
 - b. Each Cafeteria includes different offerings for students and would be ideal if both Cafeterias could offer the full range of selection to limit student transition between the spaces during each period.



- c. It was noted that furniture is well-liked; however, could still be improved to provide a student commons environment with various seating options for students. These options could include different tables sizes and styles, and booth seating similar to what other high schools have done.
 - d. It was noted that the cafeterias do not need to be dividable, and a single open space is desired.
 - e. The District stated that the North Cafeteria is also used by the special education department for lessons and activities.
 - f. The District noted that the South Cafeteria is used to host large group meetings; however, the technology is in need of updates.
 - g. The South Cafeteria includes a platform area, which is well-liked for presentations. However, this area could be improved for better accessibility and aesthetics to serve the varied needs.
 - h. As a community space, the building hosts a number of food celebrations including breakfasts and dinners. These spaces need to continue to support those activities and events.
4. The District noted that the large corridor space adjacent to the Book Store is underutilized and should be reimagined. Currently, the space creates the opportunity for students to congregate but without an educational purpose.
5. The Group noted that the Art and Music hallway is being updated during the 2025 Renovations.
6. The Group discussed the Courtyard and noted that the space is in need of improvements to better support the desired uses.
 - a. Currently the space is used for lunch during good weather months.
 - b. The Art Department utilizes the space for lessons and activities.
 - c. The space is seen as being underutilized but could support an outdoor learning classroom and/or integrate technology for other programmatic needs.
7. The Boys' Locker Rooms to the north of the Main Gymnasium are dated and need to be improved. Improvements should include renovated/additional toilets and updated finishes.
8. The Girls' Locker Room to the north of the Main Gymnasium was updated in the past but is still in need of renovations including additional toilet rooms and updated finishes. There is also a multi-user shower room that is not needed and would provide additional space.
9. The Main Gymnasium does not currently have an air-conditioning system, which should be considered when the HVAC system is updated.
10. The Field House was noted to need improvements including air-conditioning, new flooring, paint and roof. It was further noted that when this area is addressed, the adjacent offices and supporting spaces should also be considered and improved.
11. It was noted that the NJROTC space does not have a secure entrance, which should be explored.



12. The East Gymnasium was noted to need improvements including air-conditioning, new flooring, and paint. It was further noted that when this area is addressed, the adjacent offices and supporting spaces should also be considered and improved.
13. The Group discussed the central offices at the front of the building.
 - a. It was noted that the Student Services, Attendance, Deans and Principals' offices are all in need of a refresh for finishes, technology, organization and flow.
 - b. These spaces should be further evaluated to improve the overall organization and connection for each space to each other as well as the student experience.
 - c. It was noted that the Security Office should also be included in this reorganization.
 - d. It was noted that there is a need to better align these spaces to the day-to-day operations of the school.
 - e. Adjacencies between the assistant principal and the attendance office, safety office and Deans office were noted.
 - f. It was noted that these spaces should be maintained near the front of the building, but that a physical connection to the main entrance should also be explored.
14. All classrooms on the second floor were noted to need a refresh in finishes, lighting, technology and furniture. It was further noted that the triangular classrooms would ideally be reconfigured to improve the shape and size of each to create a better learning environment for students and staff.
15. The Wrestling room was noted to be used for Physical Education and to need a refresh for finishes and technology.
- D. The Group discussed general needs for the building:
 1. It was noted that toilet room renovations are needed throughout, including multi- and single user locations. It was further noted that finding opportunities for additional individual toilet rooms is a priority.
 2. The flow of the overall building should be reviewed. The circulation on the second floor was noted to be complicated and requires additional supervision for the various circulation paths.
 3. Stairways should be considered in the Master Plan. It was noted that students often congregate at stairs that are not as easily supervised and this creates a potential risk for behavior issues.
- E. The Group discussed the need for space to support the Project Recovery Program:
 1. Students in this program need space for 3 hours of online study.
 2. The program needs classroom space, an office, access to restrooms and access to food service.
 3. This program also is utilized after typical school hours; therefore, security for night access would be considered.
- F. The Group discussed the exterior of the building including parking, site flow and safety.
 1. It was noted that the (2) north lots are both identified for student parking and include a sufficient number of spaces to support enrollment.
 2. The angled parking near the main entrance is identified for visitor parking and sufficient for day-to-day use.



3. The circle drive on the west side of the building is not currently being used for drop-off or pick-up procedures.
 4. The south lot is identified for staff parking and includes a sufficient number of spaces to support faculty and staff.
 5. The south drive was noted to be used for bus drop-off and pick-up. This area was noted to be adequate for the current procedures.
 6. The north entrance and drives are utilized for parent drop-off and pick-up.
 - a. It was noted that the flow, including signage, could be improved for safety.
 - b. At this time, many parents will stop early along the drive to drop-off their student, but this creates a traffic issue that backs up onto 21st Street.
 7. Drainage issues were noted at the east and south sides of the site.
 8. The District noted that the baseball diamond should be considered for turf and striped to support baseball, soccer and football.
 9. The District noted that the tennis courts were last updated 10 years ago and are in need of resurfacing.
 10. Overall improvements at the exterior of the building should include the PA system, wireless access, cameras and security, and lighting.
- G. The District identified the highest priority needs as follows:
1. Restroom Renovations
 2. Attendance, Security, and Main Office layout and operations
 3. Cafeteria connection and flow
 4. Classroom refresh with special interest given to eliminating triangular spaces

cc: Dr. Jesse Rodriguez, Zion-Benton THSD 126	jessie.rodriguez@zb126.org
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To: Attendees

From: Alyssa Menolascino | AM

Date: November 19, 2024

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan - ZBE Staff Meeting
November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Dr. Jesse Rodriguez, Zion-Benton THSD 126	jessie.rodriguez@zb126.org
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Discussion

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. An overview of the Facility Master Plan (FMP) process was provided by Wold:
 - 1. It was explained that the FMP will be completed in phases:
 - a. Phase 1 will focus on fact finding and information gathering from the Stakeholders identified by the District.
 - b. In Phase 2, once the needs are understood and prioritized, options will be developed to provide solutions to address the needs.
 - c. Phase 3 will include a final recommendation that will be presented to the School Board. It was noted that the Facilities Master Plan will be presented to the Board in March 2025.
- C. Wold presented the FMP Schedule, and it was noted that in addition to meetings with staff, Wold will be facilitating meetings with the community in December 2024:
 - 1. The Group was prompted with discussion questions regarding the facility challenges, student engagement, and future-focused environments at Zion-Benton East High School (ZBEHS). The Group was asked to share things that they liked about their current facility and the following was noted:
 - a. The building is perceived as safe by the Users.



- b. The existing classrooms were described as a good size.
- c. Furniture in most classrooms is moveable providing flexibility.
- d. The Transition program was noted to have a full kitchen and washer / dryer in their area which has been helpful for students learning life skills.
- e. Natural daylight is accessible to most student learning spaces which was noted to be beneficial to students and staff.
- f. Technology improvements completed by the District were noted to be helpful for students and staff:
 - 1) It was stated that the ease of switching between documents and projecting information in the classrooms has made the technology upgrades well received.
 - 2) The digital announcement boards were noted to be a great asset to staff for general District-Wide notices.
- 2. Facility Challenges:
 - a. It was noted that not all science classrooms are equipped with access to water which limits the curriculum that can be taught in those spaces.
 - b. It was noted that the Transition program is currently delivered from the lower level of Zion-Benton East High School:
 - 1) It was noted that access to a shower is desired by the Transition program for student use.
 - 2) It was stated that the existing Transition program kitchen is located adjacent to their toilet room which is not ideal.
 - c. Existing operable walls are separating classrooms and are not soundproof. In addition to the sound distractions, it was noted that students often pass notes under the operable walls.
 - d. Toilet rooms were discussed, and it was noted that toilet rooms throughout the building need improvement. Single user toilet rooms were noted to be desired.
 - e. The existing building structure was noted to be problematically located in a few classrooms causing visibility issues for teachers and students.
 - f. The built-in teacher desk in the typical classroom was noted to limit flexibility.
 - g. The current classroom storage was noted to be inefficient. It was stated that instructional materials would ideally be stored in the classrooms:
 - 1) Personal item storage for the teachers was noted to be desired.
 - 2) It was noted that teachers often share classrooms, so lockable storage is desired.
 - h. It was stated that the classrooms vary in size, and some consistency would be beneficial.
 - i. The existing HVAC system was noted to be loud in most classrooms:
 - 1) It was stated that smells from the Kitchen often travel through the entire building.
 - 2) Access to operable windows or fresh air was noted to be desired.
 - j. Power was noted to be accessible at the perimeter of most classrooms. Power in the center of the classrooms is desired.
 - k. At the stage, it was noted that the existing borrowed light to the corridor is distracting during performances. A curtain system was noted to be desired.
 - l. It was stated that there is not any spectator seating in the Gymnasium:
 - 1) It was further clarified that there is not a space in the building, large enough or with enough seating, where all students and staff can gather at one time.
 - m. The interior color palette was noted to not promote school spirit. Opportunities for branding would ideally be considered.



3. Student Engagement:
 - a. A more cohesive student services area was requested. Currently the counselor, social worker, academic success agent and interventionists are spread throughout the building:
 - 1) A space where students and staff can meet and work on a one-on-one basis was noted to be desired.
 - 2) A space for students to work in carrels was noted to be ideal for testing.
 - b. A sensory room for students was noted to be desired.
 - c. It was stated that there are two science labs in the building with built in lab stations, which do not promote student collaboration:
 - 1) The configuration of the lab stations requires students to face the back of the classroom which forces them to turn completely around to see the teaching wall.
 - d. The Technology Classroom was discussed, and it was noted that the space is limited in capacity and flexibility since the class size is directly related to the number of desktop computers that can fit in the space:
 - 1) Space for future growth was noted to be desired.
 - 2) A tiered classroom set up with student workstations on the risers was noted to be desirable for student supervision.
 - 3) This space was noted to house a 3D printer and large format printer today.
 - 4) From the teachers' perspective, there are inefficiencies with the Technology Classroom set up resulting in wasted space.
 - e. The location of the Main Office relative to the Main Entrance was noted to be challenging for students, staff and visitors.
 - f. It was noted that in Classrooms, the two-person tables and student chairs are not easy to move quickly:
 - 1) Teachers would like the flexibility to have students' group together but also work individually for testing.
 - g. The Group discussed student seating, and it was determined that a variety of seating options for students would promote free choice.
 - h. Mobile marker boards were noted to be desired.
 - i. Spaces for student collaboration were noted to be minimal at Zion-Benton East High School today.
4. Future-Focused Environments:
 - a. The following programs were identified by the Staff as desirable for the future:
 - 1) An expanded technology program.
 - 2) Art.
 - 3) Music:
 - a) It was noted that a Choir course is offered to ZBEHS students, but they must be bused to Zion-Benton Township High School (ZBTHS) to use their facilities.
 - 4) Strength and Conditioning:
 - a) It was clarified that students often use the facilities at ZBTHS for strength and conditioning.
 - 5) Adventure Education including a climbing wall.



- b. It was emphasized that all student spaces should ideally have windows or access to natural daylight:
 - 1) The windows between the classrooms and the central corridors were noted to be well received by the Users.
- c. It was noted that due to the size of ZBEHS, many of the spaces are multi-purpose.
- d. It was stated that the cafeteria can be overwhelming for students. A place for students to step away from stressful situations would ideally be provided.
- e. Student lockers were noted to not be used by students.
- f. Opportunities for locking up student cell phones were discussed.
- g. It was stated that the school is looking for opportunities to utilize their space more strategically.
- h. The visual appearance of the building exterior and interior would ideally be improved to promote school spirit.
- i. Integration of card readers at all doors in the entire building was identified as a desirable safety option for the school. This would provide the staff with the ability to put the building into a global lockdown with the push of a button.
- D. The Group was asked to prioritize the challenges previously identified and in no particular order, the following was emphasized:
 - 1. Improve classroom environments.
 - 2. Improve intervention space / provide a dedicated intervention space.
 - 3. Improve the visual appearance of the school to improve how students feel about their school.
 - 4. Improve building exterior by providing fencing around the football field and leveling the grassy area across the parking lot since it is used for Physical Education.
- E. Next Steps:
 - 1. The survey questions proposed in the meeting are to be made available to the staff via an electronic survey.

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To: Attendees

From: Alyssa Menolascino | AM

Date: December 2, 2024

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan – ZBTHS Staff Meeting
November 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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Discussion

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. An overview of the Facility Master Plan (FMP) process was provided by Wold:
 - 1. It was explained that the FMP will be completed in phases:
 - a. Phase 1 will focus on fact finding and information gathering from the Stakeholders identified by the District.
 - b. In Phase 2, once the needs are understood and prioritized, options will be developed to provide solutions to address the needs.
 - c. Phase 3 will include a final recommendation that will be presented to the School Board. It was noted that the Facilities Master Plan will be presented to the Board in March 2025.
- C. Wold presented the FMP Schedule, and it was noted that in addition to meetings with staff, Wold will be facilitating meetings with the community in December 2024.
- D. The Group was prompted with discussion questions regarding the facility challenges, student engagement, and future-focused environments at Zion-Benton Township High School (ZBTHS):
 - 1. The Group was asked to share things that they liked about their current facility and the following was noted:
 - a. Open spaces, such as the main entrance, the 350s hallway, and the South Commons were noted to provide a lot of natural daylight, and a welcoming environment.



- b. Common spaces for teachers and staff to collaborate in was noted to be desired:
 - 1) It was stated that the Science Teachers do not have a departmental office, which does not provide the staff with a separation between their classroom and professional workspace.
- c. Display cases were noted to be used by the Social Studies department frequently.
- 2. Facility Challenges:
 - a. It was noted that the quantity and location of toilet rooms is a challenge for the Staff:
 - 1) Some toilet rooms are periodically locked throughout the day, so students may have to travel to a different part of the building to use the restroom.
 - 2) Single user toilet rooms were noted to be a challenge for student supervision.
 - b. Natural daylight was noted to be inaccessible to many students and staff throughout the day which was noted to be less than ideal:
 - c. It was stated that access to outdoor space for students and staff is limited.
 - d. The shape and size of the classrooms in the original portion of the building was noted to cause issues for creating collaborative environments for students:
 - 1) It was noted that the two-person student tables are difficult to move, and more flexible furniture is desired.
 - 2) It was stated that the science classrooms do not have adequate storage for teacher's personal items:
 - 3) The Chemistry classrooms were noted to have no flexible furnishings.
 - 4) Visibility of the teaching wall or displayed content was discussed by the Group. It was stated that ideally, students would be able to see displayed content from multiple locations in a standard classroom.
 - 5) It was noted that standard classrooms at ZBTHS do not have accommodations for the subjects being taught within them:
 - a) It was noted that ideally, Math classrooms would be equipped with vertical markerboards, and student desks with writable surfaces.
 - 6) It was stated that the current media sharing system in the classrooms is cumbersome for users.
 - e. It was noted that travel distance at passing periods is difficult for students. A combination of narrow hallways and a high volume of students compounds the issue.
 - f. Shared spaces were discussed, and it was noted that the South Commons is used for group work and testing:
 - 1) It was explained that while testing is done in the South Commons, it is not a private space.
 - 2) The height of the South Commons ceilings was noted to be desirable for science experiments.
 - 3) It was requested that shared spaces in ZBTHS have adequate access to Wi-Fi so students and staff can work in these spaces.
 - g. It was stated that there are not many large group gathering spaces in ZBTHS for teachers to use with their students.
 - h. A variety of seating options in the Cafeteria was noted to be desired to give students more choice.



- i. Outdoor lighting in the parking lots was noted to be inadequate.
- j. The parent pick-up line was noted to be challenging for the staff as the line often blocks through traffic.
- 3. Student Engagement:
 - a. Windows between classrooms and between corridors and classrooms were requested not only for light, but for the open feeling the windows provide.
 - b. It was stated that students in distress often go to the toilet rooms to re-set themselves. The peace room was noted to be available for student use.
- 4. Future-Focused Environments:
 - a. A dedicated testing center was noted to be desired. Currently the testing center is operated out of the Library:
 - 1) It was noted that students are not being supervised during testing, and so a proctored process is desired.
 - b. An outdoor classroom is desired by the ZBTHS staff.
 - c. A spirit store, in combination with the bookstore, is desired for students to purchase gear. It was noted that this space does exist in the South Commons today, but the location makes it difficult to access for students:
 - 1) It was stated that the bookstore is currently open before and after school and during lunch periods.
 - 2) Opportunities for a student run program out of the bookstore were discussed.
 - d. A dedicated professional space for teachers was requested:
 - 1) Personal item storage was requested for teachers that share classrooms.
 - 2) The Group discussed the potential for a future teacher shortage where programs such as blended learning may become a reality. Spatial accommodations for future unknown needs were requested.
- E. The Group was asked if there were topics the Facility Master Planning Committee should evaluate as a part of their effort and the following was noted:
 - 1. Review completed projects for execution in desired outcomes and satisfaction for students and staff.
 - 2. How will the committee establish the baseline for the current state of ZBTHS to then make informed decisions on the impact of change?
 - 3. Stakeholders and users should be a part of the decision-making process so that their voices can be heard.
 - 4. Distinguish between the needs and wants of some and from the needs and wants of the entire Group.
- F. The Group was asked to prioritize the challenges previously identified and in no particular order, the following was emphasized:
 - 1. Improve the existing restrooms and increase the quantity of toilet rooms throughout the building.
 - 2. Improve classroom spaces to be functional for the content being taught within it. Consider shape, size amenities and furniture.
 - 3. Provide access to natural daylight from all learning spaces.



G. Next Steps:

1. The survey questions proposed in the meeting are to be made available to the staff via an electronic survey.

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KH/EDU-IL-Zion-Benton/_Planning/243134/Admin/MM/2024.11.19



To: Attendees

From: Alyssa Menolascino | AM

Date: December 11, 2024

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan – ZBTHS Staff Meeting
November 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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Discussion

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. An overview of the Facility Master Plan (FMP) process was provided by Wold:
 - 1. It was explained that the FMP will be completed in phases:
 - a. Phase 1 will focus on fact finding and information gathering from the Stakeholders identified by the District.
 - b. In Phase 2, once the needs are understood and prioritized, options will be developed to provide solutions to address the needs.
 - c. Phase 3 will include a final recommendation that will be presented to the School Board. It was noted that the Facilities Master Plan will be presented to the Board in March 2025.
- C. Wold presented the FMP Schedule, and it was noted that in addition to meetings with staff, Wold will be facilitating meetings with the Community in December 2024.



- D. The Group was prompted with discussion questions regarding the facility challenges, student engagement, and future-focused environments at Zion-Benton Township High School (ZBTHS):
1. Facility Challenges:
 - a. Classroom Environment:
 - 1) Natural daylight was noted to be lacking in many spaces, which negatively impacts the day.
 2. The shape and size of the classrooms in the original portion of the building was noted to cause issues for creating collaborative environments for students:
 - a. Visibility of the teaching wall or displayed content was discussed by the Group. It was stated that ideally, students would be able to see displayed content from multiple locations in a standard classroom.
 3. It was also noted that there is a visible discrepancy between the recently renovated classrooms, and the classrooms that have not been recently renovated regarding furniture, finishes, and technology. It was stated that students carry more pride for the recently renovated spaces than the unrenovated spaces.
 4. Classroom furniture was noted to need further consideration:
 - a. It was stated that the trapezoidal shaped tables are noisy to move in the classrooms. The shape of the tables was also noted to be challenging for student collaboration.
 - b. Wheels on the furniture were recommended as an option for improving the classroom environments.
 5. Dimmable and two-zone lighting was noted to be desired in the classrooms:
 - a. Building circulations and flow was discussed:
 - 1) It was noted that travel distance at passing periods is difficult for students. A combination of narrow hallways and a high volume of students compounds the issue.
 - 2) Room numbering at ZBTHS was noted to not be clear for staffs and students.
 - b. It was noted that the Life Skills program at Zion-Benton Township High School does not currently have direct access to a cooking sink, a dishwasher, a washing machine and dryer:
 - 1) It was clarified that the Life Skills class currently does laundry for the Swim Team and utilizes the washer and dryer in the maintenance area.
 - c. The quantity and location of toilet rooms is challenging for the staff and students:
 - 1) It was stated that the second level of the CTE area does not have a toilet room.
 - d. The Girls' Varsity Locker Room was noted to be very outdated and does not have an adequate number of toilets or sinks.
 - e. The lack of welcoming environments was noted to be difficult for the staff and students.
 - f. An inconsistency in heating and cooling was noted to exist across all classrooms.
 - g. Roof leaks were noted to occur frequently in various parts of the building.
 - h. The space acoustics in the power mechanics and metals shops were noted to be inadequate. It was stated that acoustical treatments were added to the Wood Shop recently, and they did help with the spatial acoustics.



6. Student Engagement:
 - a. Social spaces for students are lacking:
 - 1) A space that could accommodate 100 to 150 people at one time would provide that need.
 - 2) Opportunities for guest speakers, award ceremonies, bringing all advisories together at once and other meetings were all highlighted as benefits that this type of space could provide.
 - b. It was stated that students would like to use flexible seating and potential chairs that offer a variety of seating options:
 - 1) Age-appropriate furniture was requested for students and staff.
 - 2) Adjustable height chairs and desks for students was noted to be desired to provide students with freedom of choice.
 - 3) Sensory-conscious seating options in the classroom were noted to be desirable.
 - c. Spaces that encourage students to ask for assistance was noted to be desired. It was noted that the EL Office Lobby provides a very welcoming environment, which invites students into the space.
7. Future-Focused Environments:
 - a. It was noted that an English Lab is offered to students, but it is limited to two periods a day. The Staff indicated that ideally, eight periods of English Lab could be offered to students.
 - b. Opportunities to showcase the students and their work were suggested for exploration:
 - 1) It was stated that each department would ideally have a dedicated display case or student work display area.
 - 2) A way for students to see themselves in the building was noted to be important for student well-being and school pride.
 - c. Adaptability was emphasized by the staff regarding student access to power and the classroom furnishings:
 - 1) It was noted that ZBTHS students are one to one for technology, and the current classrooms do not have adequate access to power for all students.
 - d. Outdoor areas around the building for student and staff use during the school day were requested:
 - 1) It was stated that the existing areas are uneven and difficult for the cross-country runners to use.
 - 2) An outdoor classroom was identified as desirable.
 - 3) Utilization of the existing courtyard was noted to be limited. If the space was renovated, the Group believes its use would increase.
- E. The Group was asked if there were topics the Facility Master Planning Committee should evaluate as a part of their effort and the following was noted:
 1. Provide students with a voice in this process.
 2. Examine the District's cell phone policy for students to determine how to manage in the future.
 3. Evaluate the use of the existing student lockers to determine if that existing space can be repurposed.



4. Explore opportunities for increasing utilization of the existing courtyards.
 5. Follow up on satisfaction and completeness of previous investments. Address any open items.
- F. The Group was asked to prioritize the challenges previously identified and the following was emphasized:
1. Improve the existing restrooms and increase the quantity of toilet rooms throughout the building.
 2. Improve classroom spaces to be functional for the content being taught within, as well as provide equality across all classrooms regarding furniture, finishes and technology.
 3. Provide an inviting space for students to congregate such as a student commons.
- G. Next Steps:
1. The survey questions proposed in the meeting are to be made available to the staff via an electronic survey.

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KA/EDU-IL-Zion-Benton/_Planning/243134/Admin/MM/2024.11.21 Staff Meeting



To: Attendees

From: Alyssa Menolascino | AM

Date: December 12, 2024

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan – ZBTHS Community Meeting
December 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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Discussion

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. An overview of recently completed facility investments in Zion-Benton Township High School District was were presented by Wold, including Design Criteria that informed project decision making.
- C. An overview of the Facility Master Plan process was provided by Wold:
 1. Phase 1 will focus on fact finding and information gathering from the Stakeholders identified by the District:
 - a. It was explained that as a part of the fact-finding phase, the Wold Team will meet or has met with the District and Building Staff, the District Facilities Team, the Community, and will be hopefully hosting student focus groups to gather as much information from as many Stakeholders as possible.
 2. In Phase 2, once the needs are understood and prioritized, options will be developed to provide solutions to address the needs.
 3. Phase 3 will include a final recommendation that will be presented to the School Board. It was noted that the Facilities Master Plan will be presented to the School Board in March 2025.



- D. The Facility Master Planning Charge and Outcome Statements were shared with the Group.
- E. The list of Guiding Principles developed by the Facility Master Planning Committee were shared with the Group and noted to still be in the process of finalization. It was explained that Guiding Principles are intended to assist the Planning Committee in evaluating the proposed options that will be developed during Phase 2 of the Facility Master Plan.
- F. The Group was asked to share things that are liked about Zion-Benton Township High School (ZBTHS), and the following was noted:
 - 1. The new athletic facilities were noted to be well liked by the Community.
 - 2. It was stated that the recent improvements contribute to teacher and staff retention.
 - 3. The recently completed Boardroom was noted to offer opportunities for staff professional development and growth.
- G. The Group was asked to share how they would like to see graduating students contribute to the Community, and the following was noted:
 - 1. It was stated that the Community would like to see graduating students become good citizens and employable:
 - a. Maintaining a competitive edge for students entering the workforce was emphasized.
 - 2. The Community would like to see graduating students find careers that they enjoy and are passionate about.
- H. The Group was asked to share their thoughts on how the built environment can contribute to student and staff success and the following was noted:
 - 1. It was stated that all classrooms should be brought into the 21st century, and educational spaces should be the priority for all future investments.
 - 2. It was explained that the Career and Technical Center provides students with practical trade experience, as well as opportunities to obtain certifications prior to graduation. These programs were noted to be very successful for students as staff.
 - 3. Providing students with access to equipment and technology that will help prepare them for their future was noted to be fundamental to student success.
- I. The Group was asked to share their thoughts on facility investments that should be considered for ZBTHS, and the following was noted:
 - 1. It was stated that the existing toilet room locations and quantities are insufficient for students and staff.
 - 2. Wayfinding and travel distance for students would ideally be improved:
 - a. It was noted that students currently have five-minute passing periods, which has been a challenge for students travelling between classrooms on opposite ends of the building.
 - b. It was stated that the building lacks a center of gravity, which makes it difficult to navigate for students and staff.
 - c. The existing hallways were noted to be small, and the use of student lockers was noted to be minimal. It was suggested that widening the hallways be explored:
 - 1) It was stated that there are several corners in the building that are considered "blind" corners where students and staff often run into one another since they cannot see that another individual is coming around the same corner.
 - 2) Opportunities to improve building traffic flow are to be explored.



3. Annual maintenance items, such as roof leaks and structured cabling updates, were noted to require continued investment to keep the building functional.
4. The importance of space for student support, including intervention was noted.
- J. The Group was asked if there were topics the Facility Master Planning Committee should evaluate as a part of their effort, and the following was noted:
 1. Explore opportunities to cultivate Community Partnerships with the School District for student mentorship and real-world exposure.
 2. Evaluate enrollment in specific programming and invest where the student demand is present:
 - a. An existing relationship with the College of Lake County (CLC) was mentioned. The Group indicated that students that participate in the CLC Program are bused to campus for classes. The Group indicated that the Facility Master Planning Committee should evaluate the program enrollment to determine if busing students is efficient.
 3. Are there items to be addressed / completed in previously updated spaces?
 4. Improve the proximity of toilet rooms to classrooms.
- K. Wold presented the FMP Schedule.
- L. Next Steps:
 1. The survey questions proposed in the meeting are to be made available to the Community via an electronic survey.
 2. It was noted that the School District will issue newsletter updates that will contain updates regarding the Facility Master Plan.

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To: Attendees

From: Aiyana Grady | AG

Date: December 12, 2024

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan – ZBETHS Community Meeting
December 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Dr. Jesse Rodriguez, Zion-Benton THSD 126	jessie.rodriguez@zb126.org
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Discussion Topics:

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. An overview of recently completed facility investments in Zion Benton Township High School District was presented by Wold including design criteria that informed decision making.
- C. An overview of the Facility Master Plan (FMP) process was provided by Wold:
 1. Phase 1 will focus on fact finding and information gathering form the stakeholders identified by the District.
 2. In Phase 2, once the needs are understood and prioritized, options will be developed to provide solutions to address the needs.
 3. Phase 3 will include a final recommendation that will be presented to the School Board. It was noted that the facilities master plan will be presented to the Board in March 2025.
- D. The facility master planning charge and outcome statements were shared with the Group.
- E. The list of guiding principles being developed by the Facility Master Planning (FMP) Committee were shared with the Group and noted to still be in the process of finalization. It was explained that guiding principles are intended to assist the FMP Committee in evaluating proposed options that will be developed during Phase 2 of the process.



- F. The Group had an open discussion about the facility challenges and needs at Zion-Benton East High School (ZBE):
 - 1. The Group stated that honoring the importance and presence of this facility as an option to students is criteria. Addressing its unique need is to be considered.
 - 2. The Group noted the need for rebranding of the School to give it a "school" feel with colors and the school logo to enhance student pride.
 - 3. The Group noted maintaining a small-school feel while expanding learning opportunities. Equitable opportunities for learning should be provided across the District.
 - 4. Additional meeting, office, and program space were also noted as current facility limitations.
 - 5. A large Group space to host the entire student body for school-wide events is desired.
 - 6. Classroom environments are in need of updates to reduce under-utilized space and enhance learning.
 - 7. The need to consolidate student support services was noted.
 - 8. The Group noted a focus on preparing students for a rapidly changing world. Additional opportunities for technology literacy and application may be beneficial.
- G. It was noted that ZBE is centrally located in the community and the School could serve expanded community programs.
 - 1. Opportunities Include:
 - a. Adult Learning Programs.
 - b. Food Drives.
 - c. Community Meetings.
 - d. Park District Partnership.
 - 2. The opportunity for ZBE to fulfill this role was noted to be because the building is less intimidating, easier to navigate, centralized in the community in close proximity with other local businesses and has ample parking.
 - 3. The Group discussed facility needs that would also support future community programming and relationships:
 - a. Multi-functional large group space.
 - b. Improved gymnasium space including bleachers.
 - c. Flexible furniture.
- H. Wold asked the Group if there were topics the FMP process should evaluate or explore, and the following were noted:
 - 1. Provide information to the community explaining budgetary considerations and available funding opportunities besides the local tax base.
 - 2. Highlighting positive impact on students to acknowledge and celebrate previous investments.
 - 3. Offering school tours to showcase new renovations and investments for the community. Provide comparisons of the ZBTHS to neighborhood Districts.



I. Next Steps

1. The survey questions will be made available to the community via an electronic survey.
2. The School District will issue updates regarding the FMP process via various communication means.

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CM/EDU-IL-Zion-Benton/_Planning/243134/Admin/MM/2024.12.05 Community Meeting



To: Attendees

From: Alyssa Menolascino | AM

Date: February 12, 2025

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan – ZBTHS Community Town Hall
February 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Kathy Champine, Community Member
Dr. Jesse Rodriguez, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Cynthia Moreno, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Dr. Cheri Bridge, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Dr. Chris Pawelczyk, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Jack Niemi, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Dr. James Woell, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Melissa Digangi, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Christine Digrazia, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Hal Lunsford, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Kathy Paxton, Zion-Benton THSD 126
Amy Onan, Community Member
Ashley Yates Harvey, Community Member
Ben Ondo, Community Member
Blake Fortenberry, Community Member
Cheri Neal, Community Member
Chris Szymanski, Community Member
Mike Stried, Community Member
Sandy Helmkamp, Community Member
Rachel Harvey, Community Member
Robyn Ondo, Community Member
Alison Andrews, Wold Architects and Engineers
Alyssa Menolascino, Wold Architects and Engineers

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Discussion

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. It was explained that the intent of the meeting was to provide the community with an update on the Facility Master Plan (FMP) for Zion-Benton Township High School District 126:
 - 1. An overview of the FMP Committee's mission and vision statements were shared by Wold:
 - a. It was mentioned that the FMP Committee has pursued the FMP process to ensure that the school district is efficient and thoughtful with future investments and improvements.
 - 2. Guiding principles, developed by the FMP Committee, were shared with the Group.
 - 3. It was explained that Phase I of the FMP process, which includes gathering information from Stakeholders, was completed in December 2024:
 - a. Student focus groups and a student electronic survey to gather student feedback related to facility needs has been added to the process and is nearing completion.
 - b. It was noted that Phase II includes prioritizing the Needs, identified by the Stakeholders, and consensus building so that options can be developed.
 - 4. It was explained that the presented emerging themes were developed from the Stakeholder input gathered in Phase I.
- C. Needs Statements, developed by the FMP Committee were presented and are listed below:
 - a. Improve District learning environments.
 - b. Improve and maintain site and building infrastructure for facility longevity.
 - c. Improve building flow and wayfinding to optimize layout and reduce congestion.
 - d. Incorporate safety and security enhancements to align with District policies.
 - e. Reorganize student and staff management spaces to optimize layout and improve operational efficiencies.
 - f. Provide interior building environments and exterior facility appearances that promote school pride.
 - g. Identify opportunities to enhance student and staff well-being and increase space for student support.
 - h. Identify opportunities to accommodate Community use of facilities.
 - i. Provide multi-functional large group spaces to support varied programming and building feasibility.
 - j. Improve physical education environments and support spaces.
 - k. Identify opportunities to expand programming now and in the future.
 - l. Provide outdoor space and learning opportunities.
 - m. Improve and maintain building site circulation and parking.
- 2. It was noted that strategies to address each of the Needs Statements, were developed by the FMP Committee. These strategies identify potential investments to be made within the facilities.
- D. The Group engaged in a dot voting activity to prioritize the Needs Statements Strategies. The highest priority strategies from the activity are as follows:
 - 1. Strategy 39: Update locker room environments to align with District expectations.
 - 2. Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with District standard and meet accessibility requirements.
 - 3. Strategy 8: Provide air-conditioning at physical education and athletic spaces.



4. Strategy 4: Update special education program classrooms to meet the needs of curriculum and align with District standard for learning environments.
5. Strategy 14: Increase exterior lighting for safety and security.
6. Strategy 42: Improve worn and dated athletic training space at ZBTHS.
- E. The Group had an open discussion related to the dot voting activity. The Group commented on strategies that were not ranked highly, but still worth discussing and the following was noted:
 1. It was stated that some strategies did not rank high on their own but would ideally be a component of all future investments. The following were specifically identified as such:
 - a. The promotion of school pride should be incorporated into any renovation project moving forward.
 - b. Incorporating infrastructure improvements in areas being renovated.
 2. It was noted that Strategy 2, regarding improvements to Zion-Benton East High School science classrooms, is intended to address the limited flexibility of the existing science labs due to built-in casework and a lack of flexible, moveable furniture.
 3. Strategy 31, explore opportunities for ZBTHS 126 to offer community / adult learning programs was emphasized. It was requested that student taught adult classes be considered.
 4. It was requested that small improvements, like wall paint, to spaces that have not recently been renovated be considered.
 5. Strategy 28, explore opportunities to cultivate community partnerships to then strengthen curriculum opportunities, was discussed. It was requested that internship opportunities be explored.
 6. It was discussed that improvements to the public address system is a priority for emergency planning.
 7. The Group discussed improvements to wayfinding and congestion at Zion-Benton Township High School and the following was noted:
 - a. Students have a hard time getting to class in a timely manner.
 - b. Re-numbering the rooms in the building was agreed to be a viable solution to improve traffic flow.
 - c. Grade level clusters were discussed. It was determined that since the grade clusters would separate teachers, it would not be the best solution for ZBTHS.
- F. Wold presented next steps:
 1. A Board update will be provided in February.
 2. The FMP recommendation will be presented in March.
 3. Community Members can stay connected to the District and receive updates regarding the FMP process through the following means:
 - a. Monthly District newsletters.
 - b. Website announcements.
 - c. District calendar.
 - d. Town postings.
 - e. Social media posts.
 - f. Direct email.



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KH/EDU-IL-Zion-Benton/_Planning/243134/Admin/MM/2025.02.03 Community Town Hall



To: Attendees

From: Alyssa Menolascino | AM

Date: February 18, 2025

Comm. No: 243134

Subject: Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
District-Wide Facilities Master Plan – ZBE Community Town Hall
February 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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Discussion Topics:

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. It was explained that the intent of the meeting was to provide the community with an update on the Facility Master Plan (FMP) for Zion-Benton Township High School District 126:
 - 1. An overview of the FMP Committee’s mission and vision statements were shared by Wold:
 - a. It was mentioned that the FMP Committee has pursued the FMP process to ensure that the School District is efficient and thoughtful with future investments and improvements.
 - 2. Guiding principles, developed by the FMP Committee, were shared with the Group.



3. It was explained that Phase I of the FMP process, which includes gathering information from Stakeholders, was completed in December 2024:
 - a. Student focus groups and a student electronic survey to gather student feedback related to facility needs has been added to the process and is nearing completion.
 - b. It was noted that Phase II includes prioritizing the Needs, identified by the Stakeholders, and consensus building so that options can be developed.
4. It was explained that the presented emerging themes were developed from the Stakeholder input gathered in Phase I.
- C. Needs Statements, developed by the FMP Committee were presented and are listed below:
 - a. Improve District learning environments
 - b. Improve and maintain site and building infrastructure for facility longevity.
 - c. Improve building flow and wayfinding to optimize layout and reduce congestion.
 - d. Incorporate safety and security enhancements to align with District policies.
 - e. Reorganize student and staff management spaces to optimize layout and improve operational efficiencies.
 - f. Provide interior building environments and exterior facility appearances that promote school pride.
 - g. Identify opportunities to enhance student and staff well-being and increase space for student support.
 - h. Identify opportunities to accommodate Community use of facilities.
 - i. Provide multi-functional large group spaces to support varied programming and building feasibility.
 - j. Improve physical education environments and support spaces.
 - k. Identify opportunities to expand programming now and in the future.
 - l. Provide outdoor space and learning opportunities.
 - m. Improve and maintain building site circulation and parking.
2. It was noted that strategies to address each of the Needs Statements, were developed by the FMP Committee. These strategies identify potential investments to be made within the facilities.
3. The Group had an open discussion about the Needs Statements, and the following was noted:
 - a. It was asked if opportunities for implementing renewable energy would be explored by the FMP Committee:
 - 1) It was explained that the State of Illinois has an initiative to implement electric buses at all School Districts by the year 2035.
 - 2) In response to that initiative, the School District has submitted for grant funding to begin the conversion from standard diesel buses to electric buses starting with infrastructure improvements at the Transportation Building in 2026.
 - b. The Group discussed community use of the District's facilities, and it was determined that additional evaluation of the District's policies will be required to simplify the community use of the facilities.
- D. The Group engaged in a dot voting activity to prioritize the Needs Statements Strategies. The highest priority strategies from the activity are as follows:
 1. Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with District standard and meet accessibility requirements.



2. Strategy 8: Provide air-conditioning at physical education and athletic spaces.
 3. Strategy 28: Explore opportunities to cultivate Community Partnerships to then strengthen curriculum opportunities.
 4. Strategy 31: Explore opportunities for ZBTHSD 126 to offer Community / adult learning programs.
 5. Strategy 19: Reconfigure the ZBE Main Office and main entrance sequence.
- E. The Group had an open discussion related to the dot voting activity. The Group commented on strategies that were not ranked highly, but still worth discussing and the following was noted:
1. Strategy 31: Explore opportunities for ZBTHSD 126 to offer Community / adult learning programs, was discussed:
 - a. It was stated that the School District has resources available such as the space and equipment for adult learning courses. The logistics of such offerings would require further exploration.
 2. Off-campus course offerings were discussed, and it was noted that for a class offering to be provided, there is a minimum number of interested students required.
 3. Strategy 18: Enhance wall and glass systems for bullet-resistance, was discussed. It was noted that the School District completed a recent installation of bullet-resistant film at both high schools.
 4. It was stated that the School Board is currently working on a cell phone policy that will be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year.
- F. Wold presented next steps:
1. A Board update will be provided in February.
 2. The FMP recommendation will be presented in March.
 3. Community Members can stay connected to the District and receive updates regarding the FMP process through the following means:
 - a. Monthly District newsletters.
 - b. Website announcements.
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