



State College Area School District

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To: Curtis Johnson
From: Randy Brown and Mike Fisher
Subject: Park Forest Middle School Site Selection
Date: March 20, 2024

Recommendation

The administration recommends the selection of site number 2, new construction on SCASD property across Valley Vista Drive, for the Park Forest Middle School project.

Background

As discussed at the [March 11, 2024 Board meeting](#), the administration recommended this site following evaluate of the three sites:

- Site 1: Renovation and addition at the current site
- Site 2: New construction on the property across Valley Vista Drive
- Site 3: New construction along School Drive

The work of the design team as well as input from our steering committee and the community forums held in February have also proved helpful in this recommendation.

As a reminder the rationale in support of this recommendation include:

- A new facility allows for flexibility to fully integrate the district vision for educational programming.
 - Natural light, spaces that are well-suited and appropriately sized for instructional plan
- The construction would be remote from students, allowing for an improved construction schedule and more attractive project for potential bidders; project phasing around students won't be necessary.
- Fewer unknown circumstances found in renovations, which is also attractive to potential bidders and usually provides a more consistent timeline.
- Ample space for laydown and staging area.
- A multi-story building will compress the building footprint, allowing for more efficient use of the campus.
- Future use of the current facility is yet to be determined, possibly meeting district needs which may be identified in DWFMP.
- Use of SCASD owned property.
- Possible opportunities for cooperative use with Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority.
- Site allows for improved field and parking facilities than currently available.
- Resources needed for transporting current students assigned as walkers less than expected.
- Fewer direct impact on natural resources and neighbors.
- Ability to expand building in the future.

Concerns regarding this recommendation:

- Land development costs related to this campus, including site access.
- Development of the site, including tennis courts and fields, is yet to be determined.
- Cycling and pedestrian impact.

Neither Sites 1 or 3 have this amount of opportunities and rationale to support moving forward in this process.