

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 13, 2012**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

**1. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION ~ 7:15 P.M.**

The Board of Education and audience were treated to a holiday festival of songs from the eighth grade chorus at J. F. Kennedy Middle School, accompanied by music teacher Vera Roberts on the piano keyboard. They sang The Snow Carol, Riu Riu Chiu, and White Christmas. Refreshments followed.

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Patricia Johnson (arrived at 8:22 p.m.), Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent were Mr. David Derynoski and Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations and Dr. Perri Murdica, Senior Special Education Coordinator.

Student Representatives present were Whitney DiMeo and Abigail Harris.

There were approximately 22 individuals in the audience.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The student representatives led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of November 15, 2012.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### 4. COMMUNICATIONS

##### a. Communications from Audience

**Charity Baker, Grade 1 teacher at Plantsville Elementary School:** She supported Full-Day Kindergarten and spoke to the academic, social and emotional benefits of providing a full-day education program for Kindergarteners. She felt that a successful program could actually improve the current levels of student readiness and student interest.

**Mary Potter, 184 Marion Avenue:** She is a retired Southington teacher and had seven grandchildren in the Southington school system. She stated that she was neutral on the Full-Day Kindergarten program; however, her concern was the gift of time and how the teachers were going to use time with the students. She felt that the Full-Day Kindergarteners should be given no homework. She was concerned that the expanded school day would also turn into expanded curriculum. She wanted parents to make sure they know and understand all of their options because the state allows four-year-olds as late as December 30<sup>th</sup> into the Kindergarten Program and that they do not have to send their children.

**Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue:** Mr. Cyr was concerned about cost of the All-Day Kindergarten Program. He reminded the Board that a couple of years ago the budget mantra was “level services” and he thought that the Board needed go back to level services instead of expanding services every year because he said that “the checkbook was empty.” He felt that everybody in town needed to know that this was a \$1 million expansion. He requested that the Board take a hard look because they can’t keep taking over parents responsibilities all the time. He felt that, if students need more socialization and more work, they need to get it at home. He was against the proposed All-Day Kindergarten program.

**Paula Gorham, 49 Thunderbird Drive:** She is the Extended-Day Kindergarten program teacher at South End Elementary School. She knows that the program that she teaches with her colleagues makes a difference for every single student that they work with. She has 30 students this year and was pleased to see the progress that they were making. She hoped that the Board continues to do the excellent job that they are doing in looking at all the information before them and for the Board to know that there is a chance that this could make a positive difference for every single incoming Kindergarten student.

**Anthony Casale, Jr., 360 Stonegate Road:** He is a member of the Southington Board of Finance and is a Board of Education employee in the Maintenance Department. He was not speaking on behalf of the Board of Finance, but on his own behalf. He was not opposed to anything that the Board of Education proposed for All-Day Kindergarten. However, he encouraged the Board to try to find a way to subsidize it without burdening the taxpayers. Regarding the middle schools, he commended the committee for their efforts and supported the re-referendum going forward. He wanted his comments on the record.

##### b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

##### Communication from the Board Members:

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**“Move Agenda Item 8.a, ‘Approval of Out of State Overnight Field Trips,’ to Agenda Item 4.d and move Agenda Item 7.d, ‘2020 Vision: Long Term Planning Update,’ to Agenda Items 4.e.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that she attended the CAFE Convention with Mrs. Queen and Mrs. Johnson on November 16. She shared that one of the sessions was with the State Board of Education and Commissioner Stefan Pryor, which she thought was disappointing because she felt the comments from many of the school superintendents in attendance regarding the Common Core State Standards, Teacher Evaluation program, etc., fell on deaf ears. She stated that Commissioner Pryor noted that there was a collaboration of work for the Common Core and he hoped that districts were not doing this by themselves. The State Board of Education would try to set-up the ability to help districts in any way that they can. They would also like to develop a statewide, nationwide mechanism for sharing curriculum and lessons. She noted that Commissioner Pryor was emphatic that the State Board of Education was there to help in any way, shape or form that Boards of Education needed.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that she attended a session with Diane Ullman on Education, Evaluation and Support. She shared an article with the Board members from the CAFE Journal, which identified many things that were discussed in that session, such as what effective practice looks like; providing feedback for improvement; providing opportunities for growth and development; allowing teachers to lead from the classroom and providing a system for meaningful recognition.

Mrs. Queen reported that she attended a session on teacher tenure, which was tied into evaluation and the history of teacher tenure around the nation. To achieve tenure under the new law, effective July 1, 2014, the superintendent must offer a teacher a contract for the following year on the basis of effective practice as documented in what would be the new Performance Evaluation System. The two major changes are that the superintendent has to offer tenure in a contract and the concept of effective practice is still yet to be determined. By January 15, 2013, each district must adopt the State Board of Education Evaluation Plan or create their own plan that complies with the principles of the state plan. This is called the SEED Plan, which is currently being piloted in 10 districts. The piloted districts noted the challenge of the difficulty in the number of evaluations that are expected in a school year. Mrs. Queen also attended a Sample Board of Education Workshop and noted that Mr. Goralski was doing a good job as chairman because he had the rules down. She learned that at the end of a budget cycle, if there are unspent funds, a Board of Education could put up to one percent (1%) of their budgeted funds into a separate account for use. She noted that this is not a practice of the Southington Board of Education. Mrs. DiNello pointed out that this was an agenda item of the Finance Committee and would be reported on later in tonight’s agenda.

Mrs. Queen shared information that she received from the National School Board Affiliate (NSBA) regarding Southington joining their organization. They do a lot of work in Washington, D.C. presenting their ideas to Congress.

Mr. Goralski announced that the Legislative Breakfast with the Connecticut delegation will be held on January 8, 2013 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. in the Municipal Center Assembly Room. He thanked the central office staff for their planning the move to the Municipal Center, and the

grand opening celebration held on December 2, 2012. Mr. Goralski announced that the Polar Plunge will be held on January 19, 2013 and expected Mrs. Queen to join him again. On behalf of the Board, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanza.

**Communication from Administration:**

Dr. Erardi discussed the following (*Attachment #1*):

1. Time Study Committee SHS: Dr. Erardi reported that the net change from the Time Study Committee was marginal. He thanked Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Queen, Dr. Semmel, Mrs. Crowley, Mr. Lasbury and Mr. Mirante who led the Time Study Committee that has been in place for almost one year doing due diligence regarding an external scan and internal conversations. The committee is not disbanding; however, the recommended change was to embed homeroom into an existing period, move forward in 2013-2014 and continue to explore.
2. Main Street Community Foundation / FRC: Dr. Erardi thanked the Main Street Community Foundation who opened up their checkbook to our Family Resource Center.
3. Southington Education Foundation: Dr. Erardi reported that the Southington Education Foundation Chair, Dawn Miceli, will present an annual report to the Board on January 10, 2013 regarding things that have taken place with the Foundation with our staff and students.
4. Veterans Committee Meeting: Dr. Erardi invited the Board to attend the Veterans Committee meeting on December 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.
5. Staff/Administration Regional/National Leadership: Dr. Erardi shared two national publications with the Board. One was from the DECA International group that featured Emily Socha and the other was the CREC 2011-2012 Report that highlights Jill Notar-Francesco as their incoming Chairperson.

**c. Communications from Student Board Representatives**

Miss DiMeo reported on the following:

- She recognized Corinne Horanzy who was honored as the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Player of the Year and committed to the University of Hartford next year for Division I.
- On Saturday, the Drama Club presented the play "Lonely Hearts," which was student directed.
- The Advisory Period, which is new this year, will be held next Thursday. The idea is to create a relationship with a teacher in the building from freshman year through senior year.
- The Student Handbooks are now online, which saves the district money, and students are able to access it from anywhere.

Miss Harris reported on the following:

- She added that the online Student Handbook was fantastic and she was one of the first people to access it because she likes to plan ahead.
- The Freshman Course Fair was held on December 10, 2012.
- The PSAT results will be coming up for the sophomore and junior classes. She stated that in a meeting with Dr. Semmel he noted that the preliminary results were looking really good.
- Winter sports have started and she thought the Blue Knights will do really well.

*Mrs. Johnson arrived at 8:22 p.m.*

**d. Approval of Out of State Overnight Field Trips (formerly Agenda Item 8.a)**

Mrs. Marisa Calvi-Rogers reported that there were two field trips that have been taken in previous years. The Wrestling Field Trip is a regional tournament in New Hampshire in January and involves schools from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The DECA field trip is the international competition in April.

Mrs. Queen noted that the week before they leave is a vacation week and then the students will be leaving the following week. They recommend that the students communicate with their teachers before their leave. Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned the 2,000 round-trip miles to California and thought the miles one-way were about 2,900 and noted that needed to be fixed. She also noted that they were flying, not taking a bus, which needed to be corrected on the form. Mr. Goralski added that, if a student should struggle financially, there was financial assistance available.

Ms. Kasia Kalinowski reported that the Robotics Team will be going to Virginia this year because RTI and WPI were already full when they went to book the trip. They will be going before their Hartford competition and then, hopefully, to St. Louis, Missouri if they win. They have the opportunity for a lot of businesses to sponsor the students. Mrs. Johnson noted on the application it stated one bus and questioned if that was correct. Ms. Kalinowski replied that they would be taking the bus to Virginia, but not to St. Louis.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**“Move to approve all the field trips for the SHS Wrestling Team, Robotics Team and DECA members, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**e. 2020 Vision: Long Term Planning – Update (formerly Agenda Item 7.d)**

Mrs. Calvi-Rogers distributed a handout (*Attachment #2*). The three presenters (Marisa Calvi-Rogers, Kelly Nichols, Tina Riccio) are part of nine committee members including Board members Mrs. Lombardi and Mrs. Queen who have been working since the start of the school year. It is informational with the proposal coming before the Board in February or March.

Ms. Calvi-Rogers stated that change was inevitable and they were looking at what the right change for Southington students would be to prepare them for the future. The committee identified the stakeholders who they felt should be part of the process, which were Chambers

members, elected and appointed officials, parents, students and teachers. She discussed the sub-committee activities to date which included community forums, PowerPoint presentations, promotional brochure, attending PTO meetings, Brown Bag Lunch, and online surveys for parents and students. They will be presenting student forums starting January 8 at the high school and January 9 at Alta. Strong, Flanders and middle school student forums are also planned.

Ms. Nichols reported that two Forums were held in November. There were several common themes between the Community Forum with Civic groups and business owners and the Town Government Forum. The common themes to the question of what the single greatest skill and learning outcome that all graduates should have in the year 2020 were: communication, working collaboratively, critical thinking, ability to learn and figure something out independently. From the Community Forum it was brought up that students should be able to navigate through failures. For the question of what should the community funding priority be over the next 10 years, there was one commonality between the two groups which was technology infrastructure. The final question was, "What was the greatest change that must take place from present practice?" The Community Forum talked about possibly changing the school year, parent involvement / accountability and the learning culture.

Mrs. Riccio reported that at the end of the Forums they told participants that they would e-mail them a summary of the discussion and highlights. The homework assignments to the Community and Town Government Forums were to define their role moving forward, such as specific tasks to be done by their organization, timelines, people responsible and resources and materials needed. The responses from the government officials were that funding was key and also the reallocation of resources. The responses from the businesses and local colleges were partnerships and more opportunities for students in high school to earn college credits. She noted that at times the participants were almost evangelical in their passion for this topic.

Ms. Calvi-Rogers summarized that the committee has a lot of information to assimilate and analyze. They will have a series of meetings to start to frame out the work and get a feel for what this means for Southington.

Mr. Goralski thanked them for leading the public Forums and representing their colleagues and the Board of Education. Their work is shaping the future and something that the district could not do without them.

## **5. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **a. Personnel Report**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**"Move to approve the Personnel Report, as submitted."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ November 15, 2012**

Mrs. Carmody reported that Connecticut adopted a plan entitled, "Academic and Personal Success for Every Middle and High School Student." She noted that the high school and middle schools gave a presentation to the committee on the Student Success Plans and the Advisor-Advisee program at both levels. This is where each student meets in small groups with a teacher and peers to develop relationships to promote academic and social success through their secondary years. She thought that it was wonderful that the Board recognizes that there is more to school than just academics. She asked Mrs. Calvi-Rogers, who serves on that committee, to give an update to the Board of Education in March or April on this program.

**b. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ November 26, 2012**

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee reviewed the faculty manager job description. She noted that the process of changing job descriptions begins with a review by the Personnel Manager after which the Policy and Personnel Committee receives recommendations from central office and then, after subsequent review, it goes to the full Board of Education. The committee also discussed stipend positions and she noted that, with the new Teacher Evaluation Plan that is coming, there would be some correlated changes in how the evaluation works for stipend positions. This would apply to faculty managers, coaches, club advisors, etc. A question that arose was if these positions were advertised annually for interested candidates to apply. The committee also reviewed the organizational chart.

Mrs. Queen reported that, at the last Board of Education meeting, the committee was asked to begin writing policy regarding the new turf field. The discussion produced a lot of questions and whether a Turf Advisory Committee was still in existence. Mr. Goralski replied that it was formally named by the Town Council and the Chairs of all the elected boards serve on it, along with two representatives from the high school, and Mr. Eric Swallow [Athletic Director] and Mr. David Lapreay [Director of Recreation]. He noted that the policies need to reflect its intent because it is a municipal field with shared use so that is where the policies need to be revised.

Mrs. Carmody asked who had control of the field. Mr. Goralski replied the Town of Southington, which the Board of Education is part of. Dr. Erardi noted that the present practice in place was that the school athletic events trumped any town event. Mr. Goralski pointed out that Mr. Swallow and Mr. Lapreay put together an online scheduling program and that the school has first use. Eventually, people will apply for rental of the fields and it will always clear through Mr. Swallow and Mr. Lapreay before it is scheduled. Mrs. Queen noted that [www.southingtonsports.org](http://www.southingtonsports.org) offers information about town-wide sports, as well as a link for the turf field, other fields and different gymnasiums for rental.

Mrs. Lombardi asked how the turf field differs from the Parks and Recreation fields. Mrs. DiNello replied that the true parks in town are under the control of the Parks and Recreation Department. The fields within the schools are public property and get public use outside of the school day; however, the high school field is used year-round by our athletes and has not been available for public use unless they went through the Athletic Director and applied for a Use of Facility form. Now, we will be working directly with the Parks and Recreation Department in the use of the turf field so that, beyond the high school use, it will also be available for community use. Mrs. Lombardi pointed out that there would be two governance groups working

together to manage the community fields. Mr. Goralski stated that this is why the policy needed to be improved to address the current intent of the turf field.

Mrs. Johnson suggested that when the school board has a policy meeting regarding this that they invite Mr. DeFeo to attend as a guest so they will not be reinventing the wheel and they would have their questions answered. Mr. Goralski asked that it would be coordinated also with Mr. Lapreay and Mr. Swallow as well.

**c. Finance Committee Meeting ~ November 27, 2012**

**a. Transfer of Funds**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds, as submitted.”**

**Move carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**b. Athletic Training Contract Extension**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to approve a three-year contract extension with a 3% increase per year with Select Physical Therapy.”**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the Finance Committee could not come to consensus on moving forward with the recommendation. Mrs. Carmody asked why there was not a consensus on this. Mrs. Notar-Francesco replied that one member believed that it should not be increased at all and another member believed that the increase should be less than three percent (3%). Mrs. Notar-Francesco felt that this was a very modest increase per year, which was reasonable and fair. In 2010-2011, the Board paid Select Physical Therapy zero dollars for their contract and in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 they were paid \$14,900 for each year. There has been consistency in the athletic trainers, both parents and staff speak highly of them and express great confidence in their services. She supported a three percent increase for each year going forward. Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Queen agreed with Mrs. Notar-Francesco in terms of the excellent service that Select Physical Therapy provides. Mrs. Queen asked for clarification on the financial piece going back to 2008-2009 when Select Physical Therapy was paid \$30,000. Mrs. DiNello replied that in 2010-2011 the service went out to bid and Select Physical Therapy wanted to maintain their account in Southington so, when they bid on a three-year contract, they reduced their fee to zero dollars in year one and \$14,900 in the past two years. She acknowledged that administration recommended the contract extension at the three percent increase.

Mrs. Johnson asked if anyone heard from Mr. Derynoski for his position on this. Mr. Goralski replied that he asked him for his thoughts, but he did not respond with a formal comment; however, Mr. Goralski believed Mr. Derynoski had concerns about the ability to go out to bid.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Goralski. Move carried unanimously.**



**c. Copiers – Network Imaging Proposal**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to waive the bidding process and enter into a five-year lease with Network Imaging to upgrade copiers.”**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the school system is currently in year four of a five-year lease of Kyocera copiers. There were concerns about the number of service calls for the current copiers and the increase in copy counts within the schools. This new five-year lease would continue at the same price per month and the service agreement would remain at the same cost per month and would include all parts, labor, and supplies with the exception of paper. For the same cost, the plan includes upgrading copiers with Sharp brand high performance copiers and to continue utilizing some existing copiers with low copy count, and, therefore, overall increasing the total numbers of copiers within the district.

Mrs. Carmody asked if Network Imaging guaranteed that the new Sharp copiers were going to be able to handle the amount of usage better than in the past. Mrs. Notar-Francesco replied that they were high performance workhorse copiers than what we have. Mrs. DiNello replied that Mr. Goodwin worked very hard with Todd Fitzsimons from Network Imaging along with attending meetings and teacher forums and surveying teachers and principals in every school building to make sure that the replacement copiers will meet the demands of the school district.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that, as part of the implementation, Network Imaging was providing additional training on how to transfer data through technology and not through a piece of paper. Mr. Goralski understood that these copiers would be web connected so teachers would be able to print from classrooms and USB ports.

Mrs. Johnson thought that Southington was moving toward a paperless school system. She was somewhat distressed that it was not being more embraced with teachers. Dr. Erardi replied that administration was looking at the way they are taking the stand -alone printer offline. It is slowly taking place. He was somewhat distressed in the amount of money the school system is still spending on ink cartridges. They have been talking paperless environment for four years and the School Board had tried to lead that by demonstration; yet, the paper and the volume and expense is extraordinary. He noted that the administrative team was not pleased. Mrs. Carmody thought that it would be wonderful to have a paperless world; but, they need to recognize that in a classroom there are many things that they need to have in their hands on paper. She thought that it was virtually impossible to be completely paperless. Mrs. Lombardi thought that with BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) into the classroom, she hoped there would be less paper. Mrs. Johnson did not feel that the students were as dependent on paper as the older generation.

**Move carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**d. Proposed Capital Plan 2013-2014 / 2017-2018**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the committee endorsed the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan and the 2013-2014 projects and priorities and recommends endorsement from the full Board. She asked Mr. Cox to share the importance of the Energy Management System

upgrade needed at Southington High School along with the exterior masonry repointing at Derynoski School.

Mr. Cox reported that the highest priority was the replacement of the existing Energy Management System. It is an Andover DOS System installed 25 years ago. Replacement parts cannot be bought out of catalogs and they have to search for rebuilt or used boards to do the repairs. The parts are very difficult to find and the systems go down for days. For the repointing at Derynoski Elementary School, the masonry work dates back to the 1950s and 1960s. It is important to keep moisture out of the building and keep the structure functional. He noted that the third highest priority was the bleacher painting.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, second by Mrs. Lombardi:

**“Move to approve the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan, as submitted.”**

Mrs. Clark asked if the dollars were updated on an annual basis because some of these projects were requested a few years ago. Mr. Cox replied that they were. Mr. Goralski explained that the Five-Year Capital Plan would be shared with the town after Board action and that they were in the second year of a joint Capital list with the town. Mrs. DiNello noted that all the items in 2013-2014 were priorities; however, the items that Mr. Cox spoke to are the administration's most pressing items and she thought Dr. Erardi would be sharing that with Mr. Brumback in conversations for the overall prioritization with the town plan.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the committee discussed the standard bid language. They recently added language to the snow bid that the Board of Education reserved the right to request information from bidders around legal claims, Workers' Compensation, history, and other claims for personal and property damage. She stated that administration was asking for direction on how they should handle this information and what influence that information would have on the bid award. She stated that the Finance Committee recommended that the Policy and Personnel Committee look at the bid language and assist the Finance Committee in giving some direction to administration.

Mr. Goralski explained that Mr. Oshana, who was absent, asked him to speak to this on his behalf because he serves on both committees. Mr. Oshana looked forward to speak to it as it moves forward to the Policy and Personnel Committee. Mrs. Notar-Francesco explained that the Finance Committee is requesting that the Policy and Personnel Committee review the language and give some direction to administration on how to move forward; i.e., how many Workers' Compensation claims are significant. Administration needs some guidelines. Mr. Goralski stated that if the Policy and Personnel Committee struggles with that, then they were to bring it back to the Board for discussion to move forward. Mrs. Notar-Francesco suggested that the Policy and Personnel Committee should perhaps invite legal counsel to provide an opinion on this matter.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that Mrs. Queen raised a question regarding the unexpended Education Funds Account. Mrs. DiNello explained that there was a Connecticut General Statute 10-248a regarding unexpended education fund accounts, which means that the Board of Finance could have the authority to make appropriations for the school district by depositing into a non-

lapsing account any unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year for the budget appropriation, not to exceed one percent. If the Board of Education was interested in asking the town to establish such an account, we could ask for a Charter or statute change to establish an account that unexpended monies from the Board of Education Budget annually could be deposited into this non-lapsing account to be used for future needs. There are six districts that requested their towns to move in this direction. She noted that this could potentially be a dangerous practice because the perception could be that the Board of Education did not need the amount of money that was budgeted. She pointed out that administration did not recommend to the Finance Committee to request that the town establish such an account at this time.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski reported that the Board of Finance meeting to discuss the Board of Education budget has been tentatively scheduled for February 13, 2013 at their regular meeting. On January 14 at 5:00 p.m. at DePaolo Middle School, there will be a special meeting where the Board of Education and the Public Building Committee have to approve the final documents for the middle schools that will go before the state.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the Self Insurance Committee met on Wednesday and discussed the estimate for next year's funding level. The committee looked at many data components that included past and present claims, the potential impact of National Healthcare Reform, trends, impact of wellness initiatives, Anthem's and Ovation's recommendations. Factoring all of these together, the committee approved a \$22.4 million budget for 2013-2014, which represents an overall increase of 9.19%. The committee decided not to use the fund's reserves to offset the impact of this increase. The reserves currently stand at \$2.9 million, which equals one and one-half months' worth of claims. The committee thought that there was a possibility they may be tapping into the reserves for the end of this year, and did not want to jeopardize the size of the fund reserve. The Town Council will approve this within the Town's and the Board of Education's budget process in May. Mrs. DiNello explained that Southington has been fortunate over the past two years and had minimal increases when the Self Insurance Fund has been setting the rate based on the Board of Education's trend. It has been very good in comparison to state and national trends over the past two years. She noted that last spring's claims were much higher than anticipated.

### **b. Construction Update**

Mr. Cox reported that he has been receiving information from the state on very old change orders and they are getting closer to closing out the elementary projects. Mr. Goralski thought that it would be good to get some money from the state for the Open Choice students because South End and Plantsville Schools are where a significant number of Choice children attend. Dr. Erardi stated that it was requested by administration about one week ago.

### **c. All-Day Kindergarten Proposal – Update**

Mrs. Smith shared with the Board what a more detailed schedule would look like of a Full-Day Kindergarten program that had a morning special and one that had an afternoon special, and what currently a Half-Day Kindergarten program looked like and the major differences

between them. The Board agreed to have Mrs. Smith put this information on her blog for the community to see what is proposed. In January, Mrs. Smith will teach a Kindergarten class in two half-day sessions to get a first-hand experience of the Kindergarten classroom. Mrs. Queen questioned the lunch, recess component. Mrs. Lombardi questioned the thinking behind the Writers' Workshop at the end of the day prior to dismissal because the students would be tired. Mrs. Smith replied that it was a broad definition, but the assumption is that the children would not just be sitting and expected to do work that a first grader is expected to do.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned if the facilities would be able to accommodate adding a classroom because of class size growth along with the Full-Day Kindergarten classroom. She understood that it could be done in all of the buildings except in Hatton and Thalberg Schools and they would probably end up putting art-on-a-cart or music-on-a-cart if there was one additional classroom that was needed. Mrs. Smith stated that was correct from the information gathered at this time. Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she believed that putting either on a cart would diminish those programs. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if the space constraints were looked at in relation to the opportunity to bring back some of the special education students who are currently outplaced. Dr. Erardi replied it would depend on how many of the schools would have vacant classrooms for a district program. Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned if the Board would keep Grade 6 at the elementary level as opposed to moving them so the middle schools would be able to have construction go on with less students in the building. Dr. Erardi responded that if the Board supported the All-Day Kindergarten proposal that would be something that the Board would take off the table and commit to a renovate-to-new with all three grade levels present at the middle school. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that Mr. Casale raised the question about some other subsidy for funding this program and asked if other models were looked at that have done exactly that, such as tuition. Mr. Goralski replied that it would no longer be public education. Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that Kindergarten is not mandated. She noted that this program had some significant financial impact. Mrs. Smith replied that it was addressed in the committee and that the committee made the recommendation not to go that route for the pay.

Mrs. Lombardi asked if they were going to discuss the information that Mrs. Smith gave the Board in terms of Extended-Day Kindergarten numbers. She asked if this would be available to the public. Mrs. Smith replied that she was asked to provide confidential data relative to students who were being carefully watched as far as achievement last year in Extended Kindergarten and are now in first grade. She would like to have a discussion with the Board before she does that because just looking at numbers alone does not tell the story. The Extended Kindergarten program, which is in existence this year, is an intervention level program whereas administration is proposing a Full-Day Kindergarten program for all children who are eligible to enter Kindergarten next year. Mr. Goralski would like to discuss it as a Board before that becomes a public entity. Mrs. Smith added that the Extended Kindergarten program was not a controlled study for the purpose of gathering data from an experimental pilot group; it was simply a program for a different purpose because we had some resources with Open Choice and there was clearly a need developmentally, emotionally and behaviorally. Mrs. Lombardi thought if they shared some generalities it would support what the teachers are saying about the Extended Day Kindergarten because she thought it was a good experience.

**d. 2020 Vision: Long Term Planning – Update** *(moved to Agenda Item 4.e)*

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Approval of Out of State Overnight Field Trips** *(moved to Agenda Item 4.d)*
- b. **2012-2013 End of the Year Make-up Days**

Dr. Erardi explained that administration continues to endorse the only break that will take place in the second semester, the April break. At the time, the Executive Board of the Southington Education Association (SEA) was advocating for the Board of Education to commit to the first four weather days. The last day of school was scheduled for June 10 and is presently scheduled for Thursday, June 13. He stated that administration strongly encourages and endorses support of the Executive Board of the SEA on this proposal.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Lombardi:

**“Move to accept the administration’s support of the SEA proposal concerning April vacation.”**

**AMENDED MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Lombardi:

**“Move to keep the April vacation as planned; however, if the winter weather should become severe and we do not have enough days in June, we would have to look at the April vacation.”**

Mr. Goralski explained that the concern was that state statute does not allow school after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Johnson noted that this was the first year in many years that there will not be a February vacation. She asked if there would be an assessment at the end of the school year as to how this worked out. Dr. Erardi replied that he would survey through the PTOs, Parent Council and the staff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **2013-2014 School Calendar Review ~ First Reading**

Dr. Erardi noted that the only point of information that administration would like to share at this time is that Veteran’s Day is on Monday, November 11, which is proposed to the Board as a day off from school. Mr. Goralski told the Board members that, if they had questions, comments or input regarding the calendar to contact the administration prior to the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Queen pointed out that there was a typo in January and that January 21 appeared twice and it should be Monday, January 20.

- d. **Update Long Range Planning ~ Technology**

Dr. Erardi reported that Mrs. Karen Veilleux [Director of Technology] was ill this evening. He stated that the Phase I study has been completed and will be brought to the Board through the budget process. Phase I consists of two parts for the Board to consider. In January,

Part I is a staffing request that will be taking place district-wide and the second part is to bring all the buildings up to speed with Wi-Fi for the start of the next school year.

**e. Update from Newfield Construction and Fletcher Thompson ~ Middle Schools**

Ms. Angela Cahill from Fletcher Thompson and Mr. Tom DiMauro from Newfield Construction gave a combined report and gave an update on the financials of the project, a brief value-engineering summary, and an update on the hazardous material survey and projected cost and timeline for the construction of the additions and renovate-to-new middle school projects. Ms. Cahill gave a PowerPoint presentation (*Attachment #3*).

Ms. Cahill reported that three weeks ago Fletcher Thompson was released to complete the construction documents for the state review process and the footprints of the schools were finalized. Mr. DiMauro reported that the initial design and development estimate came in at \$99.6 million and through a significant value management process they were able to deduct \$9.9 million out of the project to a total project cost with value management to \$89.7 million. The referendum was passed for \$85 million, resulting in the amount of \$4.7 million in over funding. He spoke to the value-engineering process and the 60 items that were considered.

Ms. Cahill explained that the process was a very collaborative effort with the Building Committee, administrators from both schools, State Facilities Department, Fletcher Thompson and Newfield Construction. She noted that besides the 60 items there were several minor items not on the list that were material types, minor architectural features such as skylights, etc. She presented some renderings that showed the design impact. The attached PowerPoint presentation indicates the site and architectural reductions and eliminations that Ms. Cahill explained.

Mr. DiMauro explained the hazardous materials abatement costs including the best case scenario and the worst case scenario. The best case scenario plan was pending approval from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency with regard to leaving the vapor barrier in the exterior walls. He pointed out that the vapor barrier was adhered to the inside of the block which was between the block and the brick and that it was impossible to remove it without taking the wall out. It is completely encapsulated. As of December 1, the actual plan to leave it in place has been submitted. He noted that the abatement of the PCBs was driving the cost up, are at significant high levels and they have leached into the block walls. The total hazmat abatement costs included in the estimate of the best case scenario is \$8.5 million. In the worst case scenario, the total hazmat abatement cost is \$15.2 million. When Newfield received word of where the PCBs were and what the work was to remediate them, they told the Building Committee that it would turn into a three-year project because they would need three summers to perform that abatement. They were able to cutback the project to the original two-year schedule, but there were some caveats to that.

Ms. Cahill showed some renderings that illustrated some of the value engineering items and showed the Board where they are with the current plans.

Mr. Goralski pointed out that he sent the Board the presentation that Mr. Christopher Palmieri had presented to the Town Council, which unanimously approved the \$4.7 million referendum so that process has begun and the Board of Finance has made some inquiries to prepare for their meeting to discuss this. He noted that Planning and Zoning has been involved

with all the changes and approved the site plan development. Mr. Goralski pointed out that during the process he voted to keep some of the value engineering cuts; however, he supported the action of the Building Committee. Mr. Goralski noted that Mr. Pepe, Mr. Palmieri and the Kennedy Middle School administration have done an excellent job and noted there was no educational impact of the reductions.

Mrs. Carmody noted that the Building Committee has done an excellent job in keeping the Board informed; however, she was disappointed and failed to understand how she was sold a rendering of a building that now is missing so many of those parts. She asked how the estimate of the cost could be so off. She asked for an explanation of what happened. Ms. Cahill replied that there were a variety of different factors. She explained the estimating process and stated that the Board was given renderings during the study phase and it is not typical to perform detailed site surveys and hazardous material surveys and testing because those costs are quite high. The assumptions made during the study phase were on limited information. Post referendum, during the design, there are three different phase components (schematic design, design development and construction documents). At each of those three phases, they run estimates, which is typical of the process. When the schematic design package was delivered to the estimators, it did not include any site design because of the accelerated schedule. The estimators had to guess on what the site costs would be. When they delivered the design development package, they were not nearly completed with the civil engineering design because of the delay in the start. Therefore, assumptions were made in the civil engineering drawings because they wanted to make sure that they captured everything possible into those drawings that would need to go into the storm drainage design. They put in quite a lot of storm retention after meeting with town staff as to what the standards would need to be. Very soon after they delivered the design development drawings and the estimate was coming out, they were fortunate to be able to realize that they could pare back that storm drainage system. Some of this was the factor of the project moving very fast and to gather data as they moved forward. Ms. Cahill explained that, when they were working with the committee and started to get some of the testing results back, they offered (because of the accelerated schedule and as a preemptive action) that there really was not time in the schedule to go through a significant value management process, and the committee knew that. They had a timetable with the design development estimate due at a certain time and that they needed to move forward straight into construction documents. When they saw that red flag come up, they offered to the committee to start doing value engineering right away, coinciding with that estimate and, ultimately, saving three or four weeks of time of that work. She noted that there was a very collaborative effort with the committee members and educators when they normally would not even touch that until they saw the design development estimate. They did that proactively. She noted that to achieve \$10 million of savings in a value management effort was great. Mrs. Carmody agreed that the committee has done a superb job; however, it was the initial estimate that was so off that really bothered her.

Mrs. Johnson noted that this was a fairly new law regarding PCBs in window caulking; however, she thought a professional firm would have anticipated the cost involved in that law. This was not the only school system in the state of Connecticut with buildings that were constructed in the 1960s. She asked how Meriden was able to put in contingency amounts for remediation and Southington did not. Ms. Cahill replied that her first experience with PCBs was in 2009-2010 in the Bolton school district. At that time, she was told to watch out, the PCB thing was new and was going to hit like a ton of bricks. They had a typical hazmat removal budget in that project and, when they went to the EPA with the plan, the EPA did not have any guidelines for remediation and Fletcher Thompson had to submit something in the hope that the

EPA accepted it as a plan because they had no framework, no examples and no precedent. She noted that Bolton had to deal with testing during construction because the testing was not required in 2010 prior to going for approvals. Bolton had to pay for their PCB remediation costs out of change orders because people were not doing testing at that time. The second experience that Fletcher Thompson had recently with PCBs was in Meriden, which is a project Ms. Cahill was personally working on. She noted Meriden had the same amount percentage-wise of square foot costs for remediation as they did when they started Southington. As soon as the initial test results rolled around in Meriden they started to increase the costs because they started to see the PCB costs come back. In Meriden, in the phases of schematic design, design development, construction costs and construction documents, they would get updated estimates from the Environmental Engineers. In Meriden, the building was the same age, 260,000 square feet, and they had no PCBs over 50 parts per million. They do not have to go to the EPA. In the case of Southington, they did the same thing as soon as they got the testing results back; they upped the budget for the hazmat removal using the costs calculated by the Environmental Engineers. Fletcher Thompson has to rely on the Environmental Engineers' estimates.

Mrs. Johnson asked if there was any way to anticipate that this rule was coming along. Ms. Cahill replied that they could not because the EPA does not have set standards and there are only two years of precedent to refer to. She pointed out that she felt very confident in the Southington's Environmental Engineer consultants' work.

Mrs. Queen thought that the Board felt disconcerted because, at the point when they were presented the rendering and the study, there was never a discussion that the hazardous material abatement numbers could potentially go up. When the discussion about the accelerated schedule came up, it was all about how this would save the Board money in the long run and there was never discussion about the potential negative consequences to accelerating the schedule. She thought the lesson to be learned is that at the front end, when a study is being done, there needs to be more of a range of what could happen. She stated that the Board took those numbers much more verbatim than what they ended up being, and went out into the community and sold a project that ended up changing dramatically. She appreciated the work of the Building Committee. She noted that when Ms. Cahill said that it was our administrators' idea to eliminate certain things, she was sure if the administrators' had the option, they would not have eliminated them.

Mrs. Queen and Mr. Goralski asked that the PowerPoint presentation be given to Mrs. Blanchard to send electronically to the Board members.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that the community was very appreciative and proud of the work the Building Committee has done. She felt that they have been the problem-solvers and have come up with the alternatives. She wished that she could say that the community felt the same way about the two organizations the Board has been working with. As project managers, as professional consultants to our town and professionals in communicating with clients, she thought that Fletcher Thompson and Newfield Construction have failed. She stated the Board hopes that a recovery process takes place immediately regarding that. The Board cannot afford the continuous miscommunication and last minute communication. She stated the Board hired them for their professional expertise and noted that they have done a great job in the past. She stated that the Board hopes to recover from this and move forward, but they cannot wait to the last minute. She has heard from so many people that they are going to go to the referendum, but



they question if it really is \$4.7 million. She asked Ms. Cahill and Mr. DiMauro how they evaluate their own performance in this project.

Ms. Cahill replied that they will not know what the actual cost of the project is not even at bid day. They will not know until close-out because they do not get the bids until bid day and they don't get the final reimbursement percentage until the project is closed out. The estimating process is very detailed and that is why they have the different estimates along the way. There is an estimate in the study phase, an estimate in schematic design, an estimate in design development and the final estimate in construction documents, and then you manage the budget all along during construction. This estimate should be more accurate than what the Board had previously because it is being worked off of more detailed information. However, it is not the final estimate that they are going to have. Ms. Cahill explained that they were asked by the Building Committee and by town administration to deliver a number at this point in time so that it could be brought before the town for consideration. They have been asked dozens of times if it was the best number and the best they could deliver and the answer was yes, it was. Mr. DiMauro added that from the information that they currently have, this is a good number.

Mrs. Lombardi asked, at this point in this project, what percentage they are looking at that they could either go above or below. Mr. DiMauro replied that they cannot go above it. Ms. Cahill stated that part of the float that they use is the estimate contingency and the escalation factor. Mrs. Lombardi shared that the community was not confident of the \$4.7 million, given the history of the project. Mr. DiMauro stated that they felt they had identified all the hazardous materials; from what they know right now, this is a good number, and they know a lot more now than they did in the beginning.

Mr. Goralski pointed out that right now the Building Committee is at a point where they are communicating very well with Fletcher Thompson and Newfield Construction and that he was confident with the \$4.7 million referendum. He felt that the big elephant in the room was the EPA. If the EPA says that wall has to come down, then this whole thing is going to stop and everything will have to be reassessed.

Mrs. Johnson asked what the timeline was for the EPA rendering their decision and the proposed referendum for March 19. Mr. Goralski replied that the public referendum, as proposed by Attorney Sciota, will be in March and the six-month window that the EPA typically has, will be before we need to go out to bid in April. All the behind the scenes work to make this happen is in place; however, the EPA answer could be after the referendum.

Mr. DiMauro noted that they asked the EPA months before they submitted the plan about leaving the vapor barrier in place. Encapsulation is not something they normally approve; however, they said that they would look at it. They went ahead and submitted the plan as if they were going to leave the vapor barrier in place. Mrs. Johnson asked if the vapor barrier was part of the new EPA regulations that took place two years ago. Mr. DiMauro replied that the regulations have been place for years and they only started enforcing it a few years ago.

Mrs. Clark thought what was confusing was the fact that they have two buildings built at the same time. One building is loaded with PCBs and one building has none because they used two different brands of caulk in each building; you have no way of knowing which brand you have until the testing is done. Ms. Cahill noted that the town's consultant came up with two separate plans, one for each building, because the test results were different.

Mrs. Lombardi acknowledged Dr. Erardi and the central office staff for also being very proactive pursuing additional dollars through the Choice Program that is bringing savings over \$2 million.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY  
DISCUSSION**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Student Discipline and Safety, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary  
Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION  
DECEMBER 13, 2012**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 10:52 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski.

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. David Derynoski and Mr. Zaya Oshana

**Administration Present:** Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Student Discipline and Safety, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to reconvene into public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*The Board went into Public Session at 11:00 p.m.*

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to add Student Expulsion 2012-2013-03 to the agenda.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to expel student 2012-2013-03 as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*The Board adjourned at 11:01 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Notar-Francesco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary  
Southington Board of Education

## **Administration: Board of Education Update December 13, 2012**

1. **Time Study Committee – SHS** (Attachment #1)
2. **Main Street Community Foundation / FRC** (Attachment #2)
3. **Southington Education Foundation** (Attachment #3)
4. **Veterans' Committee Meeting – December 19<sup>th</sup>:**      **3:00 p.m.**
5. **Staff / Admin:**      **Regional / National Leadership**

*Joseph W. Egan*  
12/13/12

1. Undertake an examination and review of the schedule to ensure it supports the implementation of the curriculum, instruction and assessment practices

In December 2011, the Instructional Time Committee began a series of meetings to discuss the current daily schedule at Southington High School. This committee consisted of teachers from each department, the school principal, the school assistant principal responsible for scheduling, a teacher union representative, a member of the Board of Education, a parent and two students from grades 9 and 10 (chosen specifically because their classes would be most impacted by any instructional changes). The committee met eight times after school from 2:30 – 4:00 between December 2011 and May 2012. In addition, members of the committee made site visits to and conducted phone interviews with several high schools throughout the state with non-traditional schedules.

The first meeting served to orient the group and identify questions, ideas and concerns each member had about both the current and a possible modified schedule at SHS, as well as maintaining the integrity of the existing curricular programs, generating staff buy-in, providing professional development to staff regarding effective use of time, and increasing adult-student contact. The group was also presented with criteria mandated by the state of Connecticut including the increase to 25 credits to graduate from high school, the establishment of an advisory program, the implementation of a capstone project, and the inclusion of Tier 2 and 3 interventions. Also, the principal suggested that the committee review the current amount of passing time given to students during the day, the length of the lunch period offered to all students, and the efficiency and function of homeroom.

At the end of December 2011, several site visits were made to area schools by teams of committee members to examine the effectiveness of both an AB and rotating block schedule. Each team met with individuals responsible for scheduling at the host schools to discuss several topics including how the new schedule affected staffing, steps taken to ensure staff buy-in, and accommodating both intervention and common planning time, as well as any available evidence that the schedule changes resulted in improved instruction and suggestions for a new school considering schedule changes. All of this data was compiled and reviewed over the next two Instructional Time Committee meetings.

The Instructional Time Committee recommended a number of schedules to the School Improvement Team, which then used a decision matrix and multiple meetings to determine the schedule best suited for Southington High School. After all of this work, there was no clear cut winner and the SIT decided to go with the schedule that eliminated homeroom which added multiple minutes to each class throughout the school year. The SIT also agreed to continue to review our use of instructional time at Southington High School so that we can maximize teaching and learning. This decision was brought back to the full faculty on November 20, 2012.

## **OPTION #5 – ELIMINATE HOMEROOM SCHEDULE**

- School Day begins @ 7:35, ends @ 2:15
- No homeroom
- Announcements everyday for 3 minutes at end of Period 1 (students remain in classroom to hear)
- 4 Lunch Waves
- 46 minutes each period
- Advisor Days: 43 minutes each period
- ½ Days: 31 minutes each period (no lunch or advisory)

### **EACH CLASS**

- Approx. 172 min **GAIN** of “contact time” per year (**3.8 days**) .....112 **GAIN** of min. (**2.5 days**) w/ twice a month advisory days .
- 20 minute “Advisory” period twice a month (does not meet on half days)
- Every student has full lunch period like current schedule (extended by one minute)
- No increase of average credits taken from 6.5 currently unless push made to eliminate study halls
- Health/PE /Lab scheduling issues will still exist
- Could potentially rotate classes from current schedule but lunch waves must remain constant and could be issues w/ double period classes.

### **TEACHERS**

- Teacher day should end at 2:40 instead of 2:42 to make up for earlier (7:25) report time
- No extra collaboration time from current schedule
- 46 min lunch every day
- 20 min advisory twice a month
- 46 min duty every day
- 46 min prep every day

# MAIN POINTS

A Newsletter for Friends of the Main Street Community Foundation

Fall 2012

## GRANTS IN ACTION

### A New Home for the Southington Family Resource Center

"Wow! This is school!" four-year-old Olivia exclaimed as she arrived at the Southington Family Resource Center located in Room 17 at Hatton School. Home daycare provider Sue Cyr recounted Olivia's first impression of the classroom as she explained, "I could take the children in my care to the park to run around, but until this classroom opened I was not able to give them the opportunity to have a school experience." Krista Pringle, the center's director, added, "The work we do here is beneficial to everyone. It doesn't matter what a family's socio-economic background is, because everyone benefits from receiving help with parenting and school readiness skills."

The center had been operated mainly out of a small room at Jerynoski School for the past four years. But the space was suitable only for storage and as an office; staff had to travel from one school to another for classes and other programs. We were working out of the trunk of our

cars," Pringle said. "We spent most of our day traveling, setting up programs, and then breaking down." Pringle lobbied Superintendent Joseph Erardi for more space, and took him on a visit of the family resource center in Plainville.

a centralized location and it would not affect the program. Many families were coming to the program based on the days that were best for them, not whether they were at an elementary school close to home or not.



L - R: Sue Cyr, home day care provider, with Southington Family Resource Center Director Krista Pringle and Olivia, Joey and Evan in the Center's book nook.

Staffing changes in the Southington elementary schools resulted in classroom space becoming available at Hatton School. Pringle said that she realized that many families were willing to travel to

A \$3,655 grant from the Douglas and Noreen Schumann Special Interest Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation provided the funding to furnish the classroom. Child-sized tables and chairs, brightly colored floor mats, bookcases, a cozy reading nook and shelves full of instructional materials adorn the room. A wall of windows and a door that allows participants direct access to the classroom from the parking lot create a welcoming, cheerful environment.

Sue Cyr used to bring the children in her care to the Kelly School Gymnasium to participate in programs. "This feels more like school than the gym did. The programs at the gym were great, but there was a lot we weren't allowed to do - arts and crafts, computer classes, snack time. Also, the children in my daycare do not have access to a

*"Grants in Action" continued on page 3*

## PEOPLE OF VISION

### Community Benefits from VISTA Service Learning Projects

Charity and generosity are two of the values that brought together a small team of eight students from Tunxis Community College and the Main Street Community Foundation. The students, participants in a VISTA service learning project in their spring 2012 sociology class taught by professor Marie Clucas, PhD, took on a

project to benefit the immediate response funds at the Foundation.

The students identified that as of the 2010 census data, there is a higher than state average unemployment rate in four of the six towns served by MSCF. This is one of the reasons for the increase in immediate response fund requests from social service agencies looking to assist families and individuals in need with a one-time grant.

VISTA Coordinator Susan Dantino suggested a service learning project to add resources to the immediate response funds at Main Street Community Foundation. After speaking with Foundation staff and learning that one way of disbursing immediate response funds is through gift cards, the students decided to hold several gift card drives around Tunxis Community College and

*"People of Vision" continued on page 3*



### **"Grants in Action" continued**

computer. I can take them to computer classes here." Little Clickers, one of the programs at the Southington FRC, is specially designed to develop children's comfort and control in using a computer, while building their pre-reading and pre-math skills at the same time.

In addition to Little Clickers, fall programs at the center include: Messy Monsters (an art experience class for children and their favorite adult), Big Cook/Little Cook, Playgroup, Calling All Characters (story time with a related craft) and Raising Readers Parent Club. The programs

are designed to help pre-school age children develop literacy, numeracy, communication and fine motor skills. Children learn how to function successfully within a classroom environment by sharing with others, following directions, cleaning up after themselves and transitioning from one activity to another. Programs also serve to assist adults in the development of parenting skills and to create an awareness of the school readiness skills children are expected to have upon entering a preschool or kindergarten program.

Morning programs at the center are so popular that they fill before the registration deadline and usually have a long waiting list. Pringle shared the results of a recent survey, "We received 187 responses. Families feel that working parents are not provided with enough opportunities to participate in programs with their children based on the current program schedule. In January, we will address that need by offering evening playgroups and Raising Readers workshops." Sue Cyr nodded in agreement, "The program should continue to be expanded."

### **"People of Vision" continued**

the community to not only contribute to the Foundation's immediate response funds but also raise awareness about the effects of the economic downturn on individuals. At the end of the project, over \$600 in gift cards and donations were donated to benefit the immediate response funds at the Foundation during a ceremony at Tunxis.

The collaboration between Tunxis Community College and Main Street Community Foundation did not end at the conclusion of the gift card project. The Fall 2012 sociology class taught by Professor Marie Clucas, PhD, will also be partnering with the Foundation on another VISTA service learning project. The team of three students will interview organizations in the Foundation's service

area that focus on families in crisis, food and nutrition and basic needs. As a result of the interviews, a wish list from each organization will be established and posted on Main Street Community Foundation's website so that it will be available for anyone who is interested in supporting local nonprofit organizations.

### **Nearly \$100,000 Awarded in Scholarships**

MSCF awarded close to \$100,000 in scholarships to 83 area students during the Foundation's annual Scholarship Reception at the Bristol Public Library on June 27. Attended by more than 60 people, the reception celebrated the donors as well as the recipients

well as other communities who are at varying levels of their academic careers.

### **MSCF Accredited for Another Five Years**

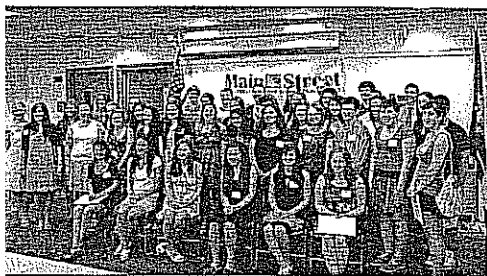
MSCF received notification in early October that it has again met the nation's highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability. The notice comes from the Community Foundations National Standards Board, a national accreditation organization based in Arlington, VA. MSCF received its first National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation in 2007. Main Street Community Foundation was one of the first community foundations in Connecticut to receive such designation. The accreditation renewal process occurs every five years and requires community foundations to perform a comprehensive evaluation of existing policies, materials and financial changes which may have occurred since the previous accreditation. The program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors and nonprofits, as well as to legal and financial advisors.

## *Save the Date*

**January 8, 2013** Women & Girls' Fund Annual Meeting at Thomaston Savings Bank in Bristol at 5:30 p.m.

**January 15, 2013** MSCF grant applications and scholarship applications are available online at [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org)

**April 22, 2013** Women & Girls' Fund annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington at 5:30 p.m. featuring guest speaker Grace Killelea



2012 scholarship recipients were honored at this year's annual Scholarship Reception.

and featured special guest speaker Tracey Tank, a former scholarship award recipient and current Senior Vice President & Chief Corporate Relations Officer of Heineken USA. Scholarships are available annually to students from the towns of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott as

## **Your Gift Makes a Difference!**

Kindly consider adding Main Street Community Foundation to your list of supported non-profit organizations this year as you plan your 2012 year-end charitable giving. Send your gift today by mail or give online at [www.MainStreetFoundation.org](http://www.MainStreetFoundation.org)

**Thank you!**

|                                 | <u>Checking</u> | <u>STEM</u>    | <u>Donations</u> | <u>Donations</u> | <u>Donations</u> | <u>Spelling</u> | <u>Fan of</u>  | <u>Bank Card</u> | <u>Outback</u> | <u>Grants</u> | <u>Miscell</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
|                                 | <u>Account</u>  | <u>Project</u> | <u>Public</u>    | <u>Business</u>  | <u>Civic</u>     | <u>Bee</u>      | <u>Founder</u> | <u>Expenses</u>  | <u>Steak</u>   |               |                |
| 10/13/12 Dep Police Union       | 500             |                |                  |                  |                  |                 | 500            |                  |                |               |                |
| 11/13/12 Ck#1176 Chamber Ren    | -125            |                |                  |                  |                  |                 |                |                  |                |               | -125           |
| 11/12/12 Bank Card Expense      | -122.93         |                |                  |                  |                  |                 |                | -122.93          |                |               |                |
| 11/16/12 Dep Gala Smayda        | 45              |                |                  |                  |                  |                 | 45             |                  |                |               |                |
| 11/21/12 Ck#1177 ARC Insurance  | -595            |                |                  |                  |                  |                 |                |                  |                |               | -595           |
| 11/21/12 Ck#1178 D Dickau Stimp | -12.88          |                |                  |                  |                  |                 | -12.88         |                  |                |               |                |
| 11/28/12 Dep Golf Tournament    | 270             |                |                  |                  |                  |                 |                |                  |                |               |                |
| 11/28/12 Dep United Health      | 67.32           |                |                  |                  |                  |                 |                |                  |                |               |                |
| 11/28/12 Ck#1179 S Bd Of Ed     | -12,643.87      |                |                  |                  |                  |                 |                |                  |                |               |                |
| 12/7/12 Ck#1180 YMCA Slopers    | -3,165.50       | -3,165.50      |                  |                  |                  |                 |                |                  |                | -12,643.87    |                |

CHECKING ACCT BALANCE: 69,999.11 6,715.97 4867.04 500 2000 8133.12 25,344.75 196.56 4216 -20780.22 2863.49

2 CDs 12/1/2012 4,102.36  
TOTAL ASSETS 74,101.47

## Attachment #2

# Vision 2020

Strategic Planning Process for  
Southington Public Schools

Terri Lombardi, Patricia Queen, Perri Murdica  
Marisa Calvi-Rogers, Kelly Nichols, Tina Riccio  
Holly Boudreau, Jen Discenza, Dan Murdzek  
Jess Bruen, Amy Perry, Julie Zellner

## Sub-Committee Activities to date

**Stakeholders:** Chamber  
Members/Elected and  
Appointed Officials

•Hosted two public forums

•PowerPoint Presentation/  
Brainstorming Session

1. Single greatest skill/learning outcome that all graduates must have...
2. Community funding priority over next 10 years should be...
3. The greatest change that must take place from present practice is...

**Stakeholders:** Parents

•Created Promotional  
Brochure \*

•Attended PTO Meetings

•Attended Brown Bag  
Lunch

•Encouraged parents to  
complete on-line survey

**Stakeholders:**  
Students/Teachers

•Created Two Surveys\* –  
one for adult  
stakeholders; another for  
students

•Student Forums to be  
held in January – at SHS,  
JAD, & JFK

\*Available on [www.southingtonschools.org](http://www.southingtonschools.org),  
Dr. Erardi's blog under **Vision 2020**

## Single Greatest Skill/Learning Outcome that all Graduates Must Have...

### Community Forum

- **Communication**
- **Collaborative** problem solving
- **Critical thinkers**
- Work (think) through a process
- Self motivated: Navigate failures/Initiative/Resiliencies
- Balance technology
- **Ability to figure it out**
- "You are not entitled"

### Town Government Forum

- **Communication**
- **Work collaboratively with others**
- Leadership as a mindset/ Team Player
- **Thinkers-critical/Creative**
- **Ability to learn**
- Appreciate diversity
- Go the extra mile-embrace spirit of excellence
- Be prepared to handle life experiences

## Community Funding Priority Over the Next 10 Years Should be...

### Community Forum

- Get kids out of classroom/ Professionals into the classroom (tradeshows...) Global experience; Tap into the community/seniors; Remote access (virtual)
- Business to fund some of the responsibilities
- **Everyone needs to know nothing is more important than education**
- **Equity among schools- technology parity**
- Private sector involved /Real world experience
- **Technology infrastructure**
- **Learning languages at early age**

### Town Government Forum

- Technology as it evolves (short, mid, long term planning)
- **Facilities (infrastructure)**
- Alternative natural resources
- Professional development (strong qualified teachers)
- Text books (paper vs. e-books)
- Teaching profession may change
- Funding curriculum development/ Measure outcomes (postgrad)

## The Greatest Change that Must Take Place from Present Practice is...

### Community Forum

- Experiential learning
- Assessing capacity of the children and pushing them; Using e-portfolios
- Career exploration (K-12 internships)
- Measuring success (decide career, then college)
- Interactive classroom/ Individualized education
- **Change the school year**
- **Parent involvement/accountability**
- Teacher as facilitator
- **Learning culture to change**

### Town Government Forum

- Embrace change and willingness to change/ **Change structure** / Break free of the traditional structure
- Change how to communicate (self-assessment measurements)
- Reevaluate American model- look at foreign models
- Influence state legislators- focus on what is really needed in individual towns
- **Change approach** /Back to basics/ **Motivation for teachers, students, parents**
- Open lines of communication
- Identify where gaps exist

## Community Conversation: Follow up

Homework assigned:

- List specific tasks to be done by their organization/group
- Timeline
- People responsible
- Resources and materials needed



## Responses

### Government:

- Economic Development: key for funding
- More transparency of funds: public needs to know how and why money is being spent
- Look at other models of the school day-across the country and the world: ex. private school model

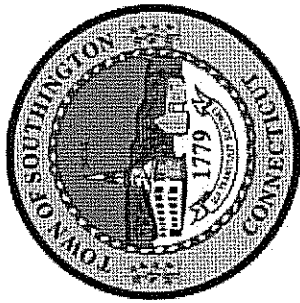
### Civic Organizations:

- Partnerships with civic organizations for service projects
- SPS Planning Committee should consist of school and community members

## Responses

### Businesses and local colleges:

- Network of business organizations and local universities-serve as mentors (in school and in the field)
- Partnerships with business and community colleges: graduate employable citizens
- Work with community colleges to create e-Portfolios to take with them to universities and employers
- Articulation for courses/credits earned by high school students in Information Technology and BOT Medical Option fields from community colleges and local universities to address national employment trends



# DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools

[ additions and renovate-like-new ]

BOE Meeting  
December 13, 2012

FLETCHERTHOMPSON  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS



## Design Development Estimate Summary

Southington Middle Schools

December 13, 2012

|   |  |             |
|---|--|-------------|
| 1 | Total Project Costs at Initial Design Development Estimate | 99,639,565  |
| 2 | Value Management Deductions                                | (9,924,218) |
| 3 | Total Project Costs With Value Management                  | 89,715,347  |
| 4 | Funding (Referendum Value)                                 | 85,000,000  |
| 5 | Amount Over Funding  | 4,715,347   |

Values are for both schools.

Exterior walls and vapor barrier to remain.

Project  
Estimate  
Summary



**Newfield**  
CONSTRUCTION  
EXPERIENCE. WE BUILD IT.



**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
[additions and renovate-like-new]



**Major Value Management Items**  
**Southington Middle Schools**  
**December 13, 2012**

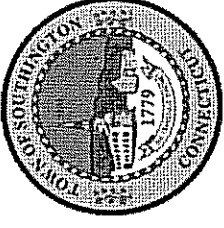
**Total Value Management = \$9,924,218**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Site</b>  |
| Reduce paved areas, delete tennis courts, repair fields in lieu of replacing.      |
| <b>Architectural</b>   |
| Eliminate Cafeteria expansion.   |
| Eliminate Satellite Administration Office on second floor.                         |
| Reduce Faculty Collaboration Rooms from 9 to 3.                                    |
| Relocate 2 Art Rooms from the addition to the existing building.                   |
| Combine Tech Ed Rooms from 4 to 3.   |
| Eliminate 2nd Faculty Dining Room Addition   |
| Eliminate Second Computer Lab in first floor addition. Use Mobile technology.      |
| Eliminate climbing wall at Gym.  |
| Minimize Auditorium renovations, refurbish seats, refinish platform.               |
| <b>Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing</b>  |
| Delete generator, provide wiring and switchgear for portable and future generator. |

Value  
Engineering  
Summary



**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
 [additions and renovate-like new]





**Hazardous Materials Abatement Estimate Summary**  
**Southington Middle Schools**  
**December 13, 2012**

**Best Case Scenario (Current Plan)\***

|   | <b>Excludes Abatement of Exterior Wall Vapor Barrier</b> |              |
|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | Total Hazmat Removal and Disposal Costs                  | 4,689,480    |
| 2 | Materials Replacement                                    | 2,800,000    |
| 3 | Expedite PCB Abatement (2 Summers)                       | 1,022,283    |
| 4 | Total Hazmat Abatement Costs                             | 8,511,763 ** |

Values are for both schools

\*Pending Approval by EPA

\*\*Value is Included in Current Estimate

**Worst Case Scenario**

|   | <b>Abatement of Exterior Wall Vapor Barrier</b> |              |
|---|---|--------------|
| 1 | Total Hazmat Removal and Disposal Costs         | 8,609,480    |
| 2 | Materials Replacement                           | 6,650,000    |
| 3 | Total Hazmat Abatement Costs                    | 15,259,480 * |

Values are for both schools

\* Does not include soft costs due to increased abatement scope.

HazMat  
Costs  
Summary



**Newfield**  
CONSTRUCTION  
APPROPRIATE, WE BUILD BETTER.



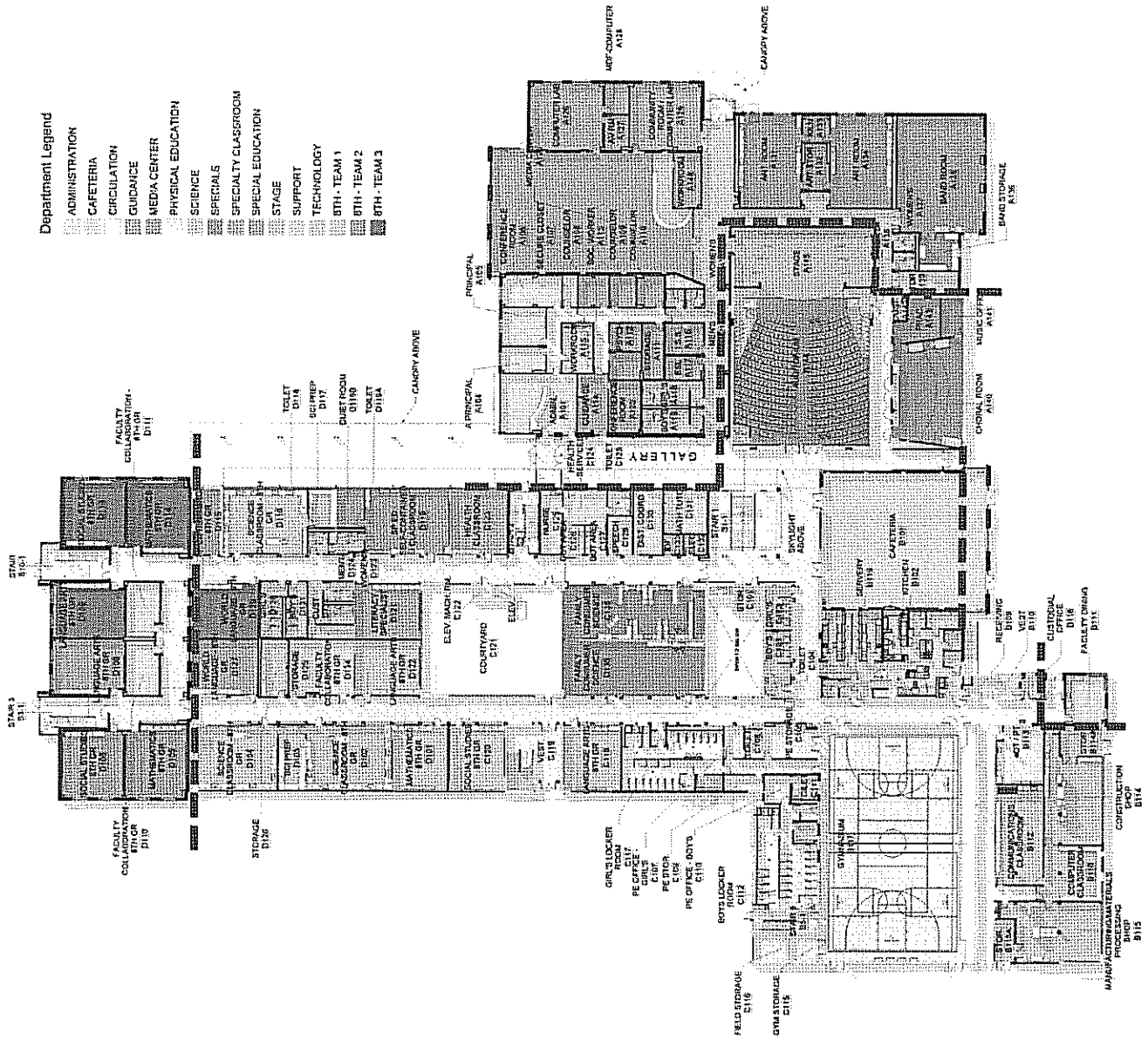
**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
(additions and renovate like-new )

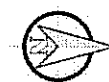


**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
[additions and renovate-like-new]

### Department Legend

- |                |           |             |          |              |                    |         |          |                     |                   |       |         |            |              |              |              |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------|--------------|--------------------|---------|----------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|---------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ADMINISTRATION | CAFETERIA | CIRCULATION | GUIDANCE | MEDIA CENTER | PHYSICAL EDUCATION | SCIENCE | SPECIALS | SPECIALTY CLASSROOM | SPECIAL EDUCATION | STAGE | SUPPORT | TECHNOLOGY | OTH - TEAM 1 | OTH - TEAM 2 | OTH - TEAM 3 |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------|--------------|--------------------|---------|----------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|---------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|

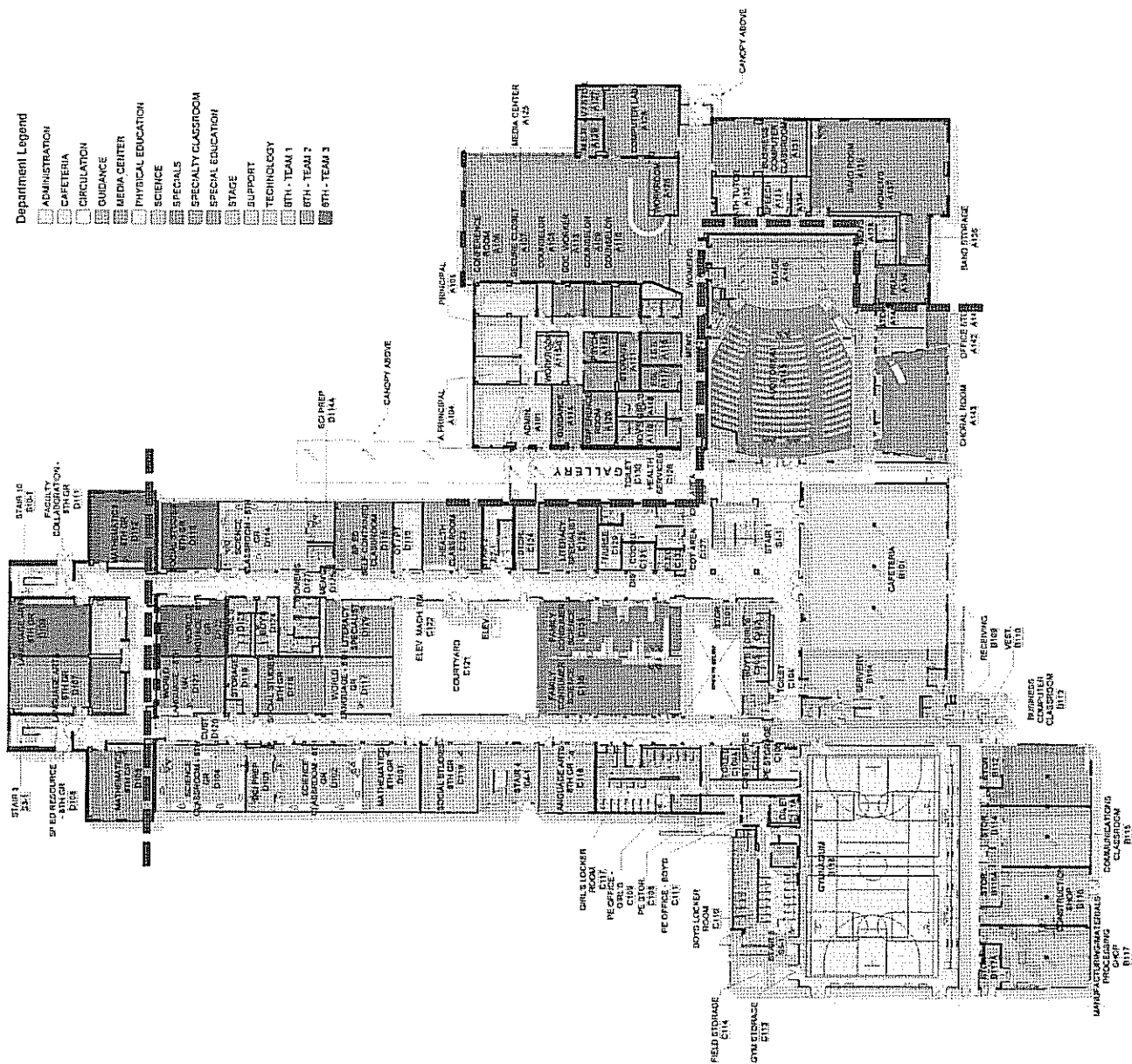




**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
[additions and renovate like new]

Revised first floor plan

**FLETCHERTHOMPSON**  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS





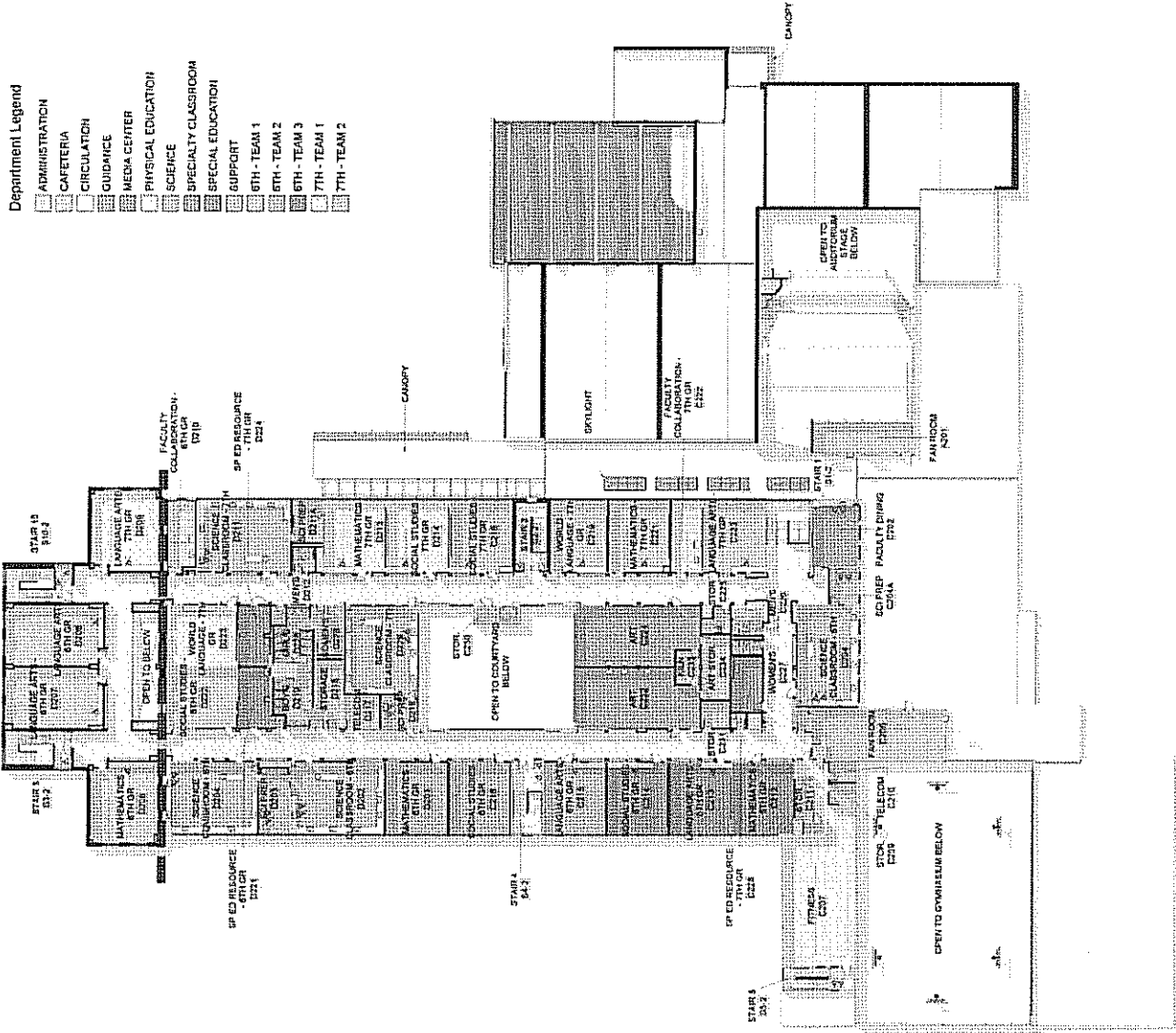
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ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS

ELEVATING DESIGN : SHAPING SOLUTIONS





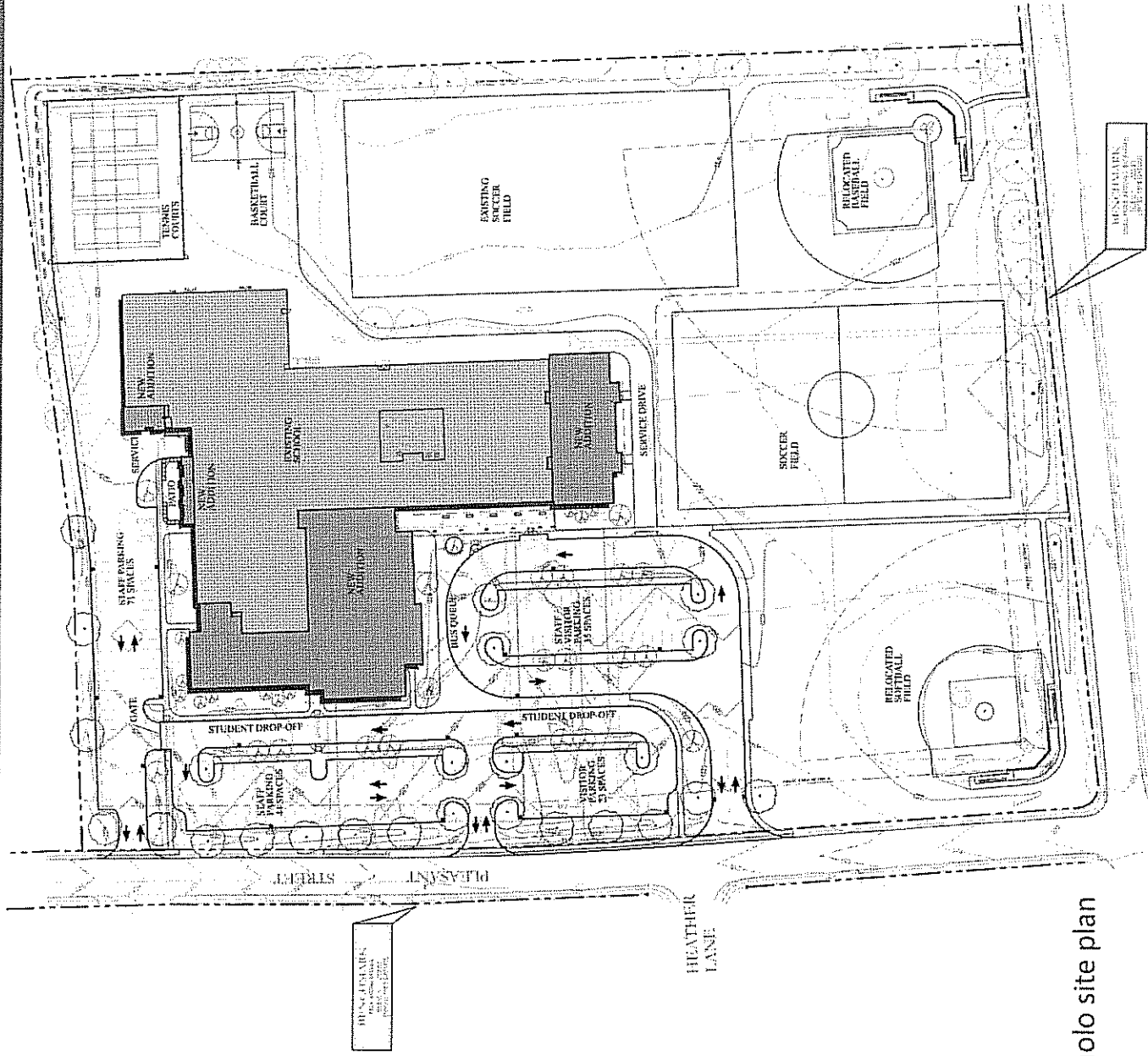
Revised second  
floor plan





# DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools

[additions and renovate-like-new]



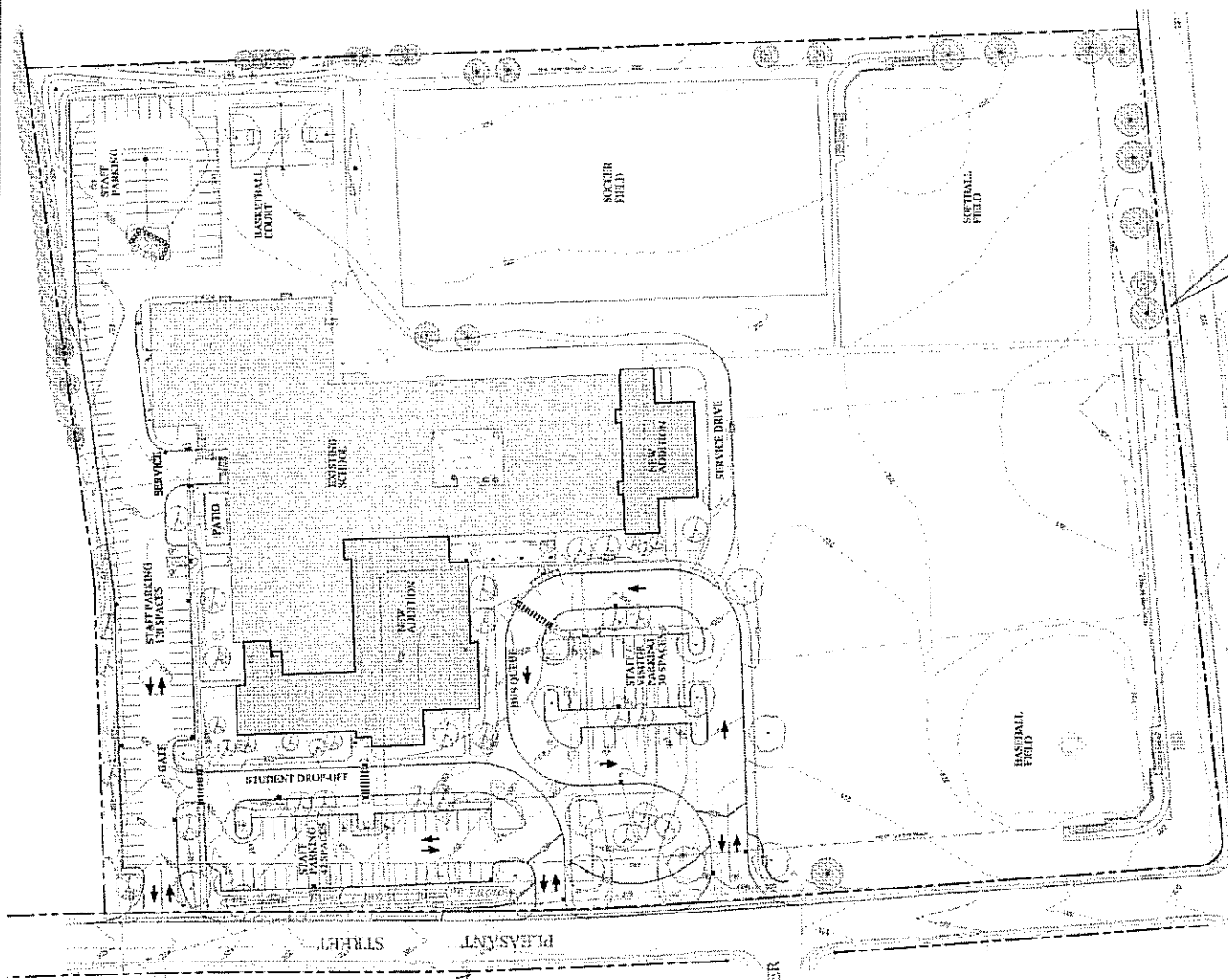
Previous DePaolo site plan

**FLETCHERTHOMPSON**  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS



# DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools

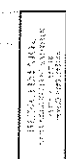
(additions and renovate-like-new)



Revised DePaolo  
site plan

FLETCHERTHOMPSON  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS

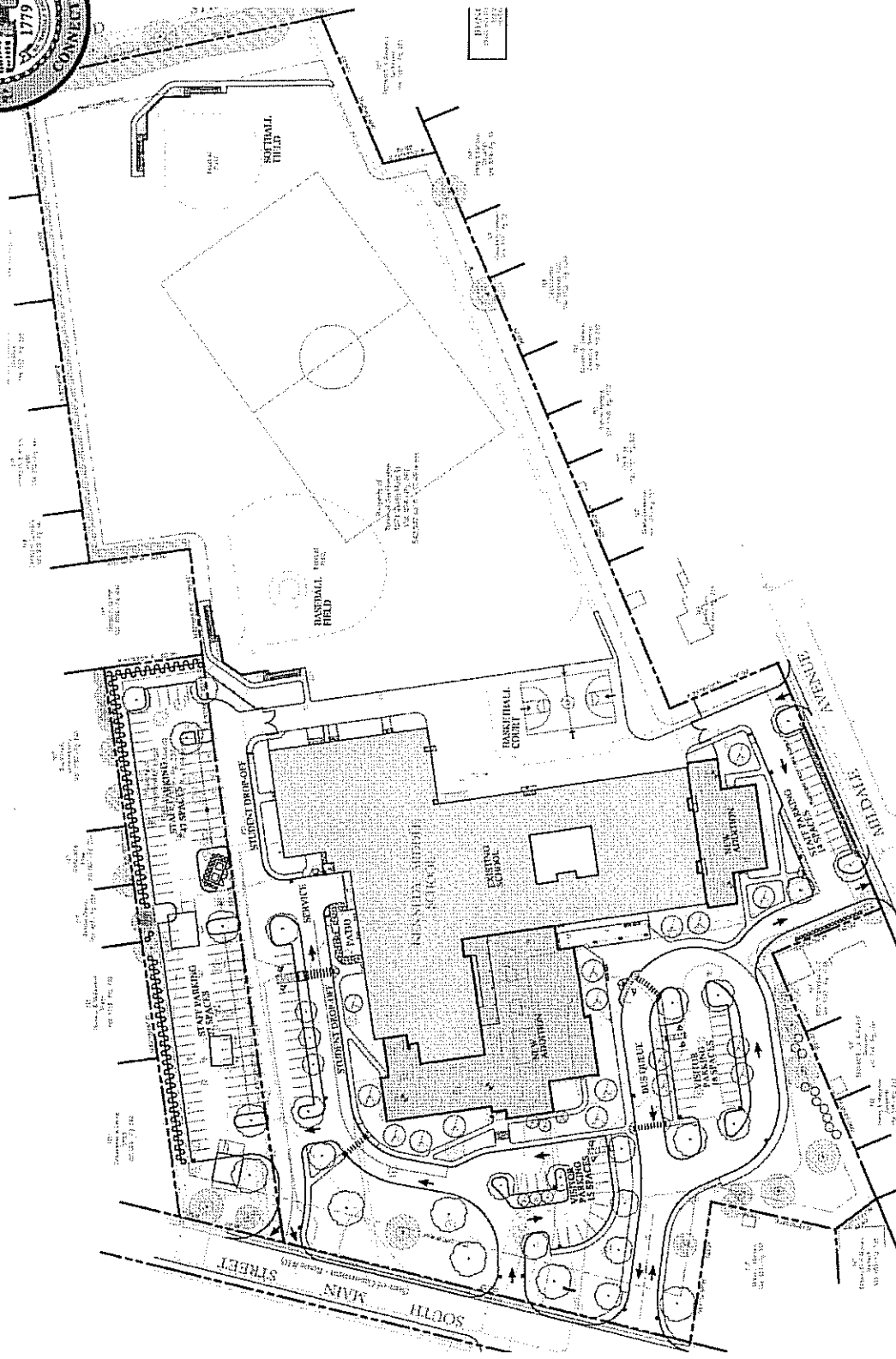




**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
[additions and renovate-like-new]

Previous Kennedy site plan

**FLETCHERTHOMPSON**  
ELEVATING DESIGN / SHAPING SOLUTIONS

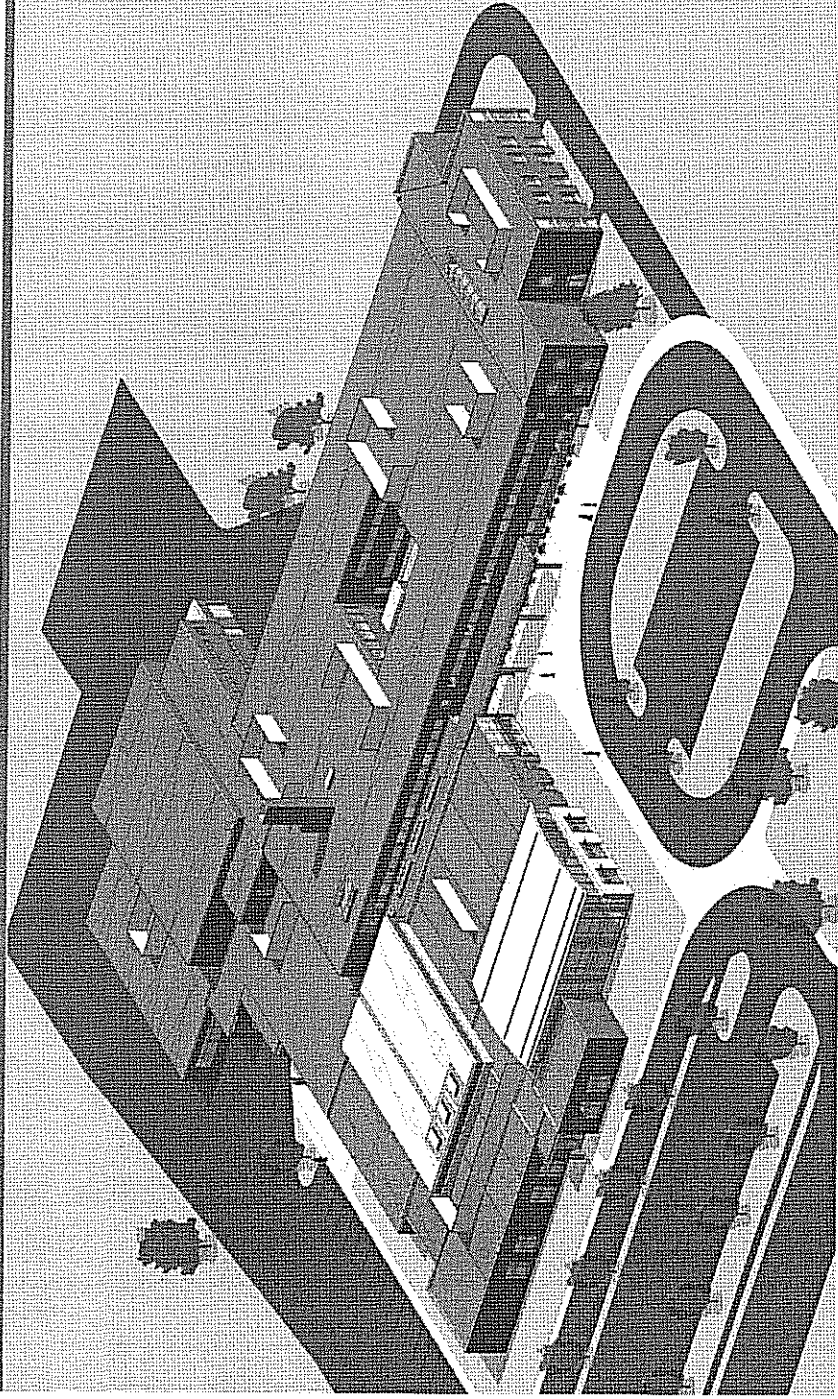


Revised Kennedy  
site plan

FLETCHERTHOMPSON  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS



DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools  
[additions and renovate-like-new]

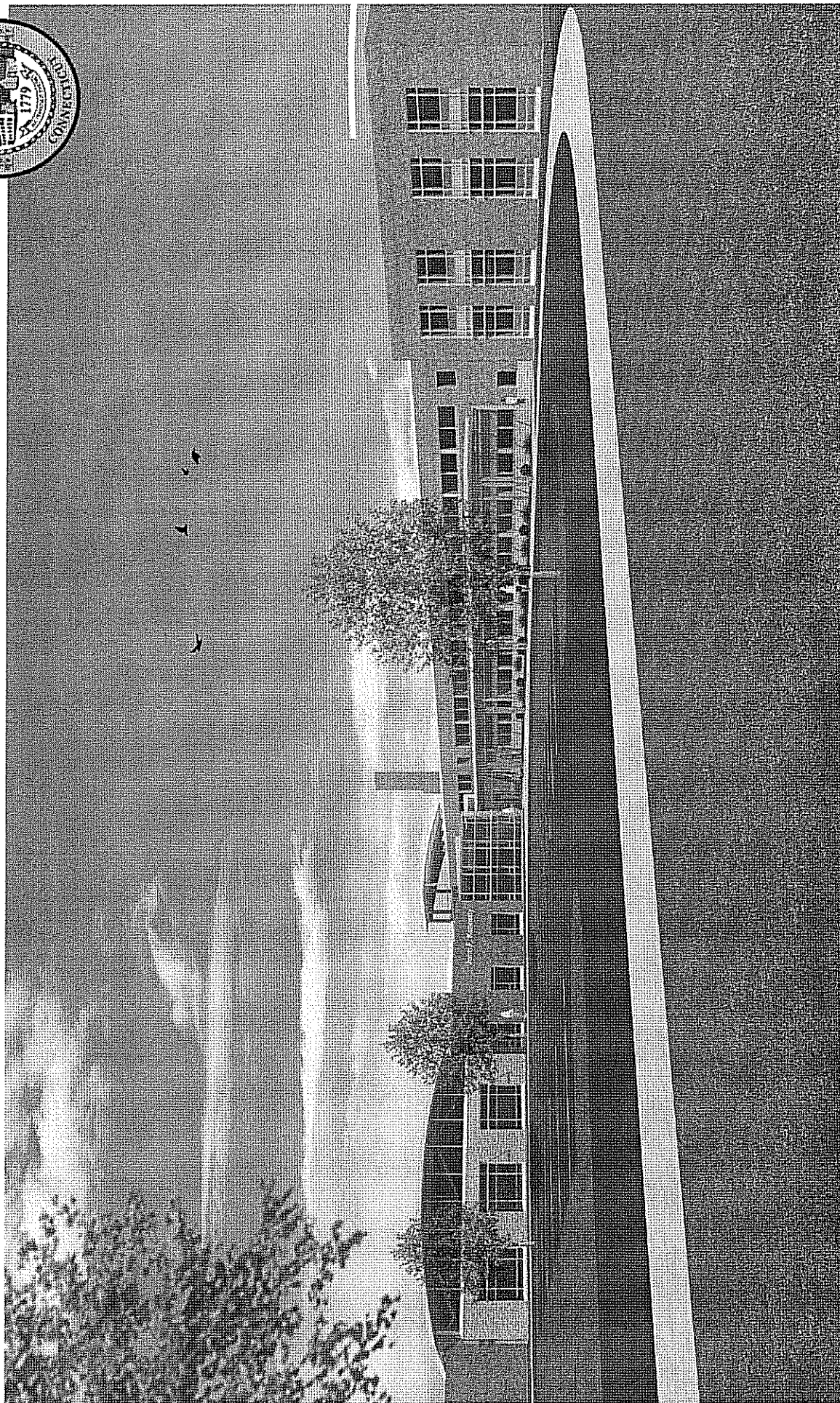
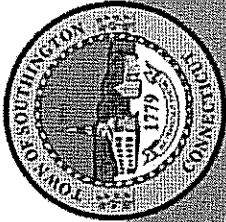


exterior perspective and elevations

**FLETCHERTHOMPSON**  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS

**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
[additions and renovate-like-new]

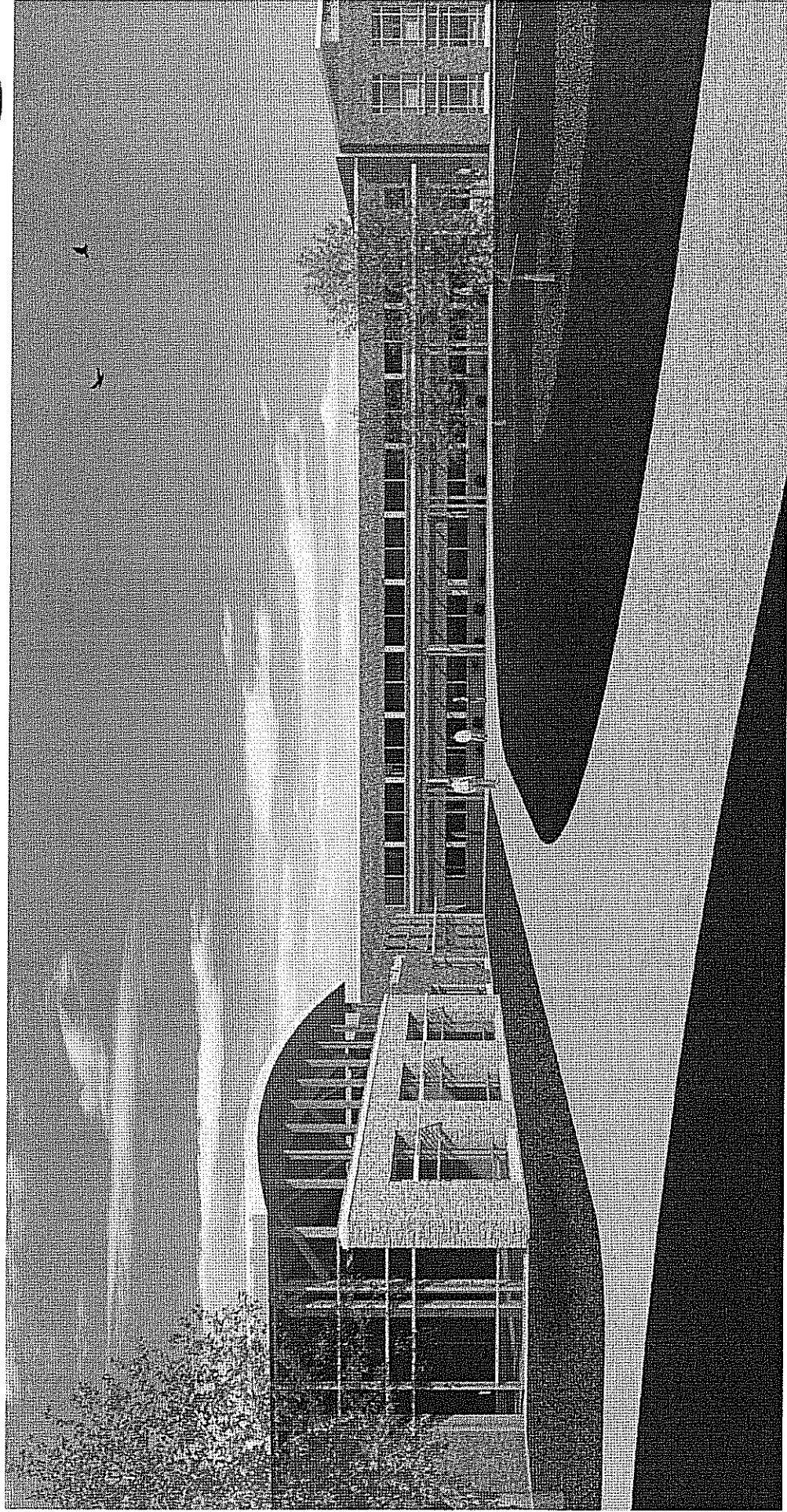




PREVIOUS exterior perspective

**FLETCHERTHOMPSON**  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS

**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
[ additions and renovate-like-new ]

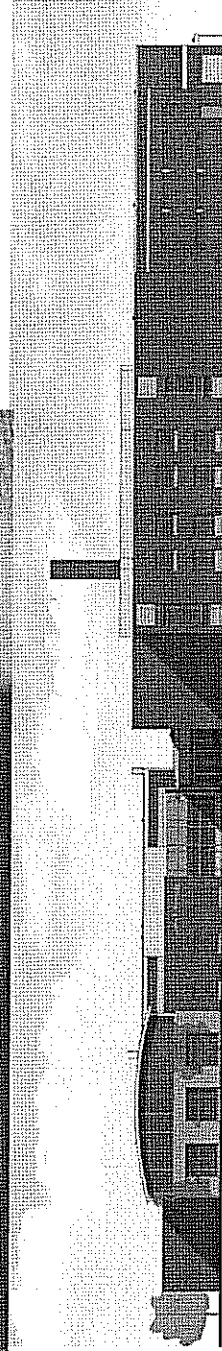
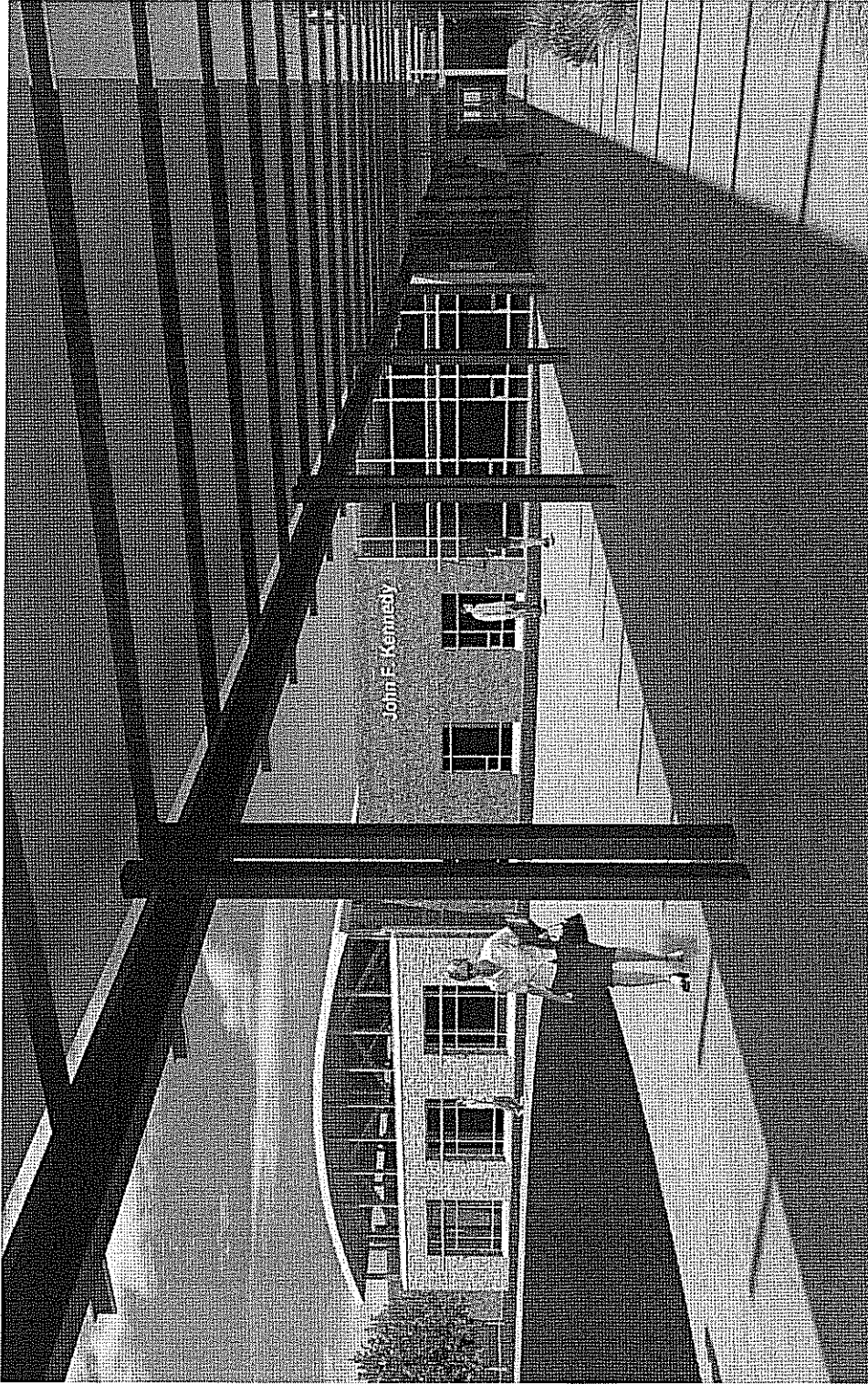


PREVIOUS exterior perspective

**FLETCHERTHOMPSON**  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS

**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
[additions and renovate-like-new]





exterior perspective and elevation

south

**FLETCHERTHOMPSON**  
ELEVATING DESIGN | SHAPING SOLUTIONS

**DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools**  
[ additions and renovate-like-new ]