

Portland School Committee

Workshop –7pm

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Room 250
PATHS

Assuring that all students are learning for their future

7:00pm – Workshop

1. Casco Bay High School

Upcoming School Committee Meetings

Nov. 21	No meeting
Nov. 28	7pm – Business Meeting -Alternative Plan Approval -Casco Bay High School site -Policies-first reading BDE Subcommittees – addition of Personnel Subcommittee -Clifford Project – site recommendation -Caucus to elect chairperson and finance chairperson
Dec. 5	7pm – Business Meeting – Weighted Grades Guidelines – First reading – Educational Specifications
Dec. 12	Workshop: 7pm - PEA Salary Lane Changes 8pm - Special Education – Barbara Dee
Dec. 19	7pm – Business Meeting – Approval Weighted Grades Guidelines
Dec. 26	No meeting

Upcoming Finance Committee Meetings

Nov. 28	5:30-7pm	School Committee Finance meeting, Room 321, PATHS -Alternative Plan -Adult Ed Presentation -TV3 Presentation
Dec. 5	5:30-7pm	School Committee Finance meeting, Room 321, PATHS -K-5 staffing/budget presentations
Dec. 12	5:30-70m	School Committee Finance meeting, Room 321, PATHS -6-8 staffing/budget presentations
Dec. 19	5:30-7pm	School Committee Finance meeting, Room 321, PATHS -9-12 staffing/budget presentations

Casco Bay High School Report 11-07 – by Derek Pierce

Remaining where we are seems to make even more sense now than it did when the task force made the recommendation last spring.

Why?

- We now have a clear plan for how we can meet the space needs for a 300 student body at PATHS, including a CBHS-PATHS library, without jeopardizing a PATHS program and with minimal cost.
- We have conferred with NEASC and are confident that our accreditation would not be jeopardized because of a lack of a gym.
- Having CBHS established for the future allows the district to keep its focus on the bigger issues.
- Moving to Portland High would disrupt and displace more programs than staying at PATHS. The move would require much more institutional time and human resources to be pulled off successfully. Both high schools would strongly prefer to focus this time and human resources on teaching and learning issues. The financial costs of a move and renovation would be at least as expensive and probably more in the short run.
- It makes sense to stay put for at least two years until the district's long-term facility plan and issues are settled. Once the plan is complete, if relevant, perhaps then our location could be reviewed.
- Some PATHS sending schools are interested in exploring some regional collaborations with us that makes the current location more desirable.
- We have deepened our partnership with PATHS. A summary of CBHS-PATHS efficiencies is below.
- We are more deeply invested in our existing space. (And we have volunteers willing to continue to invest in improving and customizing the space.)

CBHS-PATHS Efficiencies

Staffing:

- We share custodial staff.
- We share a school nurse.
- We share a receptionist.

Facilities:

- We share use of the dance studio.
- We share use of the computer lab (and, occasionally, Rm 321)
- Later this year, we hope to share use of a health clinic and nurse's office.
- We share common spaces on the second floor.
- Next year, we hope to share use of a library.

Collaborations:

- PATHS-CBHS' beliefs about teaching and learning are similar and both expect authentic learning demonstrations.
- We have a PATHS-CBHS liaison team that meets monthly to review any mutual issues and to explore possible collaborations. I also meet monthly with Dana and Brian to review macro-level issues, which impact both buildings.
- We have about dozen CBHS students attending PATHS programs. (And there are no transportation or scheduling issues!) We expect this number to (at least) double next year when we have juniors and seniors.
- We have collaborated on the revision of "Building Norms."
- We have collaborated on the building Crisis Plan.

- Our faculty is increasingly collaborating. We have most frequently collaborated with the dance, video and welding programs. For instance, video students are broadcasting the Candidates Forum that our junior humanities students are hosting.
- We will be hosting our 2nd annual CBHS-PATHS Crafts Fair this November. (We hope to host a joint Talent Show later this year.)

The Casco Bay High School (CBHS) Long Term Facilities Task Force recommends Portland Arts and Technology High School as the long-term home for CBHS.

Task Force Objective: To involve diverse stakeholders in a process that will review reasonable options for the long-term home of CBHS and then make a recommendation to Superintendent Mary Jo O'Connor and the School Committee in June 2007.

Process

A group of nearly 20 Portland Public School staff, students, parents and Portland citizens met nine times from March 2007 through May 2007 to meet the task force objective. The process included the following:

1. Agreed to ground rules.
2. Developed criteria.
3. Brainstormed options.
4. Explored seven options in more detail - Baxter, Longfellow, Nathan Clifford or a co-location with Lincoln, King, Portland Arts and Technology High School (PATHS) or Portland High (PHS), developing pros and cons for each option.
5. Selected the two most viable options – co-location with PATHS or PHS.
6. Through the principals, surveyed via email and hard copy PATHS, PHS and CBHS students, teachers and staff.
7. Hosted a televised public forum on May 22.
8. Reviewed public input.
9. Agreed by an 11 to 7 vote (with 1 abstention) to recommend PATHS.

Facility Needs Vs. Availability:

CBHS Facility Needs	Availability at PATHS	Availability at PHS
12-16 Instructional Spaces (including 3-4 labs)	Possible	Possible
Access to Gym/Fields	Dance Studio, Fields	Gym, No Fields
Access to Library	None Presently (USM Glickman?)	Yes
Access to Space for Assembly	“Great Space” could fit about 250	Yes
Access to Health Clinic	Yes	Yes
Area for Serving Food	Yes, Could be Improved	Yes
1-3 Teacher Planning Spaces	Yes	Possible
4-5 Offices	Possible	Not Yet Clear
2-4 Conf Rooms/Smaller Classrooms	Yes	Not Yet Clear
Adequate Storage/Parking	OK Storage/Limited Parking	Good Storage/Very Limited Parking

Criteria for Desirable Facility (adopted by Task Force on 4/3/07)

The facility supports the school and district’s vision.

- Allows CBHS to preserve and grow school culture, promoting learning and pride.
- Facilitates Expeditionary Learning model (e.g.: teaming, personalization, field work and community connections).
- Allows for functional autonomy.

The facility is affordable.

- Makes fiscally responsible use of district resources.
- Has operational and capital costs comparable to other facilities and can be costed out for 1, 3 and 5 years.
- Is permanent and stable, fitting into district’s long-term plans.
- Any new construction or renovation is as “green” as is feasible.

The facility is adequate to meet long-term needs.

- Meets fundamental space requirements and is adequate for HS students' needs.
- Is equitable to existing PPS high school facilities.

PATHS

How? CBHS would occupy current classroom space as well as some additional classroom space on the 2nd and 3rd floors of PATHS. Use of the dance studio would be shared.

The facility supports the school and district's vision.	
ASSETS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of possibilities for collaboration with synergy with CBHS and PATHS students and staff. The 2 schools have co-existed well so far. • Functional and flexible autonomy for both schools while sharing space 	CHALLENGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bus ride to downtown resources for expeditions and field work • Co-location might lead to misperception that CBHS is only for certain kinds of kids.
The facility is affordable.	
ASSETS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable cost for CBHS expansion. • CBHS is ¾'s at PATHS next fall. 	CHALLENGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If new construction (addition) of a four-classroom wing is needed, the cost is prohibitive.
The facility is adequate to meet long-term needs.	
ASSETS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spacious building in very good condition, on a sizable campus • There are some remarkable technology and arts facilities 	CHALLENGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no library or CBHS cafeteria (yet) and no gym. • Is there an adequate space for a 300-student body to congregate?

Unresolved Questions:

- What precisely would be CBHS' additional Year 4 space? Who might have to move? (And where?)
- What do PATHS sending schools think of CBHS in this building?
- Would no library or gym on campus impact CBHS accreditation?
- Does CBHS growth limit PATHS' ability to grow and evolve?

Portland High School

How? CBHS would occupy the entire current ground floor of PHS and share larger spaces (e.g.: library, gym, cafeteria and auditorium.)

The facility supports the school and district's vision.	
<p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown location is great for expeditionary fieldwork. • Potential for “own identity” with a separate floor and identity. 	<p>CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It might be hard for CBHS to maintain its identity and culture within an established and much larger school. • There is some anxiety within the PHS and CBHS communities about how co-location would impact both schools.
The facility is affordable.	
<p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site access to gym, theater, cafeteria and library • Significant resource sharing is possible. 	<p>CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labs would need to be created on the ground floor. • A suitable entrance and main office area would need to be created.
The facility is adequate to meet long-term needs.	
<p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large building with comprehensive services already in place and proximity to other great resources • In-school access to full co-curricular program 	<p>CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not be adequate space for both classrooms and office needs on ground floor (alone). • Any transition would require substantial work up front on issues from logistics to philosophy

Unresolved Questions:

- Could PHS programs currently on the ground floor be relocated without significantly impacting PHS programming?
 - How much is it possible or desirable for the two schools to intertwine?
 - Could the ground floor be transformed to feel like an inviting, stand alone school?
 - To what extent is it possible and desirable for the two schools to be autonomous?
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