

F.O.I. Compliance – Subject to BOE approval at a future meeting

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: January 07, 2021

Regular Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held

(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website www.reg4.k12.ct.us and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)

Attendance:	<u>Region 4 BOE</u>		<u>Administration:</u>		<u>Other:</u>
(√ = attended)	Kate Sandmann	√	Brian White	√	Libby Capp Student Rep√
	John Stack	√			Henry McPherson Student Rep √
	Lori Ann Clymas	√	Sarah Smalley	√	
	Jane Cavanaugh	√			
	Rick Daniels	√	Michael Barile	√	
	Paula Weglarz	√	Matt Espinosa	√	
	DG Fitton	√	Peter Foxen	√	
	Jennifer Clark	√			
	Rob Bibbiani	√			

Call To Order and Verbal Roll Call: 7:00 p.m. by Chair Sandmann

Items / Discussion

Public Comment – No comments were made

Consent Agenda

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of November 05, 2020; the special meeting of November 17, 2020; the special meeting of December 15, 2020; and the accounts payable report.

VRHS Senior Student Representatives Henry McPherson and Libby Capp shared updates about a variety of items including the recent National Honor Society Santa Drive which had great participation and collected lots of food items for local food pantries; International Baccalaureate classes and associated student activities; Student Council activities where they are working to come up with creative ways to help foster school spirit, even during Covid when not all students are physically present in the school building; Fall athletics; College applications and acceptances; Capstone projects; And updates on the Choir and Band programs.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Brian White updated the Board on a variety of topics including the following:

- We’ve had a successful reopening of schools following the holiday season. It was nice to have students back in the buildings on Monday and things have settled back into a routine.
- We continue to have a high level of students participating remotely compared to the fall. This increase started around Thanksgiving and has continued into, and after, the winter holidays. Many parents have indicated they are waiting until mid-January before possibly having their student return to in-person learning.

- He shared a couple of updates related to Covid and Covid management including that today we sent out a communication regarding a change in our quarantine protocol. These changes are being adopted under the guidance of the health departments that serve our region. Effectively reducing the period of quarantine from 14 – 10 days.
- We continue to work with our public health authorities to plan for the distribution of the vaccine to members of our staff. Our school nurses have received their first shot because they are categorized as health care workers. We are awaiting further word from the Governor's office about the time frame in which all other employees can expect to be eligible to receive their vaccine.
- An extension through Jan. 30, 2021 has been filed for the Region 4 Audit –largely due to scheduling uncertainty and the need for remote work due to Covid. Michael VanDeventer anticipates completion of audit procedures on Jan 15th. Our Finance Office has been diligently working to provide all necessary documentation in a timely manner.

As an information item, Superintendent White shared his Superintendent's goals for the 2020-21 school year. He reported that on Dec. 3rd he had the opportunity to share these with the Supervision District Committee.

Under normal circumstances, the goals of the Superintendent should be one and the same with the stated goals and priorities of the district. However, due to the unusual nature of managing our schools during a global pandemic and the extensive efforts to support the functioning of our schools at this time, it made sense to adopt goals for this school year that were directly in support of our efforts to open and manage our schools.

He will be providing an update on the outcome of the following goals and any next steps associated with those areas of focus, as part of his evaluation process at a date to be determined at the end of the school year.

- To develop and implement a district plan to ensure the safe operation of our schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To collaborate with state and local government officials to make decisions protecting the safety of students and staff in our schools.
- To lead efforts to provide our schools with programing that meets the academic and social and emotional needs of all learners.
- To lead efforts to provide continuity between modes of schooling during the pandemic.
- To manage the 20-21 fiscal year budget to effectively provide for the needs of our schools and district needs during the pandemic.
- To provide effective communication to internal and external stakeholders about pandemic related decision making.

Superintendent White shared an update on the removal of Native American imagery at VRHS. He reported that on August 10th the Board voted to retire all use of Native American Imagery at VRHS; On October 1st he had the opportunity to update the Region 4 Board on the timeframe for the removal of the imagery and at that time he shared that the goal was to remove the images throughout the fall, but that some images may have to wait until winter break to avoid disruption to the school when in session. However, all of the work was able to completed at the beginning of November. The work occurred on November 6th and 7th, and was

conducted by Hartford Sign and Design and Connecticut Wood Floors, LLC, a local Chester company. The companies removed all exterior images as well as interior images in the school.

A Board member stated his dissatisfaction that the imagery was destroyed and/or recycled upon removal and felt it should have been left up to the Board to determine what was to be done with the removed images.

Finance Office Report

The Board received Financial Status Updates via enclosures #5-7 in advance of the meeting. If they have any questions, they were asked to please e-mail Superintendent White and he will work with Finance Office staff to provide a response to any questions received. Our new Finance Director, Bob Grissom, will officially be in the office on January 19th.

Principals' Report

John Winthrop Middle School Principal Matt Espinosa noted how proud he was of his staff and students for creating such a wonderful culture and climate even while students are participating remotely or are in-person in the cohorted schedule due to Covid. He shared updates re: Music programs; Morning news report; and ACT advisor groups every Wednesday. He was also happy to report that they were able to hold their first monthly meeting just before the winter break and successfully re-created the spirit of the typical first Friday meetings. Additionally, he shared an update on assessments.

Valley Regional High School Principal Mike Barile shared updates on a variety of VRHS topics including: College applications and acceptances during the early action period; Recent instructional adjustments to meet needs of students during this unique time including the cancellation of mid-term exams and reallocating that time to regular instruction. This was done based on feedback from faculty, students, parents and colleagues at other shoreline schools; Status of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities; and finally, winter athletics are currently scheduled to begin on January 19th and they are awaiting further guidance from CIAC. He also thanked all Valley educators for their dedication to providing quality education for all VRHS students.

Action Items:

Superintendent White shared a Key Summary of the Region 4 Secretaries and Nurses Contract negotiated for July 01, 2020 – June 30, 2021. This is a very similar one year “push” contract as recently approved for two other contracts by the Joint BOE. Negotiations Committee members were present at the negotiations as well.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Agreement between the *Regional School District No. 4 Board of Education and Local 1303-419 of Council 4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO effective for July 01, 2020 - June 30, 2021* as presented.

Superintendent White presented for consideration the Memorandum of Agreement between the teacher's union and the Boards to address the operational needs associated with our district's plan for reopening schools during the pandemic. This agreement was arrived at in August, prior to the opening of schools. The negotiations team included the Joint BOE Negotiations Committee. He's stated that he very proud of the teaching model and instruction we have been able to provide to our students which was made possible through cooperation with all of our teachers.

Although this memorandum was agreed upon legally, in August, upon further discussion, and in the interest of consistency it felt appropriate to have the Boards vote to approve this MOA, as

Boards have been called upon at other points this year to approve other MOAs / MOUs with different bargaining groups in connection with the working conditions this year during Covid-19.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the *Memorandum of Agreement between the Chester, Deep River, Essex, Regional School District No. 4, and Supervision Boards of Education, and the Supervision District and the Regional School District No. 4 Education Association as presented.*

Presentation of recommendations from the JWMS Secured Entry Plan Review ad hoc Committee – DG Fitton, Comm. Chair

Mr. Fitton provided a quick recap of the project's history up to this point. The ad hoc committee spent lots of time reviewing the equivalent of 9 architectural options. While none are happy about the cost, Option 2 (see attached), as presented to the Board by the architects, with the addition of an exterior staircase, secure vestibule and access ramp by flagpole entrance is recommended for a variety of reasons. Members of the ad hoc committee shared a bit about their process and their thinking behind the review of the presented options.

The architect's estimated cost after state reimbursement is \$486,000.

Any vote this evening would be to approve moving forward with next steps for exploring the recommended project which would be to form an official building committee per policy #7100 and then reengage with the architects to be able to come back to the Board with information regarding timeline, financing options, and how this project would fit into the overall budget for Region 4.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to form a building committee per policy #7100 and contact the architect for the purpose of exploring the recommendation of the JWMS Secured Entry Plan Review ad hoc Committee to construct option number 2.

Committee Reports

Supervision District Committee Update

Committee members shared that the Supervision District Committee has just started the early stages of their budgeting process for 2021-22.

Public Comment: Leigh Balducci of Deep River commented on the removal of the Native American imagery taken down from the outside of Valley and asked what happened to the imagery and why it wasn't returned to the people who had donated it to the school.

At approximately 8:06 p.m. the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter - to hear the Superintendent's recommendation regarding employee request(s) for a Leave of Absence - LOA.

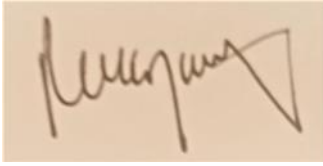
The Board moved out of Executive Session at approx. 8:14 p.m. ____

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve employee LOA request(s) as recommended by the Superintendent.

Call for Future Agenda Items: None were stated.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at approx. 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in brown ink on a light brown rectangular background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Rick Daniels".

Rick Daniels, Secretary

Region 4 Board of Education

John Winthrop Middle School Security & ADA Feasibility Study

Region # 4 BOE Presentation November 17, 2020



Facility Evaluation

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Evaluate + Confirm Assets

- Lot Size – Acres
- Grade 6-8 Educational Facility
- Residential Neighborhood
- Proximity of Residences
- **School Identity**
- **Parent Pickup/Drop-off**
- Parking Adequacy
- Wetland + Neighborhood Impact
- Slopes & Grading
- **ADA Access**
- Water course adjacent to the school
- Building Structure
- Building Envelope – Windows
- **Main Office Area Accessibility**
- **Security**
- Structural Integrity
- MEP Systems
- **Travel Distance**
- **TECHNOLOGY**

Construction Phasing

- Separation Construction + School Traffic
- Construction Staging Areas
- Continuity of Utilities + Services

Constructability + Site Logistics

- Construction Access
- Demolition Impact
- **HAZMAT Management**



OSCG&R SPACE STANDARDS WORK SHEET

State Standard Space Specifications Grades													
Projected Enrollment	Pre-K and K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Allowable Square Footage per Pupil													
0 - 350	124	124	124	124	124	156	156	180	180	180	194	194	194
351 - 750	120	120	120	120	120	152	152	176	176	176	190	190	190
751 - 1500	116	116	116	116	116	148	148	170	170	170	184	184	184
Over 1500	112	112	112	112	112	142	142	164	164	164	178	178	178

- Under the column headed "Projected Enrollment", find the range within which your school's highest projected 8 year enrollment falls.
- Using the figures on that line, complete the grid below for only those grades housed within the school.

Pre-K	_____	6
K	_____	7
1	_____	8
2	_____	9
3	_____	10
4	_____	11
5	_____	12

- Total (grades Pre-K through 12)
- Number of grades housed
- Average $[(a)/(b)]$
- Highest Projected 8-year Enrollment
- Maximum Square Footage $[(c) \times (d)]$

- Total square footage at completion of project:

- Existing area constructed pre-1950. 0
- Multiply "a." by 80% 0
- Area (at completion of project) constructed 1950 or later. _____
- Square footage for space standards computation (b+c) _____

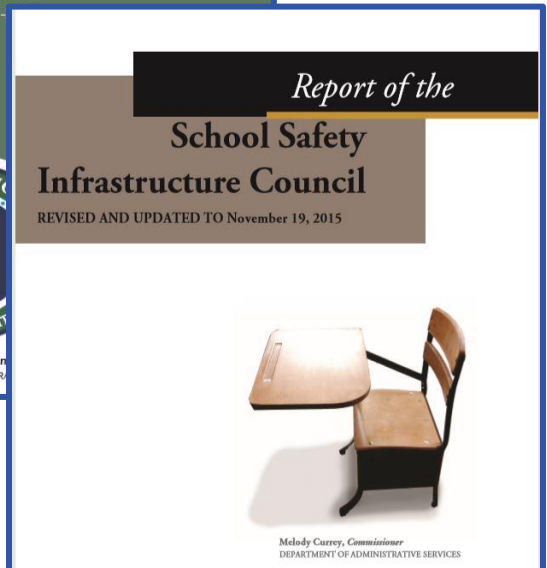
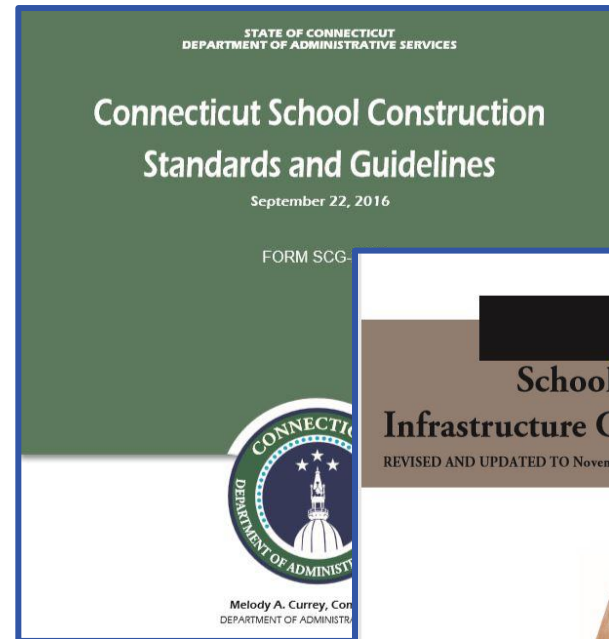
If line 2(e) is greater than line 3(d) there is no grant reduction.

If line 3(d) is greater than line 2(e), divide line 2(e) by line 3(d).

* This factor will be used to reduce total eligible costs because of space in excess of the maximum eligible for reimbursement.

If a project exceeds the standards solely as the result of extraordinary programmatic requirements, the superintendent may submit a request to the Commissioner for a waiver. A detailed list of space allocations for all extraordinary programs with explanations must be included with the request.

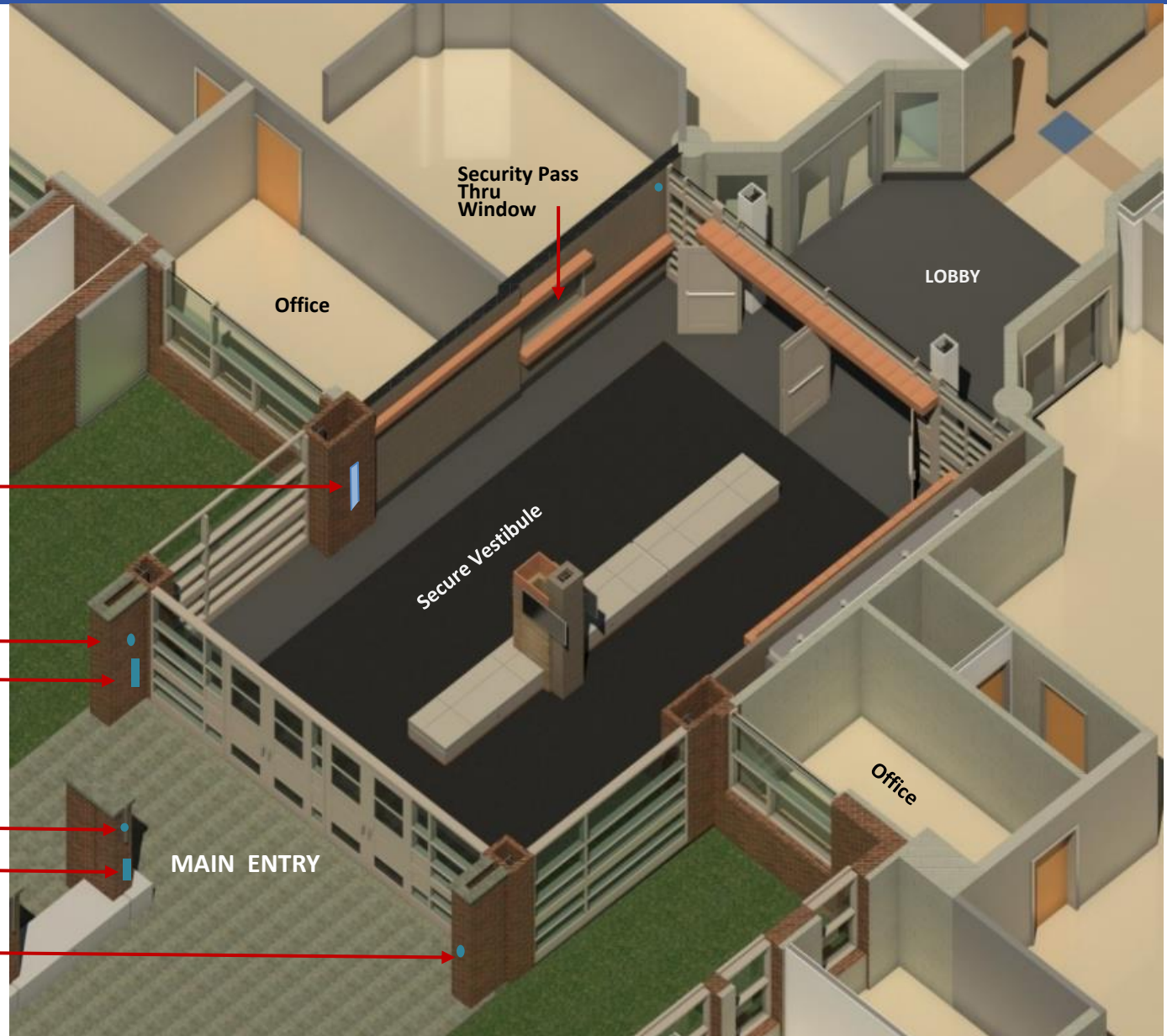
REGION 4 2020 REIMBURSEMENT RATE IS 46.07%



Security Features

SECURITY FEATURES

- ☐ Door & Window Sensors
- ☐ Secure Hardware
- ☐ Glass Break
- ☐ Laminate & Bullet Resistant Glass
- ☐ Motion Sensors
- ☐ Perimeter Door Auto Lockdown
- ☐ Interior & Exterior Cameras
- ☐ Security Stations
- ☐ Interior Corridor Door Lockdown
- ☐ Card Key Access
- ☐ Remote Camera Login
- ☐ Roof Top Camera



Secured
Fire Alarm
Panel

Security
Camera

Knox Box

Security Camera

HC Access

A/V Intercom
System

Office

Security Pass
Thru
Window

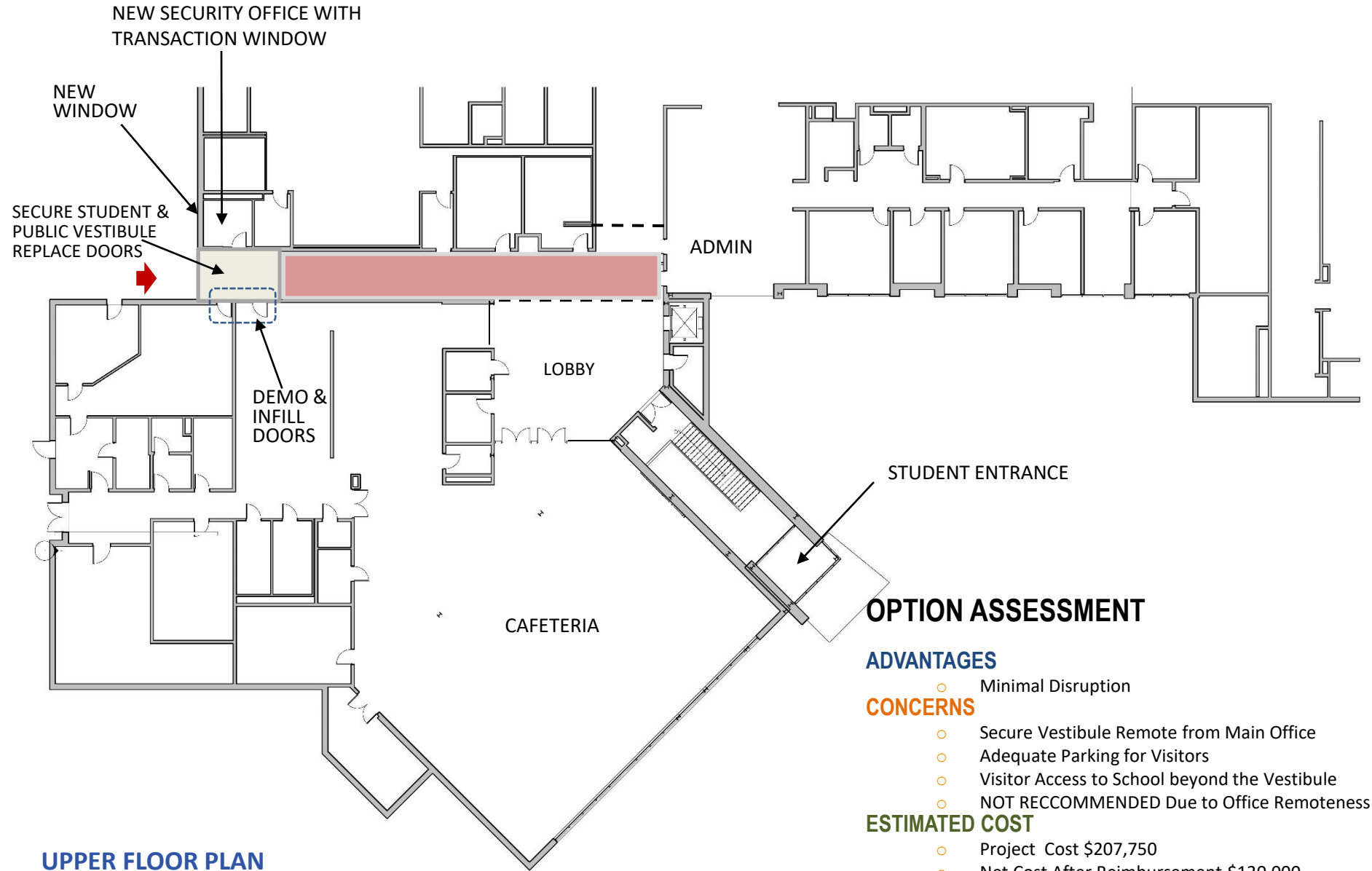
LOBBY

Secure Vestibule

MAIN ENTRY

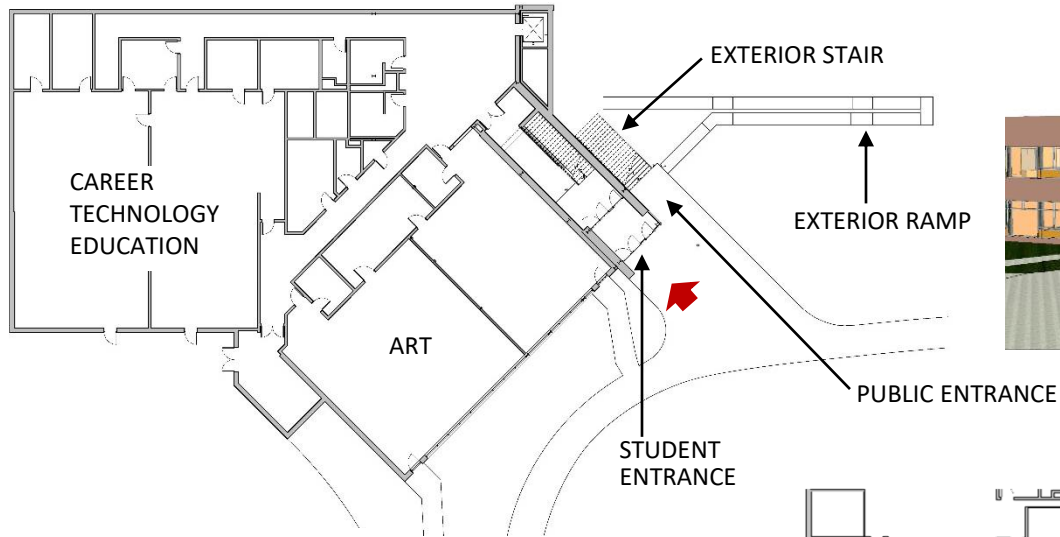
Office

Design Concepts – Option One



UPPER FLOOR PLAN

Design Concepts – Option Two



LOWER FLOOR PLAN

OPTION ASSESSMENT

ADVANTAGES

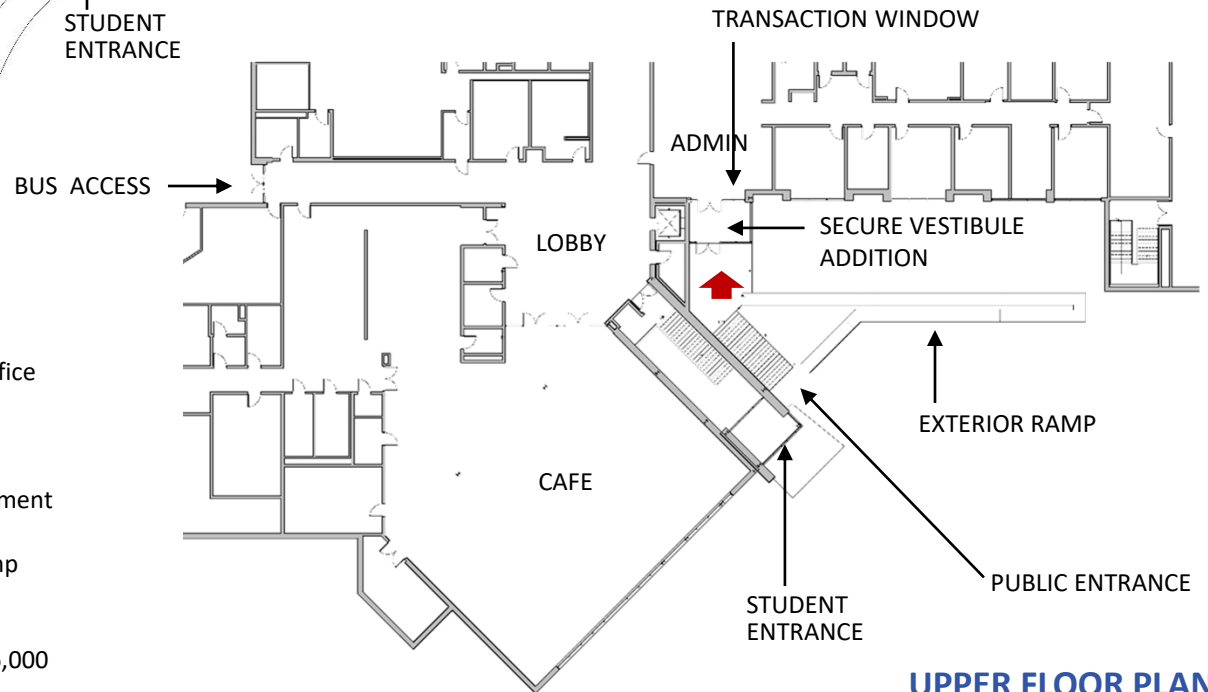
- Secure Vestibule directly to Main Office
- Sight-lines from Main Office
- Limited Disruption

CONCERNS

- Added building Area and Reimbursement
- Elevator Access
- Maintenance of Exterior Stair & Ramp

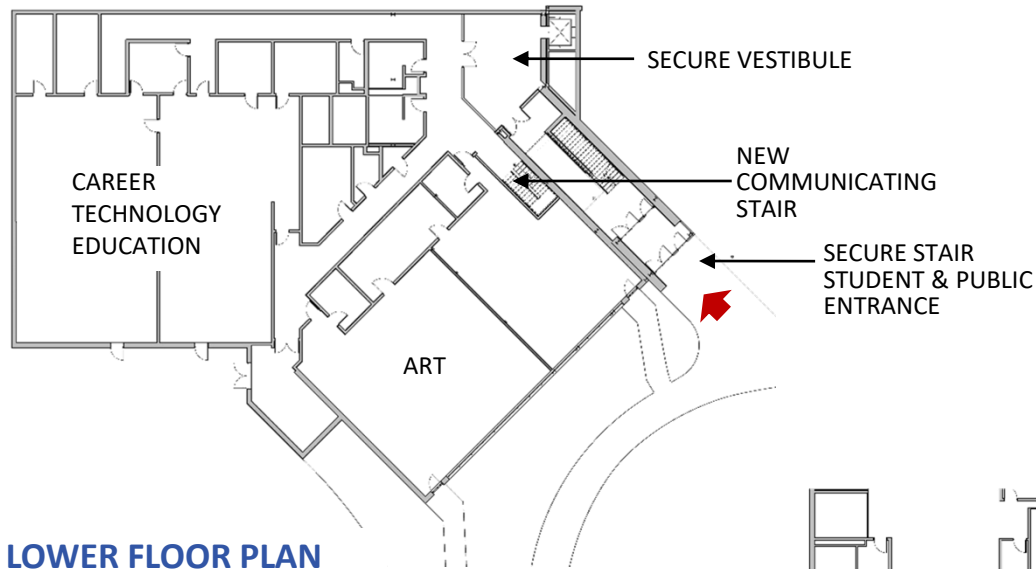
ESTIMATED COST

- Project Cost \$825,000
- Net Cost After Reimbursement \$486,000



UPPER FLOOR PLAN

Design Concepts – Option Three



OPTION ASSESSMENT

ADVANTAGES

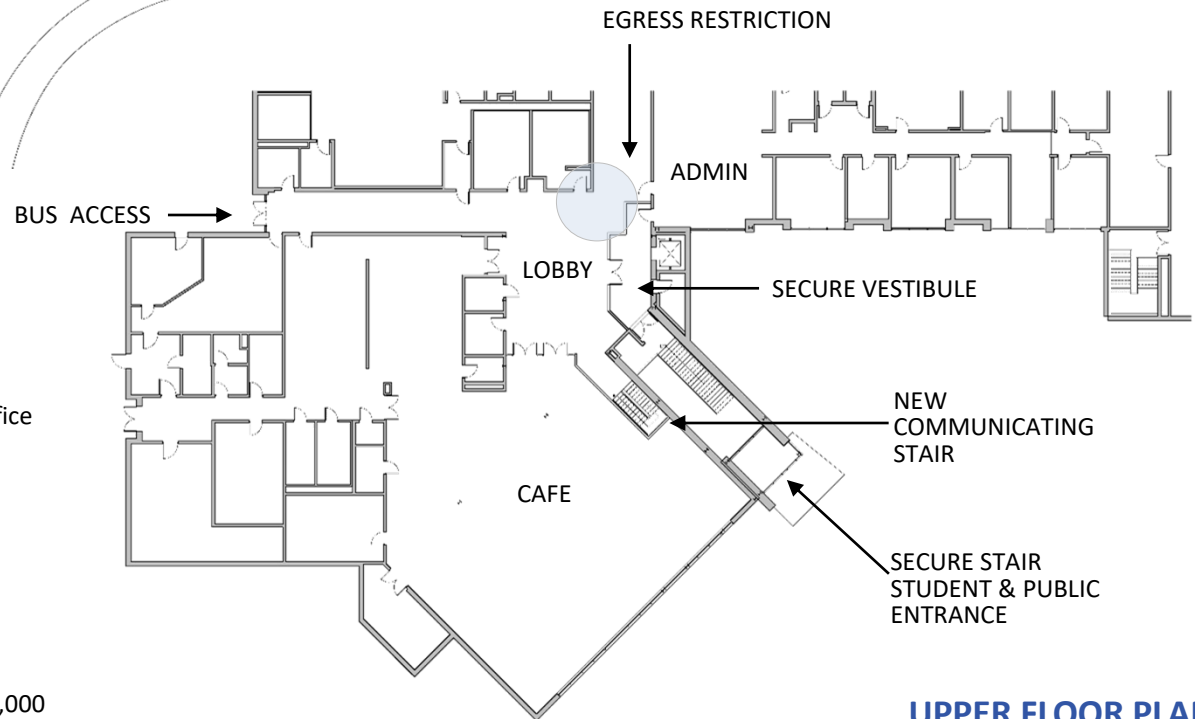
- Secure Vestibule directly to Main Office

CONCERNS

- Egress Restricted
- Elevator Access for Internal Use
- Impact on Cafeteria Space
- Moderate Disruption
- No Transaction Window

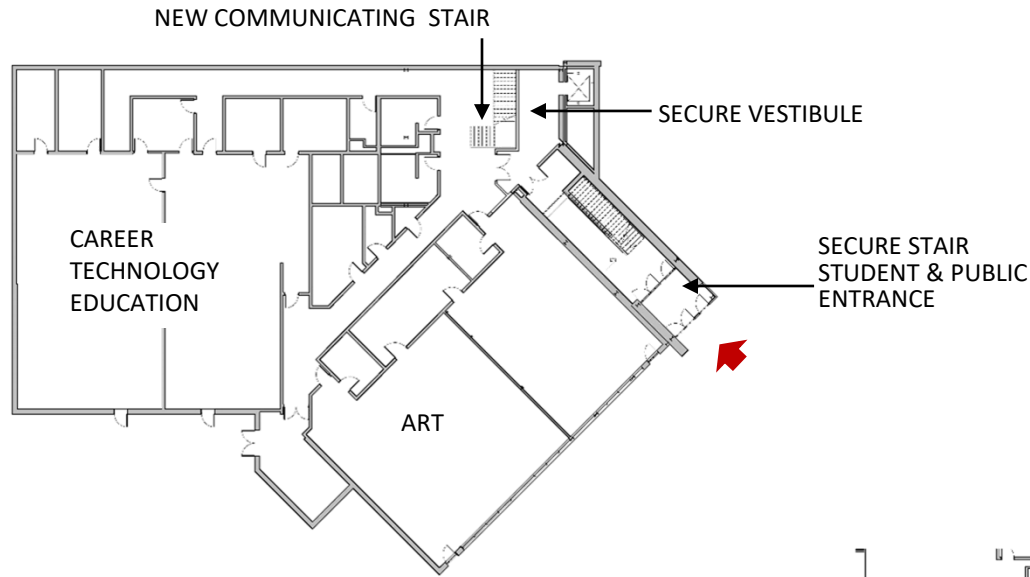
ESTIMATED COST

- Project Cost \$654,000
- Net Cost After Reimbursement \$396,000



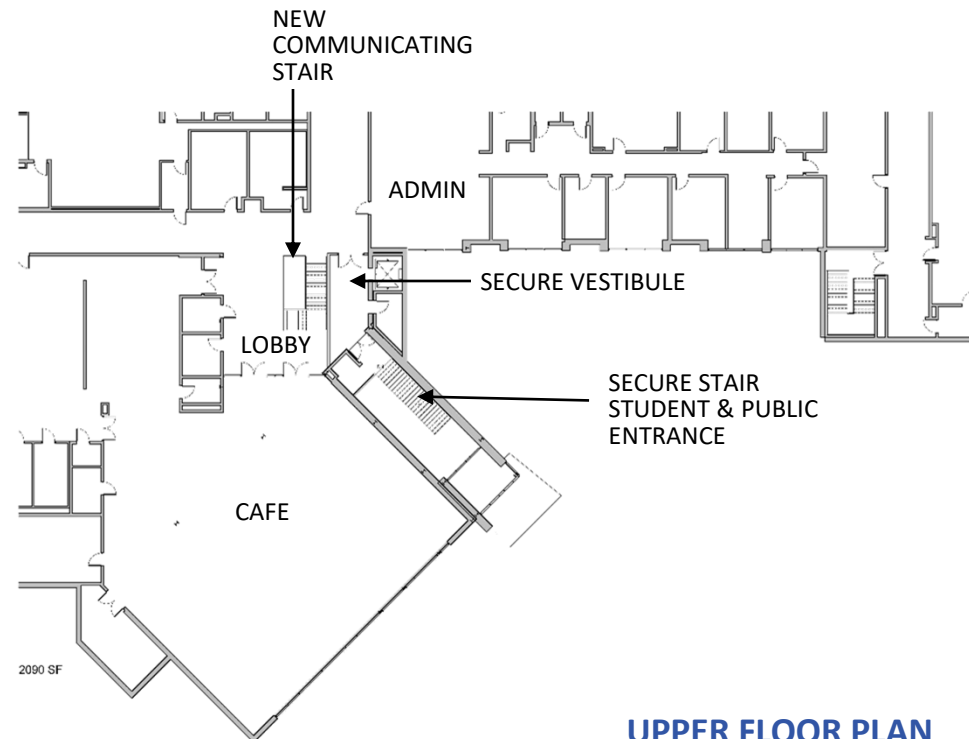
UPPER FLOOR PLAN

Design Concepts – Option Four



LOWER FLOOR PLAN

BUS ACCESS →



UPPER FLOOR PLAN

OPTION ASSESSMENT

ADVANTAGES

- Secure Vestibule Near Main Office

CONCERNS

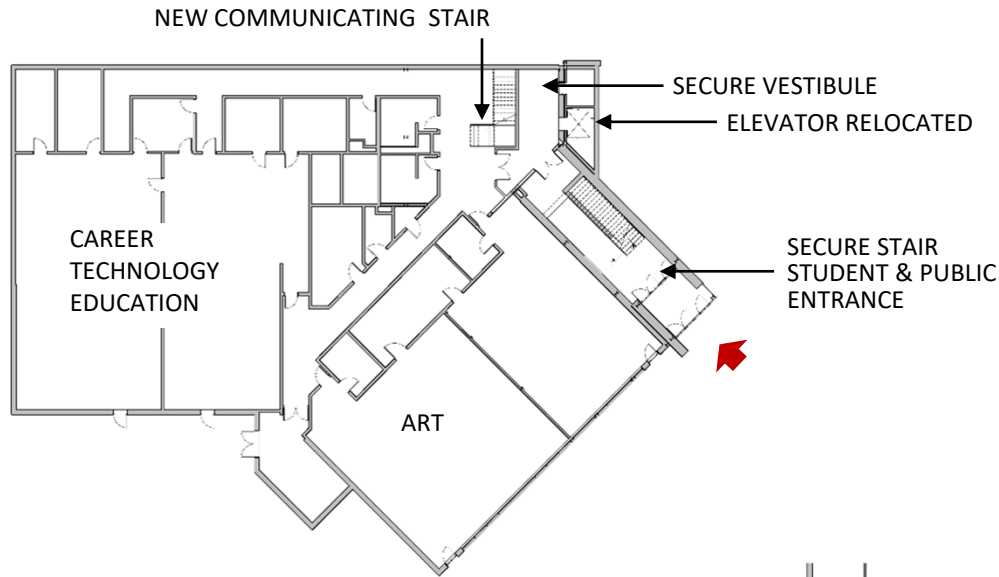
- Moderate Disruption
- Transaction Window
- Elevator Access for Internal Use

ESTIMATED COST

- Project Cost \$654,000
- Net Cost After Reimbursement \$396,000

2090 SF

Design Concepts – Option Five



LOWER FLOOR PLAN

OPTION ASSESSMENT

ADVANTAGES

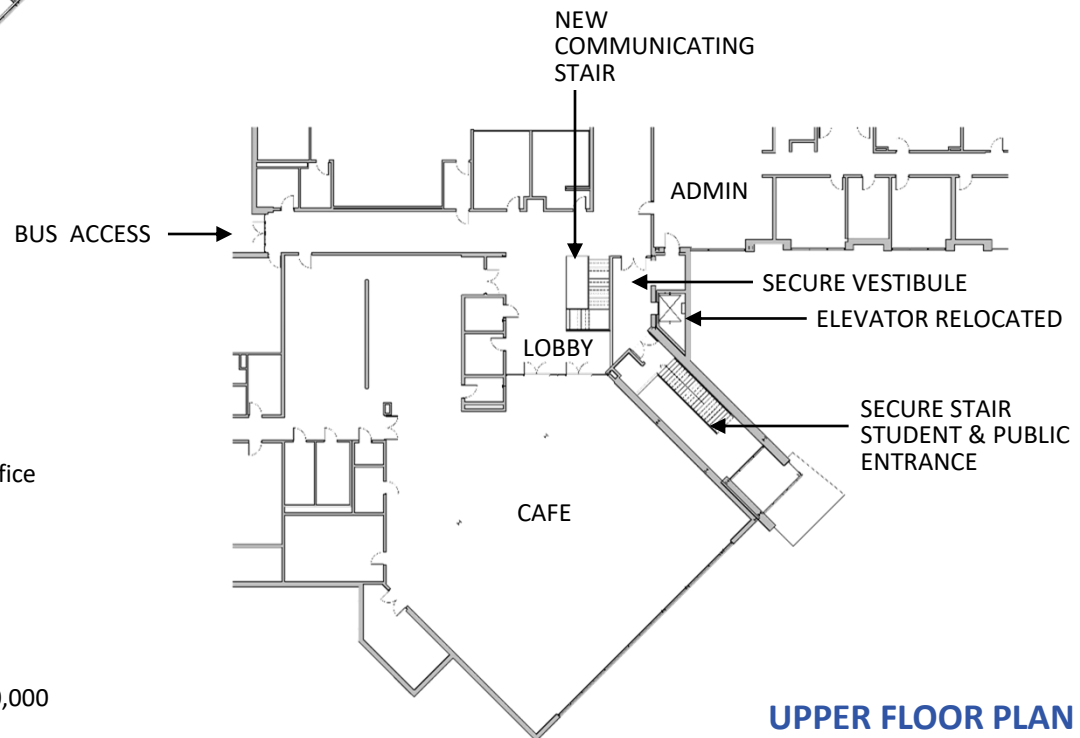
- Secure Vestibule directly to Main Office

CONCERNS

- Relocate Elevator
- Elevator Access for Internal Use
- Moderate Disruption

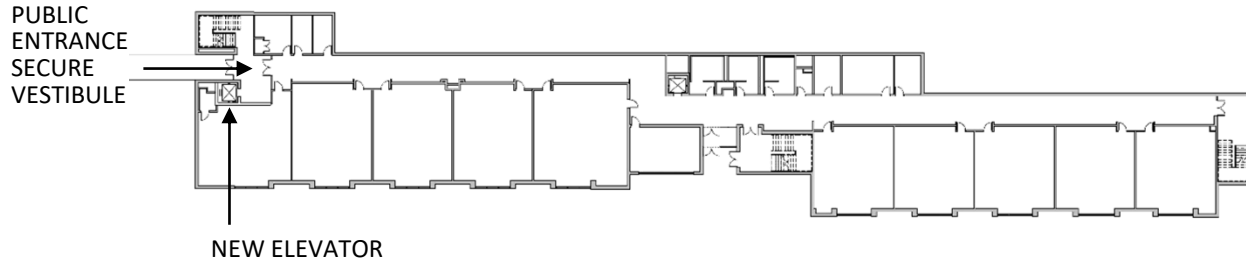
ESTIMATED COST

- Project Cost \$933,000
- Net Cost After Reimbursement \$560,000

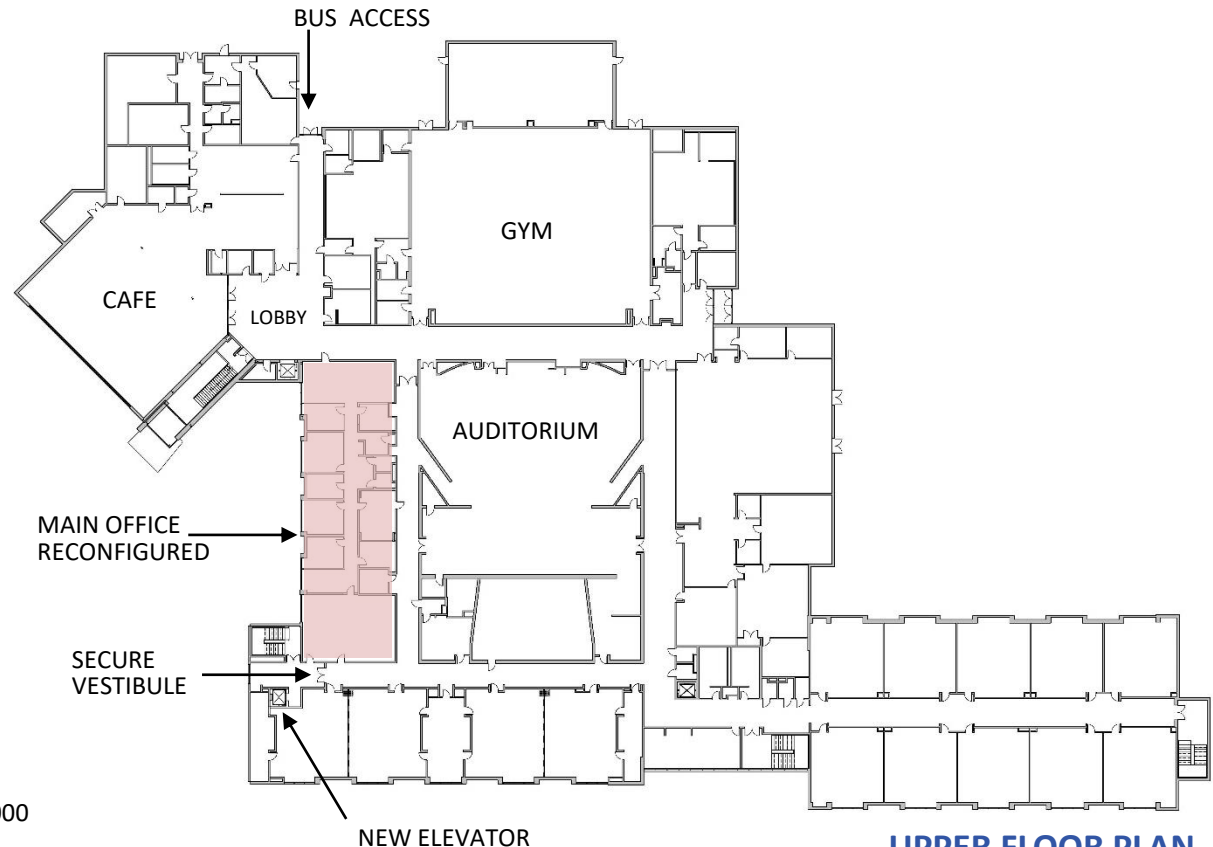


UPPER FLOOR PLAN

Design Concepts – Option Six



LOWER FLOOR PLAN



UPPER FLOOR PLAN

OPTION ASSESSMENT

ADVANTAGES

- Secure Vestibule at Main Office
- Access Controlled by Main office

CONCERNS

- Disruption
- Reconfiguration of Main Office

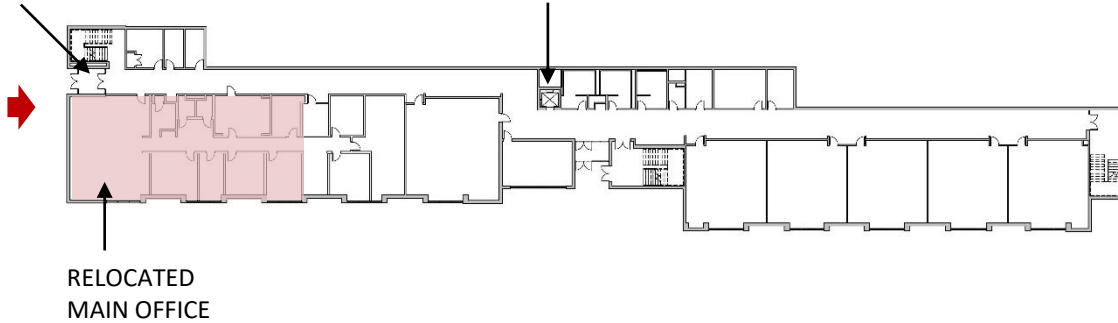
ESTIMATED COST

- Project Cost \$1,307,000
- Net Cost After Reimbursement \$780,000

Design Concepts – Option Seven

PUBLIC
ENTRANCE
SECURE
VESTIBULE

NEW
ELEVATOR



LOWER FLOOR PLAN

OPTION ASSESSMENT

ADVANTAGES

- Secure Vestibule Directly to Main Office

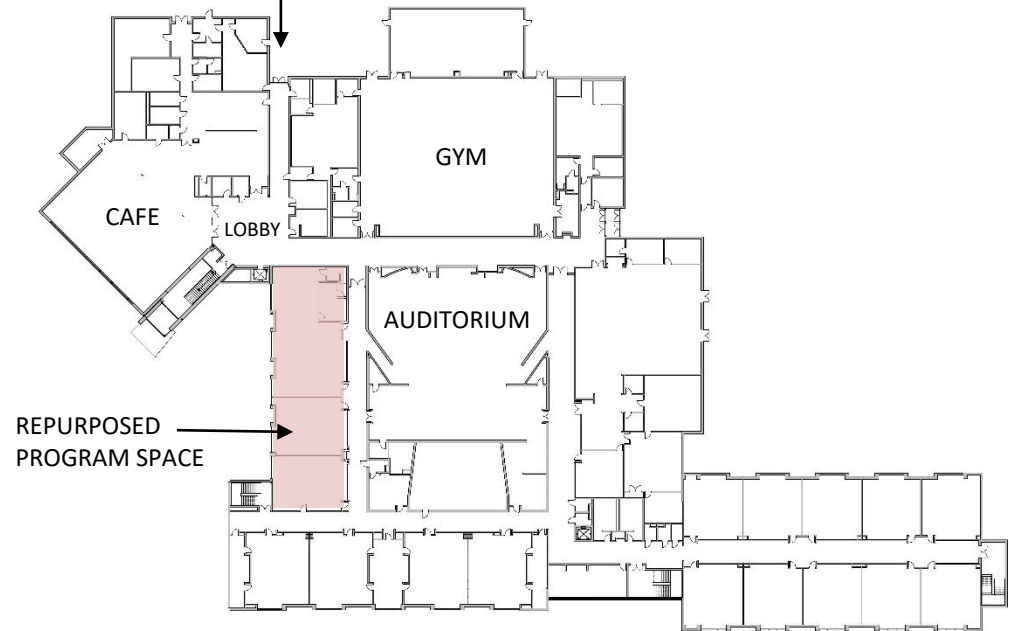
CONCERNS

- Remote Location of Main Office
- Impact on Other Programs
- Moderate Disruption

ESTIMATED COST

- Project Cost \$1,837,000
- Net Cost After Reimbursement \$1,092,000

BUS ACCESS



UPPER FLOOR PLAN



John Winthrop Middle School

Security & ADA Feasibility Study

DISCUSSION



QA+M
architecture

