

Architect Review of Older High Schools

After Nebo School District studied the surveys from the parents and community, it became evident that Nebo District patrons want to rebuild the three older high schools. In order to analyze the feasibility of that request, an outside architecture firm was consulted. The firm looked at a variety of areas and issues that are essential to the function of a modern high school. Following are some of the areas that were analyzed:

Building Infrastructure: Older buildings need to be upgraded in the following areas in order to meet requirements of new codes and technology such as electrical, communication and data integration systems, and HVAC.

Energy Code Compliance: Exterior walls do not have adequate insulation to meet current energy codes. Exterior walls would need to be framed out for the proper insulation to be added.

Locker Rooms: Locker facilities are inadequate and in need of extensive repair. Showers need individual partitions and ADA access issues need to be addressed.

Fire Sprinkling Protection: Sprinkling systems need to be installed at the high schools.

Parking and Site Issues: Existing older high schools need additional parking. ADA handicap access and ramp upgrades need to be completed.

Restrooms: Restrooms need to be modernized and updated for accessibility.

Security: Campuses with multiple buildings are difficult to secure in the event of a crisis. Older buildings were not designed for secure building access. Other areas that would need to be updated are security cameras, safety glass, emergency notification systems, and additional security infrastructure.

Seismic Issues: Seismic requirements were not designed or enforced prior to 1975. In order for the older high schools to meet current seismic standards, significant structural reinforcements will be needed.

Theater System Safety: The theatrical rigging system is over 50 years old and would need to be replaced. Sound and lighting upgrades are also needed.

Ventilation Systems: In order to bring the air quality up to current standards, the ventilation system would need to be replaced.

Miscellaneous Information

21 Century Teaching Methods: Classrooms and special programs will need new technology upgrades.

Building System Upgrades: Upgrades to an existing high school are expensive and may exceed the cost of new construction.

Outdated: The three older high schools were all built in the early to mid 1960's. Typically schools built in America, during this time, were constructed of less durable materials which cause an increase in costs and maintenance to roofing, heating, air conditioning, insulation, electrical, etc.

School Construction: Schools are difficult to renovate, remodel, and upgrade while students occupy the facility. Renovating requires several phases, more construction time, and increased expense. Installation of new systems such as fire sprinklers, HVAC, technology, etc. throughout an existing facility is difficult and costly. Construction of a new high school on the same site as the existing high school has less impact on students, requires fewer phases, less construction time, and less expensive than a renovation.

Summary: In Nebo School District, an existing high school renovation is not a good value for the dollars expended compared to new construction. New construction will meet educational needs with lower building costs and shorter construction times.