

Brunswick School Department Overview of the Facilities and New School Timeline

March 25, 2017

October 2011 – Hired Harriman Architects for Phase I of Facilities Master Plan Study

- Primary Goal: Provide an assessment of the existing facilities to guide future renovations, additions, reconfigurations, and maintenance of those facilities.
- Task 1: Evaluate elementary schools
- Task 2: Evaluate possible consolidation and relocation of central offices and bus garage
- Task 3: Evaluate Junior High School and High School
- Task 4: Prepare Final Report

Harriman presented three basic options:

- Option 1: Reopen Jordan Acres
Coffin and Jordan Acres become K-2 schools
Stowe reverts to grades 3-5 as originally designed

- Option 2: Reopen Jordan Acres as a Kindergarten only school
Coffin becomes a grade 1-2 school
Stowe reverts to grades 3-5 as originally designed

- Option 3: Jordan Acres is closed permanently
Coffin is expanded and becomes a grade K-2 school
Stowe reverts to grades 3-5 as originally designed

August 2012 – Hired PDT Architects For Phase II of the Facilities Master Plan Study

Phase II has five parts:

- I. Analytical Review of the sites and buildings under consideration
- II. Develop detailed program requirements for space needs and furnishings as well as equipment needs for a project
- III. Floor plan diagrams
- IV. New site plan drawings that resolve site inadequacies
- V. General cost estimates reflecting the facility analysis and building diagrams

Pivotal meetings:

March 6, 2013

- **Tour of Coffin Elementary School, Bus Garage and Brunswick Jr. High – led by PDT**
- **Update: Facilities Master Plan – PDT Architects**
Presented options for renovations to Coffin, BJHS, and the bus garage, including cost summaries that outlined “light touch” renovation and “major” renovation options
- **Question and Answer Opportunity**

Pivotal meetings:

May 29, 2013

- **Report and discussion concerning building a new junior high school - PDT**
- **Bonding options – John Eldridge**
- **Bus garage options**

Pivotal meetings:

June 26, 2013

- **Renovation costs and expected enrollment increases prompted Board to explore new construction (660 student pre-K – 2 school) and to put Coffin replacement as top priority**
- **Plan to address the Junior High School in 3-5 years time**

Thoughts on new construction at JA vs. renovation:

- ❖ Better long term value given the expected +20-30 years of life expectancy and improved energy efficiency
- ❖ Construction off-site, away from students = less disruption
- ❖ It opens up space for both our K-2 and junior high compared to expanding at the Columbia site
- ❖ No immediate need to move/renovate bus garage

Pivotal meetings:

October 9, 2013

- **PDT presented initial mock-up of new school on JA site**

November 20, 2013

- **PDT presented four designs for new school on JA site**

December 11, 2013

- **Board tabled vote on using JA site for new school**

Pivotal meetings:

January 29, 2014

- **Review by PDT**
- **Public forum – questions and answers from public**

The School Board based on the response from the public on January, 29, 2014 regrouped. In September of 2014 PDT provided the Board six different options for housing students in grades Pre-K – 8. The options ranged from repairs to new building.

Over the next year the School Board held numerous meetings and forums and decided to move forward with a repair project for Coffin and the Junior High School. It also included 12 portable units for Coffin School so that we could begin Preschool and move the second grade from Harriet Beecher Stowe School.

The plan was presented to the Town Council on August 3, 2015 and was not well received. The request from the Council was to go back and look at the possibility of a new school.

On September 23, 2015 a joint meeting of the Town Council and School Board was held to review the timetable on a decision of the scope and sequence of the next proposal.

The School Board held 13 meetings of the Facilities Committee from October 20, 2015 to November 1, 2016.

Public Forums

The School Board held public forums about the Facilities Master Plan on:

January 7, 2016

March 19, 2016

April 13, 2016

October 1, 2016 (Jordan Acres Neighborhood)

October 19, 2016

On January 17, 2017 there was a public forum held by the Town Council.

Board Options

The School Board researched options to renovate and repair Coffin and BJHS as well as build a new elementary school on the Jordan Acres site.

Public Response

The feedback from public forums and the meetings was in favor of building a new elementary school on the Jordan Acres site and renovating BJHS. Several Town Councilors also verbalized their support.

New School Design

The School Board considered many different options for the new elementary school, reducing costs when possible before voting on the final plan. On February 1, 2017 the School Board voiced that their priority in the facilities project was to build a new elementary school.

Coffin Utilization

Coffin School will be utilized through-out the building process possibly including use by the Junior High during the repair process. Before the projects are complete the School Board will either raze it, turn it over to the Town, or determine other alternatives, such as housing the Central Office, before-and-after-school programs, alternative education programs, the district food service program and recreation programs. If the Central Office moves Hawthorne could be turned over to the Town.

DOE Applications

The School Department will be submitting two applications, one for Coffin and one for BJHS, to the Department of Education for the next Major Capital Improvement Cycle. They are due on April 14, 2017. The DOE will conduct site visits throughout the state and rate each application. Their goal for announcing the awards for new projects is June 2018.