



Case File No. 17-0051 Blaine High School



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Blaine High School Additions and Remodeling Planning Narrative

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Project Background:

In 2016, Anoka Hennepin School District organized the Anoka-Hennepin Fit for the Future Task Force, including engaged parents, community members and school district staff. Their charge was to study the needs of school facilities both now and in the future. The task force met for many months and developed a series of recommendations based on the information gathered through numerous sources.

One of the primary concerns of the task force was the continued safety of all students. To this end, removal of portable classrooms was identified as a high priority. Although the school district has worked hard to eliminate portable classrooms at Blaine High School, ten portable classrooms remain.

Blaine High School was constructed in 1972, and an addition was built in 1991. With the success of the Center for Engineering, Mathematics and Science program, plus growth in the community and the changing needs of students over the past 45 years, the school population has stretched the facility beyond its practical capacity.

In November, 2017 voters approved a referendum enabling the school district to upgrade facilities throughout the district. Blaine High School was selected for construction of multiple additions in the first phase of projects because of the acute needs.

Architecture:

The project will be constructed in two phases, beginning in 2018. Phase 1 will include 15 new classrooms and additional cafeteria space, allowing for removal of the portable classrooms. Both additions are on the rear (east) side of the building.

Phase 2 will be constructed after completion of the first phase, and will include new classrooms, a new gymnasium and administrative offices. This addition will be positioned at the southwest corner of the building, creating a new image for people arriving from University Avenue.

The exterior design will be compatible with the existing facility, bringing a fresh image to the older structure. The warm grey brick color has been selected to complement the original concrete exterior as it has aged over the decades. New windows reflect the original vertical proportions but are more gracious in width, allowing more natural light and a more welcoming image. By complementing the original architecture, the new construction will be an enhancement to the existing, rather than acting as a completely different building with little connection to the original structure.

Signage:

There are two major entry points for the remodeled facility. The main entrance is used by thousands of students, staff and visitors on a daily basis. The field house entrance will be the primary entry/exit point after the normal school day. Identification signage will be provided at both locations to quickly and effectively guide visitors to the correct entry based on their need.

Anoka Hennepin Schools is excited to enhance and improve this important local facility, continuing a tradition of excellence and leadership for this thriving community.























