

APPROVED

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EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

Fairfield Woods Middle School

Fairfield Public Schools

Fairfield, CT 06825

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Fairfield Woods Middle School Educational Specifications, 840 Capacity

RATIONALE FOR THE PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

On June 24, 2008 the Fairfield Board of Education adopted the Fairfield Public Schools Long Range Facilities Plan. This plan represents the board's recommendations to meet increasing enrollments while providing appropriate learning environments. The renovation of Fairfield Woods Middle School is a major recommendation for space for our increasing middle school student enrollment. Projections of middle school student enrollments show the need for an additional 497 permanent seats in the year 2016. This is based on an average 85% utilization rate requiring 2,722 seats, for a projected enrollment of 2,314 students and a capacity presently of 2,225 seats. To accommodate the need for additional seats, the Long Range Facilities Plan calls for the addition of 12 classrooms and an auditorium to Fairfield Woods Middle School.

ENROLLMENT:

Between 1998 and 2008, the number of middle school students has increased from approximately 1,713 students to over 2,264. This represents an increase of over 550 students or 32.1% growth. This growth pattern has been documented in a number of facility reports and student enrollment studies. Applied Data Services has completed 10 year enrollment projections by school that project an increase to about 2,575 students in 2012-13. The study shows the enrollment will level off at about 2,300 students from 2015 and beyond. Applied Data Services will complete new projections based on the most recent figures. An important factor in projecting enrollment is the number of children born to Fairfield families each year. Historically, approximately the same number of children enter Fairfield's kindergartens each year as the number of children who were born to Fairfield families five years before. However, most recently in-migration has increased this to about 105% of the children born to Fairfield families that enter kindergarten five years later. This is a significant change in the demographic pattern.

CAPACITY:

The Fairfield Public Schools currently have three middle schools. The Fairfield Public Schools Long Range Facilities Plan indicates that the total capacity of Fairfield's middle schools is 2,225 students. The actual average class size over the past several years has been close to 21 students.

In developing middle school capacity ratings, the team concept dedicates full size classrooms to English/language arts, math, science, social studies and world language in addition to dedicated full size classrooms to the related arts areas of physical education, art, music, technology, family and consumer science, reading and health. Smaller classrooms are required for support services in the areas of special education, speech and language, counseling and psychological services.

LONG RANGE EDUCATIONAL PLAN:

On August 27, 2004 and September 23, 2008 the Fairfield Board of Education approved the following policies which explain the long range educational plan of the district.

Missions, Goals, Objectives

Policy Number 0100

Fairfield Public Schools' Mission

The mission of the Fairfield Public Schools is to inspire students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be life-long learners, responsible citizens and successful participants in an ever-changing global society by providing, in partnership with families and community, a comprehensive, rigorous educational program.

BELIEFS

- We believe all individuals can learn.
- We believe high expectations drive high achievement.
- We believe family and community, in partnership, play an essential role in the development and education of a child.
- We believe kindness, respect and compassion enhance life and improve performance.
- We believe that growth occurs when independent thinking, creativity and appropriate risk taking are encouraged.
- We believe valuing and nurturing diversity promotes learning.
- We believe everyone has the ability and responsibility to make a positive difference.
- We believe that positive self image is built through high expectations, honesty and accomplishments.
- We believe that knowledge and skills acquired should be relevant and adaptable for life long learning.
- We believe all students should have equitable access to educational opportunities.
- We believe in promoting a healthy life.
- We believe that collaboration and commitment promote the common good.

LONG-TERM GOAL

Policy Number 0110

Sustain the continuing improvement of the Fairfield Public Schools so that they will continue to rank with the best in the nation.

Preamble

The ultimate goal of a school system is to promote the positive development of students so they can be productive members and shapers of a democratic society. Toward this end, the Board of Education and staff of the Fairfield Public Schools are committed to make all reasonable efforts to create an environment that will help each student achieve the goals listed below.

Goal One: Motivation to Learn

Students will adopt the high expectations of their parent or guardian, teachers, and society. Fairfield Public School students will:

- develop a personal identity;
- develop self-understanding and a positive self-concept;
- understand and strive to fulfill their own personal aspirations;
- develop positive feelings of self-worth and pride which contribute to self-reliance, responsible behavior, and personal growth, health, and safety;
- demonstrate strong motivational and persistence to learn;
- exhibit an inquisitive attitude, open-mindedness, and curiosity; and
- take responsibility for their own learning.

Goal Two: Mastery of the Basic Skills

Proficiency in the basic skills is essential for acquiring knowledge and for lifelong success in our society. Fairfield Public School students will:

- learn to communicate effectively in speech and writing;
- listen, view, and read with understanding;
- acquire knowledge of and ability in mathematics;
- demonstrate skills necessary to locate and use information effectively;
- demonstrate decision-making, reasoning, and problem-solving skills alone and in groups;
- demonstrate appropriate study skills; and
- acquire skills necessary for lifelong learning.

Goal Three: Acquisition of Knowledge

Acquiring knowledge leads to an educated mind and contributes to responsible citizenship. Fairfield Public School students will:

- acquire the knowledge of science and technology, mathematics, language arts, history, social science, the visual and performing arts, and literature and foreign languages and understand connections among these disciplines;
- acquire the knowledge necessary to use computers and other technologies for learning and problem solving;
- acquire an understanding and appreciation of the values and the intellectual and artistic achievement of their culture and other cultures; and
- take full advantage of opportunities to explore, develop, and express their own uniqueness, creativity, and flexibility in thinking.

Goal Four: Competence in Life Skills

Students will ultimately function successfully in multiple roles, - as citizens, family members, parents, workers, and consumers. Fairfield Public School students will:

- demonstrate an ability to make informed career choices;
- understand the responsibilities of family membership and parenthood;
- demonstrate the ability to undertake the responsibilities of citizenship in their communities, in the state, in the nation, and in the world;
- understand human growth and development and the lifelong value of physical fitness;
- understand the concept of wellness, and apply the basic elements of proper nutrition, avoidance of substance abuse, prevention and treatment of illness, and management of stress;
- understand and develop personal goals and aspirations;
- upon completion of a secondary-level program, be qualified to enter post-secondary education and/or demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and competence required for success in meaningful employment; and
- recognize the importance of social and emotional growth as it relates to lifelong happiness.

Goal Five: Understanding Society's Values

Students, as responsible citizens, will be aware of how they can enrich the world and how the world can enrich them. Fairfield Public School students will:

- respect diversity;
- understand the inherent strengths and weaknesses of a pluralistic society;
- understand justice, and recognize the necessity for moral and ethical conduct in society;
- understand and respond to the vital need for order under law;
- acquire the knowledge to live in harmony with the environment, and actively practice conservation of natural resources;
- respect the humanity they share with other people, and live in harmony with and demonstrate empathy for others;
- acquire and apply an understanding of and sensitivity for the values and achievements of their own culture and other cultures;
- show understanding of international issues which affect life on our planet, and demonstrate skills needed to participate in a global society;
- contribute to the health of the community through service activities, and look objectively at social institutions and consider how these institutions can best serve society.

LEARNING/EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

EDUCATIONAL SPACE REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY:

Learning Activities

Learning activities are carried out using the Middle School Model. Students are generally grouped in teams with a maximum of 110 students with four teachers who are responsible for core subjects. However, other team arrangements such as two teacher and three teacher teams are also common configurations. The classes on each team are instructed in classrooms which are physically adjacent to each other.

Academic Classrooms

Grade 6

- Projected maximum enrollment 280 students
- Four teams of three teachers
- 15 classrooms
- Eight standard classrooms for the teaching of English/language arts, mathematics, and social studies (± 750 SF)
- Four science classrooms with sinks and storage space for science materials ($\pm 1,000$ SF)
- Three special education resource rooms (± 500 SF)

Grade 7

- Projected maximum enrollment 280 students
- Three full teams of ± 95 students
- 19 classrooms
- Three English/language arts classrooms (± 750 SF)
- Three mathematics classrooms (± 750 SF)
- Three science laboratory classrooms with lab preparation and storage space ($\pm 1,200$ SF)
- Three social studies classrooms (± 750 SF)
- Three world language classrooms (± 750 SF)
- One reading classroom (± 750 SF)
- Three special education resource rooms (± 500 SF)

Grade 8

- Projected maximum enrollment 280 students
- Three full teams of ± 95 students
- 19 classrooms
- Three English/language arts classrooms (± 750 SF)
- Three mathematics classrooms (± 750 SF)
- Three science laboratory classrooms with lab preparation and storage space ($\pm 1,200$ SF)
- Three social studies classrooms (± 750 SF)
- Three world language classrooms (± 750 SF)
- One reading classroom (± 750 SF)
- Three special education resource rooms (± 500 SF)

Unified Arts and Other Instructional Space

- Three computer lab classrooms ($\pm 1,000$ SF)
- Two art classrooms with suitable storage ($\pm 1,200$ SF)
- Two kiln rooms with proper ventilation (± 200 SF)
- One food lab classroom with suitable storage ($\pm 1,400$ SF)
- One textile classroom with suitable storage ($\pm 1,400$ SF)
- Two applied technology classrooms with suitable storage ($\pm 1,400$ SF)
- Two health classrooms (± 750 SF)
- Music complex (Three large tiered rehearsal areas for band, orchestra and chorus $\pm 1,200$ SF. Small group practice rooms ± 200 SF, music staff office, one keyboard lab ± 750 SF, musical instrument storage ± 350 SF and music library storage ± 150 SF)
- Four physical education teaching stations (large gym with seating for 900 $\pm 10,000$ SF, auxiliary gym $\pm 3,000$ SF, Project Adventure room $\pm 1,500$ SF, fitness center $\pm 1,500$ SF, appropriate locker rooms, lockers, two physical education offices and storage areas)
- Auditorium (capacity 600 $\pm 12,000$ SF) for the purpose of providing common space for large group curricular and support programs, such as advisory guidance programs, multi-media presentations, anti-bullying programs, team meetings, parent programs, PTSA meetings, transition meetings, orientation, awards presentation, guest speakers, Internet safety programs, drug/alcohol awareness programs, etc. as well as a performance space for band, orchestra, chorus, Madrigals, drama club, dance team, and drill team.

Field Spaces

- Soccer, softball, field hockey, outdoor Project Adventure space and general activity field space

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Cafeteria with three serving lines and eating facilities for 290 students for each of three shifts
- Modern food service kitchen with sufficient refrigerator and freezer space for bulk food storage
- Adequate storage space throughout the building for all programs and support activities
- Loading dock and dedicated storage area for delivery and storage of instructional materials
- Custodial supply storage and work area plus satellite custodial spaces across the building

MAIN OFFICE AREA & SUPPORT SERVICES:

- Space for support facilities required for middle school education (e.g., copy room, work space, PTSA storage closet)
- One English as a Second Language classroom for all grades for English Language Learners (\pm 500 SF)
- One classroom area designated for Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy (\pm 750 SF)
- Library Media Center (\pm 4,500 SF) with wiring for 25 computers, shelving for print collections, seating for 125, production room (capacity 15), office, seminar room (capacity 40) and storage area
- Team assembly area (capacity 125)
- Three team faculty areas (one per grade)
- Faculty dining room (seating for 30)
- Administrative offices (principal, assistant principal, one dean, one flex office)
- Central secretarial and reception area (three secretaries)
- Administrative conference room (capacity 15)
- Main office area copy/mail/work room
- Three small instructional areas: reading/language arts, speech and language, tutor (\pm 500 SF)
- Internal suspension room (\pm 500 SF)
- Counseling complex (four counselor offices, one psychologist office, one social worker, conference space to meet with parents and conduct PPT's, storage space for cumulative files and reception area)
- Health room (handicapped-accessible toilet, examination area, three private patient spaces and school nurse office area). Spaces to be determined in consultation with the Health Department.
- Custodial office
- Technology office with storage and counter for repairs

TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE:

- An essential component of this project is to provide electronic access to every segment of the building. All instructional areas, support facilities and areas of assembly should be provided with local and wide-area networks, cable TV connectivity and internal broadcast capability.
- All wiring to be CAT 6 or better and certified. Each patch panel and jack to be labeled with location and position identifiers. Coaxial cable for Cable TV connectivity distributed and amplified to all academic and meeting spaces.
- Each classroom to have ceiling or wall mounted power and infrastructure to support multimedia projection.
- Technology Network Space – server room, wiring closets, dedicated area for head-end equipment including extended demarcation points to the server room for all external connections. (Also see INTERIOR BUILDING ENVIRONMENT – Interior Spaces).
- Investigating appropriate infrastructure based on technology long-range plan as adopted by the Board of Education (to include wireless capabilities).

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT AND PROPOSED CAPACITY:

FAIRFIELD WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL	YEAR									
	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12*	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
Projected Enrollment	605	673	673	700	676	668	655	621	612	595
Estimated Projected Enrollment*	605	673	673	886	896	877	872	813	805	785
Present Capacity	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650
Proposed Capacity	650	650	650	840	840	840	840	840	840	840

*Note: An estimated projected enrollment is made based on the capacity of the other two middle schools (RLMS 875+ TMS 700 + Proposed FWMS 840 = 2,415 students) and with a proportion (34.8%) assigned to FWMS based on a realignment of the elementary feeder schools.

BUILDING SYSTEMS:

Envelope

- Windows shall be replaced per district standard while maintaining the architectural integrity of the building.
- Roofing systems shall be multi-ply systems (no single membrane systems) 20 year warranty.
- Exterior envelope materials shall be consistent and compatible with the existing building façade materials in size, shape, color and texture.
- Construction details of exterior elements shall be consistent and compatible with the existing building façade details.

Security/Safety

- Reliable internal and external communication should be available between/among all areas of the facility to the degree consistent with safety and security plans
- Electronic security should be provided which shall include video cameras (interior and exterior) and DVR recording devices with remote viewing capabilities (via a secure computer network)
- Door hardware – district standards – Schlage/Von Duprin/LCN
- Exterior doors to have continuous hinges
- Interior doors in high traffic areas to have continuous hinges (e.g., stairwells, locker rooms, etc.)
- Locks – Everest Keyway – key into existing building system – master key facility (new and old locks)
- Doors – narrow vision lites (for restricted line of sight into classroom during lockdowns)
- Primary entrance into the building shall be focused to sign-in location (minimize or eliminate options)
- Primary entrance into the building shall be pre-wired for intercom/camera and remote door release
- Exterior doors used by staff and students for exterior functions shall have CM (computer managed) access control locks by Locknetics
- Evacuation signage with directional maps
- Provide adequate site lighting
- Protective window covering at locations subject to damage

Code

- UFAS/ADA review to be part of design for entire building and site
- Abate any hazardous material – encapsulation is not acceptable
- ILSM – Interim Life Safety Measures for working in an occupied building

INTERIOR BUILDING ENVIRONMENT:

Mechanical Systems

- Separate independent commissioning of building systems per CGS 16a-38k
- Mechanical Electrical Plumbing (MEP) systems to include air flow balancing contractor hired directly by the building committee and reporting directly to the building committee and the Board of Education.
- Lighting fixtures – standard type(s), ease of maintenance, coordinated with presentation stations
- Boilers shall be capable of dual-fuel operation (oil/gas)
- Deletion of existing building management controls only with specific approval of the district
- Low voltage systems to be designed to district standards
- Proper shutoff and backflow valves located to provide easy and quick access

Interior Spaces

- Ceiling systems – standard sizes 2x2 or 2x4, standard files, wide grids 9/16", no strange patterns, consistent choices
- Millwork – solid surface countertops/plastic laminate cabinets/wire pull handles/euro-hinges
- Flooring – carpet in office areas and LMC only, VCT or other easily mopped finish in classrooms, corridors, etc.
- Review the need for magnetic hold-open devices throughout the building
- Storage/Maintenance requirements need to be reviewed for the entire facility
 - Storage for grounds – gasoline storage, snow blower, lawn mower, etc.
 - Storage for office and curriculum – office supplies, art supplies, gym equipment, music equipment, PTA, etc.
 - Custodian – office space with desk and computer, breakroom, appropriately sized space in each area (floor) for daily maintenance equipment and supplies
- Accessible toilet rooms to meet district standards
- MDF/IDF room with temperature control and alarms
- Kitchen update – review equipment (size, condition, etc.), storage space, serving line, etc.
- FF&E – lockers, SmartBoards, desks, chairs, library books, gym equipment & mats, room-darkening shades, wall pads in gym, adjustable basketball hoops, etc, as determined by a survey of existing FF&E
- Drinking fountains – update to UFAS/ADA throughout

SITE DEVELOPMENT:

- Exterior traffic patterns:
 - Bus drop off to be large enough for expected bus queue (separate from parent drop off)
 - Parent drop off reconfiguration (if required by placement of new addition)
 - Additional parking area for staff
- Site drainage review and upgrade
- Review condition of all site constructions (retaining walls, curbs and sidewalks, pavement, soccer field, etc.)

CONSTRUCTION BONUS REQUESTS:

Fairfield Woods Middle School, at present, hosts Open Choice students. Given participation in the program, the district will pursue a construction grant bonus in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-285a(g).

COMMUNITY USES:

Fairfield Woods Middle School does not contain or host space(s) for other town departments or outside firms. The building is used exclusively as a middle school. The building facilities are available to the public on a reservation basis when the building is not in use (nights and weekends).

Fairfield Woods Middle School is not used as a polling place.