



ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

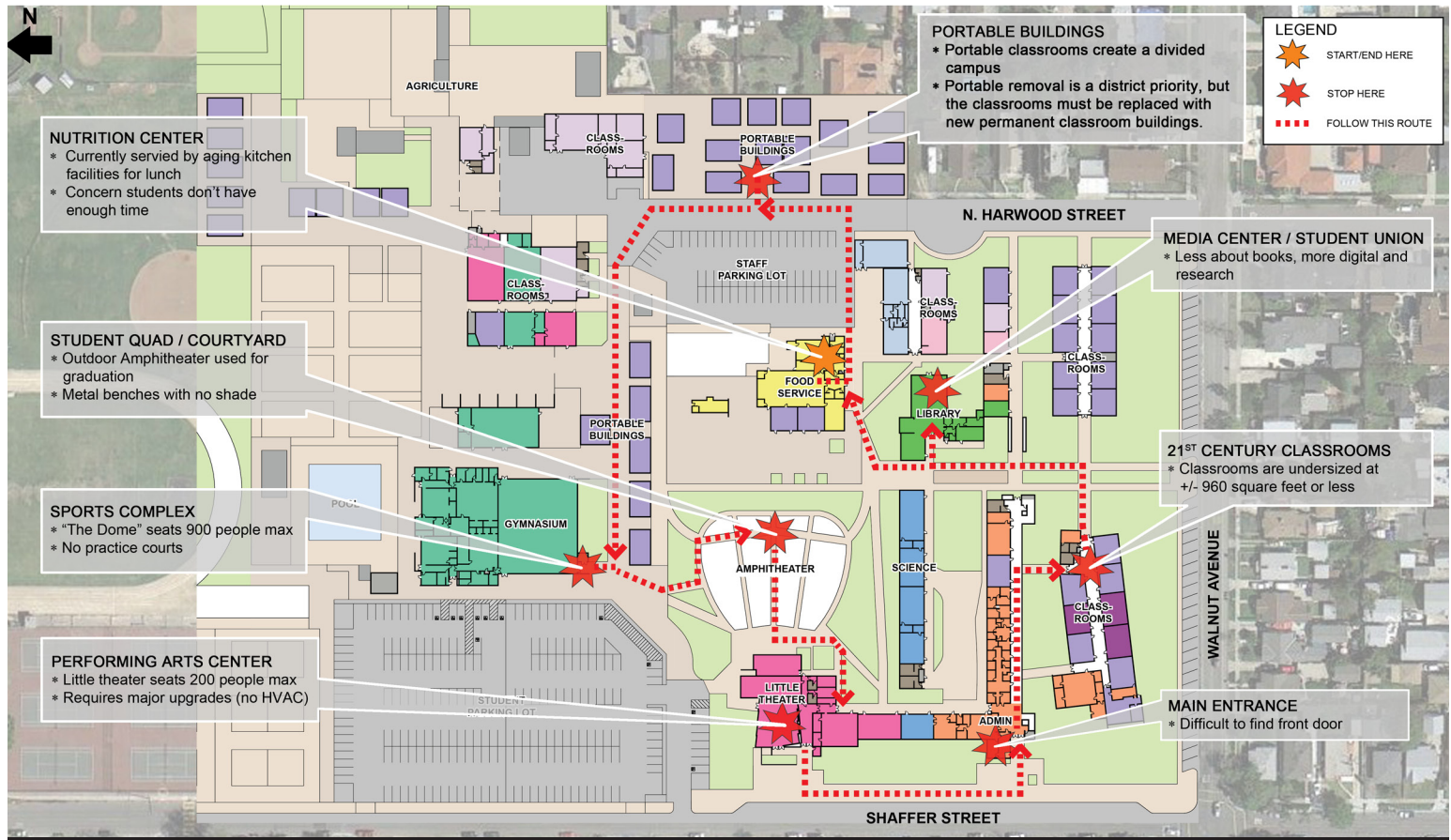
Newsletter # 2:

SUMMARY OF
COMMUNITY MEETING #2

October 19, 2013

WELCOME!

On Saturday, October 19, 2013 the community stakeholders met again to further discuss the vision for the future of the facilities at Orange High School. The meeting began with a welcome and thank you from OHS Principal Gonzalez. Groups of participants were then led on a guided tour of the Orange High School campus, stopping at important features of the site to discuss areas of concern as well as their vision for the future of OHS.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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DESIGN PREFERENCE

Overwhelmingly, participants and stakeholders, when asked to select images that best represent the design aesthetic appropriate for Orange High School, selected images of neighboring Chapman University.



STUDENTS' PREFERENCES



CURB APPEAL



MAIN ENTRANCE

BIG IDEAS

During the walking tour and throughout the community meeting, a number of “big ideas” were offered to the community so that they could begin to imagine the potential for a transformed and renovated Orange High School:

21st Century Learning Environments Many of the classrooms at OHS are undersized for increased class sizes typical in today's high schools. California's Common Core Standards implementation is creating a need for larger classrooms, focused on project-based learning and technology integration. Renovated classroom spaces should be larger, sustainably designed, flexible, and technology-rich environments for learning. Portable removal is a high priority of the District, and represents an opportunity to construct new 21st century classrooms as a first phase of the master plan.

Student Quad One of the highest community and student priorities is to maintain an outdoor gathering space that can accommodate enough people to hold graduation on campus; possibly with a design that is more flexible than the existing fixed seating. As an alternative, a green lawn area with shade trees, connected to a student quad that could be used for outdoor dining during lunch hour and for rallies and graduation when needed. This courtyard would also provide a more intimate area for students to gather for outdoor learning and socializing.

Outdoor Spaces In addition to the Student Quad, the participants were interested in the potential that improved landscaping would improve the “curb appeal” of Orange High School. Athletic facilities, and their renovation, is also an opportunity to provide highly visible, community oriented improvements to OHS.



OUTDOOR DINING PREFERENCE



Entry

Prompted by conceptual drawings, the community discussed options for the campus entry. Entrances from either Shaffer Avenue and Walnut Avenue, as well as a corner alternative, were proposed. The community rejected the Walnut Avenue entry, but were equally divided in their support for the corner option and the Shaffer option. Overwhelmingly, however, students and staff preferred the corner entry. Is there an opportunity for two entry points – a ceremonial corner entry and a public entry adjacent to parking and drop-off?



Sports Complex

“The Dome” currently holds just 900 spectators with aging locker rooms and poor ventilation. Within the master plan, there is an opportunity to build a second gymnasium facility to meet the competition, physical education and practice requirements of the comprehensive high school. A sports complex surrounding a public entry plaza could create a perfect place to celebrate a big win with the ringing of the victory bell!

Performing Arts Center The condition of the Little Theater has been a significant topic throughout the master planning process. The performing arts program at OHS is very popular, but the 200 seat theater is not only too small to accommodate the high school program, but it also is seriously in need of renovation and repair. As part of the master plan, the addition of a larger theater with 21st century equipment and technology would better serve the high school programs, but would undoubtedly become a significant community asset as well. In addition, by locating all of the associated arts classrooms near the theater, the music and performing arts programs at OHS would benefit.

Library Media Center as a Student Union The library of the 21st century school is becoming a space that includes books, but is more about digital resources, research and project-based learning support. The media center should have anytime, anywhere access to technology, flexible seating, and collaborative workspaces. The addition of a small café could provide quick nutrition options, creating a Student Union environment that mimics the atmosphere of a college campus.

Cafeteria Like Library services, the 21st century cafeteria is changing as well. A food court concept with a full production kitchen would allow meal choices while providing an exciting lunchtime atmosphere that will better promote student participation. The changing cafeteria is also an excellent multi-purpose space to house community gathering and student activities.

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Michael L. Christensen, MBA
Superintendent of Schools

NEXT STEPS

Superintendent Michael Christensen also spoke with the attendees, answering their questions regarding the “next steps” in the master planning process. The Superintendent acknowledged that in order for the vision of a transformed Orange High School, as well as for other schools in the District, to be realized, the Board would have to consider a local bond issue. Unlike previous unsuccessful bond elections, the Board and District wanted to ensure that there was plenty of opportunity for community feedback this time around. Additionally, there will be community polling and outreach regarding the costs and funding parameters of a general obligation bond before any decision is finalized.

The master plans are key to assessing the need at each of the comprehensive high schools, estimating the costs of the improvements, and ultimately understanding the projects that could be completed with the available funds. The process of addressing aging schools and meeting the needs of 21st century learners will not happen in one phase; it will require many years, and possibly multiple bond measures to transform Orange High School. The master planning process is just the first step.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Community Meetings
Wednesday, November 13, 2013
5:30pm - 8:00pm
OHS Cafeteria

Wednesday, December 4, 2013
6:30pm - 8:00pm
OHS Cafeteria

ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

In order to achieve the vision for a transformed Orange High School, and the other schools within Orange Unified School District, it is acknowledged that a significant community investment will be required, and that the first phase of construction will be a step toward the master plan completion. As such, it is important that a project list is established for the first phase that best represents the highest priorities of the district and the community. In order to gauge those priorities, and involve the stakeholders in the difficult task of choosing projects, small groups worked together to come to consensus and make recommendations for that first phase.



Using a Monopoly-style game board, and paper money, participants “bought” projects that represented their highest priorities. Working with Principal Gonzalez, student and staff focus groups also played the Priority Game. All groups were required to buy the portable replacement project as their initial allocation of funds.

The community, staff and student groups had varying priorities - from curb appeal issues to a new media center and from renovating the Little Theater to building new science labs - that will be assessed and integrated into the master planning process.