

EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION

SECTION THREE EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION

The High School is currently organized around a departmental system. In the past it has been organized using a house system. There was some discussion with Department Heads and Administration as to whether this might change. No conclusion was reached. Appendix D of this Report contains comments from some Department Heads and other key staff.

Prior to further design of the school, a decision on school organization should be reached.

The following design considerations were discussed with the administration and staff. These issues were evaluated in the as part of the decision making process comparing new construction vs. renovation.

Classroom Ownership

The high school administration expressed, as one of its goals, that each teacher be assigned his or her own room as often as possible in which to conduct a typical five period day. In doing so, each room is furnished to give it an "occupied" feeling. The school has experienced that the rooms are better cared for as a result of space "ownership". With this configuration, the teacher has sufficient space for both personal and academic storage.

Teachers without assigned rooms (floaters) will be assigned a personal work area within the department office / work area. These teachers will use a variety of classrooms through out the day.

The "assigned" classroom teacher uses his/her classroom 5 out of 8 periods per day, or 62%. In order to meet the utilization rate goal of 85%, the average classroom needs to be in use 6.8 periods per day. Teachers referred to as "floaters" (teachers with no permanent room assignment) accomplish this.

The availability of the Patten Wing classrooms currently allow more teachers to be assigned a classroom, reducing the number of floaters and reducing the utilization rate.

If new construction for classrooms is built, the number of classrooms would be set using the 85% utilization rate, thereby reducing the number of assigned classrooms.

Classroom Size

The Department of Education (DOE) standards for interchangeable classrooms call for a range of 750 – 850 square feet, with an “add on” allowance for 30 square feet for each computer. This would set the classroom size at 900 – 1000 square feet for typical classrooms containing five computers.

The existing typical academic classroom in Beverly High School ranges from 696 to 883 square feet. The majority of the classrooms (27) are either 772 or 808 square feet. Discussion with the school administration suggest that if renovations to the existing building took place, classrooms that are 772 sf or larger would be sufficient to accommodate most academic settings including 4 – 5 computers. Classrooms smaller than 772 sf should be reviewed for alternative uses or be reconfigured.

A recent trend in classroom technology is for laptops for each student that are cart mobile, with “wireless” connections. This arrangement could put a computer on every desk without the need for power or network connections. This arrangement also does not require the additional floor area for computer stations. This would allow most classroom spaces to remain in their current configuration and come close to meeting DOE educational standards.

This approach to classroom technology usage might be considered at Beverly High School.

If a new high school building were to be proposed, the larger classroom, consistent with the SBA Standards would be implemented. This is reflected in the educational specifications.