

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Heathcote Planning Team
RE: Multi[purpose Room
DATE: April 22, 2014

Answers to Questions:

1. Please provide a detailed description of the entire scope of the proposed project.

We are proposing a new, bright, open multi-purpose space for lunch overflow, orchestra, and band. The space should allow for flexibility to encourage movement programs such as Lincoln Center and Ballroom Dancing, and project-based collaborative learning activities.

We are proposing therapy rooms for the providers of special education services such as Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Speech, English as a Second Language (ESL) and storage for the therapists' equipment.

We are also proposing an upgrade to our outdated and outgrown kitchen. The District has already received a \$25,000 donation from the Heathcote PTA to help fund this project.

2. Why is the project needed in your building? Please include logistical, enrollment, infrastructure, curricular, security, and other current concerns that it will address.

Logistical: We have inadequate capacity for lunch and are currently using the gym for overflow. This limits availability of the gym and affects location and scheduling of P.E. classes, some of which have been relocated to the multipurpose/meeting room.

At the time the current multipurpose room was built, the room was envisioned as lunch space and large group instructional space. It was not anticipated that PE classes would be held in this space, which is inappropriate for this purpose (see discussion under **Security and Safety**, below.). If new multipurpose space is constructed, the gymnasium is freed for instruction, which then frees up the current multipurpose room for large group instruction.

Currently OT, PT, band and orchestra are utilizing the auditorium stage for instruction, which limits programs and scheduling for those programs, as well as other uses of the stage. Spanish, music, and science currently share a space, which impacts the scheduling and implementation of these programs.

Enrollment: Since the time that the current meeting room was expanded, the enrollment has increased and is expected to continue to grow modestly. By law, the maximum capacity for that room is 163 occupants.

Security and Safety: We are over the legal capacity of the current multipurpose/meeting room, and cannot accommodate all of the students in there during lunchtime. The overflow location for lunch is, therefore, now in the gym.

Children receiving OT and PT services on the stage are not working in a safe or confidential environment. There is a four-foot drop off of the stage, and there are other obstacles on the stage from the storage of orchestra and band equipment.

As the gym must be used for instruction, lunch tables must be moved out each day. They are stored in the halls, which impedes emergency exiting. (During an emergency, they would be moved back into the gym, if needed.)

Using the current meeting room for P.E. is a safety issue as there are brick columns, floor to ceiling glass windows, low ceilings, sharp edges and limited space.

Curricular: Having P.E. in the current Meeting Room, with its above-mentioned limitations, restricts the P.E. curriculum. The activities permitted by the confined space are different from those allowed in the gymnasium. The curriculum must be altered, and thus students do not have equal experiences.

The gymnasium is not available for ten periods per week due to lunch set-up and clean-up.

OT and PT therapies are affected by lack of private space for therapy. Currently, the services are conducted in the hallways and on the stage. This impacts the type, and quality, of services delivered.

Lack of a designated space for band and orchestra negatively impacts both the music and Spanish program as they currently alternate scheduling and share a space. The supplies and equipment for the science curriculum are in the same room, impacting all classroom teachers' access to them.

Staffing: By freeing up the gym space, we may be able to reduce P.E. staff.

3. What are the implications of the project for emerging instructional methods and 21st century learning? Please describe some specific instructional plans for the space.

The new multipurpose room is envisioned as a flexible space, available for lunch, but also for large group instructional needs.

21st Century skills: Project-based learning, a component of 21st century instruction, requires flexible, breakout space for group and collaborative learning. In collaboration with the tech. staff, the space will be wired for current and future technology needs.

Instructional plans: small group learning, cooperative learning, cross-grade projects, PTA events, parent workshops and in-house professional development are examples of instructional uses of the proposed spaces.

4. Please describe the features of the space that will provide flexibility as new instructional methods are introduced.

The space will give us opportunities for multiple activities. Moveable partitions would allow for more than one activity to occur at a time.

Features to be considered include:

New Multi-purpose Room

- High ceilings and padded walls to allow for overflow of P.E. classes, Lincoln Center Movement and Ballroom Dancing.
- Moveable partitions to allow for multiple activities to occur at one time
- Storage area for band and orchestra
- Storage area for collapsible lunch tables
- Acoustical materials will dampen sound so that other classrooms are not affected by noise
- Multi-stall bathrooms for both boys and girls
- Trough sinks for hand-washing before/after lunch and projects
- Water fountains
- Wired for present and future technology needs
- Interactive/large screens

Multi-purpose Kitchen

- Industrial grade appliances
- Storage areas
- Serving areas
- Vents to comply with fire code

Therapy Rooms

- Private space to work one-on-one or in small groups
- Shelving and storage for equipment and supplies

5. Does the project provide new opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary instruction? Please describe.

This is one of the major goals of our project. Please see above.

6. How does the project contribute to the sense of community and connectedness in the building?

As noted above, the flexible space will allow for small group learning, cooperative learning, cross-grade projects, PTA events, parent workshops and in-house professional development workshops. Appropriate furniture will allow for flexibility of groupings.

The Heathcote PTA will be able to utilize this space for the After School Clubs program.

Evening events can be contained within the new multi-purpose area.

7. Does the project scope address specialized instructional programs such as the arts, physical education, special education services, etc. Please describe the specific instructional uses for the new space.

The flexible space will be utilized for PE, OT, PT, Dance, Band, Orchestra and project-based activities. See detailed descriptions above.

8. Does the project incorporate the use of technology as an integrated feature of the space?

Yes, we are proposing that the space be adequately wired to allow for flexibility in programming and curriculum. This would allow for use of the Chrome Books, laptops, iPads and other future technologies.

9. Will the project reflect environmental and sustainability improvements? Connections to the outdoors?

Yes. In keeping with the Heathcote's ground-breaking architecture, the new

construction should continue the relationship between nature and our building.

The new multi-purpose kitchen, in connection with the Heathcote garden, will allow for garden to table experiences for our school community.

10. If the project doesn't get the green light, how will the problems identified above be resolved?

Struggling for the past nine years with the over-crowding in our building, we have exhausted all possible solutions. In the past, this problem was dealt with by having Kindergarten and Grade One students eat lunch in classrooms. With our current policy of keeping all food out of classrooms due to food allergies, we can no longer look to this as a solution. It is also completely unsanitary. We urgently need these proposed additions and renovations to Heathcote School