MCPS Damascus High School

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT

COMMUNITY MEETING

OCTOBER 28, 2026



PERKINS EASTMAN

Human by Design

Agenda

01 Welcome & Introduction
Bienvenida e introducción

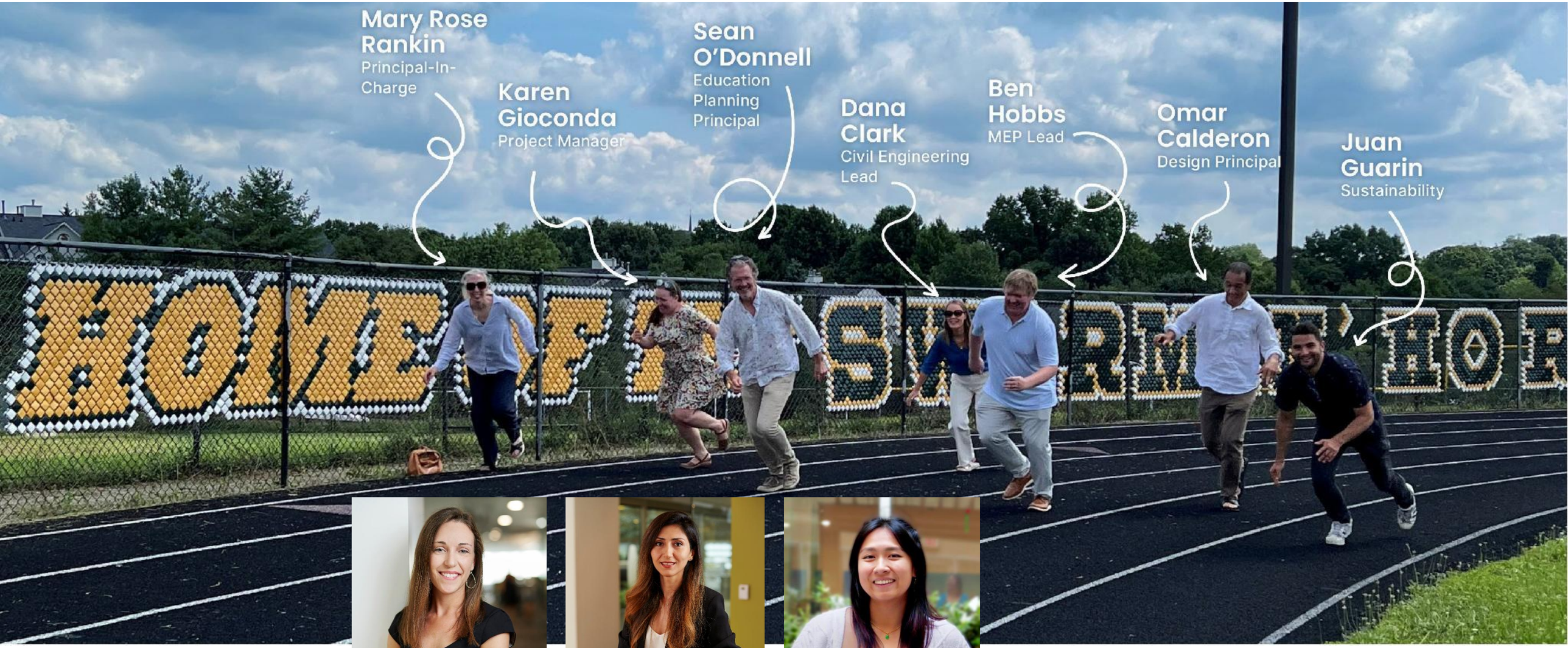
02 What We Heard
Lo que escuchamos

03 Site Analysis
Análisis del sitio

04 Closing & Gallery Walk
Cierre y recorrido por la galería



From Start to Finish: Your Damascus Team
De principio a fin: su equipo de Damascus



Jeannine

Lina

Judy

CURRENT & ANTICIPATED FEATURES

Meeting Today's Needs. Preparing for Tomorrow's Opportunities.

QUID AGIS AGAS BENE

DESIGNED TO SERVE A LARGER STUDENT POPULATION FOLLOWING THE RECENT BOUNDARY STUDY WHILE PROVIDING EXPANDED ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC, ARTS, AND STUDENT SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES.

DEDICATED SECURITY VESTIBULE

Enhanced safety with controlled access and secure entry.

FULLY ADA-COMPLIANT SITE & BUILDING

Accessible for all with inclusive design throughout the campus.

STATE-OF-THE-ART PERFORMING ARTS FACILITIES

Modern spaces to inspire creativity and showcase student talent.

ENHANCED ATHLETIC AMENITIES

Upgraded facilities to support health, wellness, and school spirit.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING FEATURES

Energy-efficient design for a healthier campus and brighter future.

	BUILDING SIZE	PARKING SPACES	MEDIA CENTER SF	DINING AREA SF	SCIENCE LABS	TEACHING STATIONS
CURRENT	235,986 SF	253	7,033 SF	7,152 SF	9	74
NEW	~368,000 SF	~400	~9,355 SF	~12,000 SF	14	108

Building Today. Inspiring Tomorrow. Ready for the Future.

DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL
MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT

QUID AGIS AGAS BENE

SPACES THAT SUPPORT EXCELLENCE

UPDATED PROGRAM CAPACITY

CURRENT CAPACITY	NEW BUILDING TO SERVE	CORE CAPACITY
1,543 STUDENTS	2,250 STUDENTS	2,700 STUDENTS

FUTURE MASTER-PLANNED ADDITION



18 CLASSROOMS

2 ADDITIONAL SCIENCE LABS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW FACILITY

368,000 SF MODERN FACILITY
Approximately 132,000 SF larger than the existing building.

34 ADDITIONAL TEACHING STATIONS
Increased instructional spaces to provide greater flexibility for academic programs and student learning.

EXPANDED COMMONS & PERFORMING ARTS SPACES
- Dining area approximately 4,848 SF larger
- Media Center (Library) approximately 2,322 SF larger

Enhanced spaces for dining, assemblies, and school events.

ENHANCED ATHLETIC FACILITIES
Upgraded athletic and wellness spaces to support student activities and well-being.

BUILDING FOR TODAY. *Ready for Tomorrow.*

LEARNING | SAFETY | OPPORTUNITY | COMMUNITY

LOCAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SUPPORTING EVERY STUDENT. PREPARING EVERY LEARNER FOR SUCCESS.

High-quality programs and services that meet diverse needs and empower students to reach their full potential.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY-BASED (SCB) PROGRAM

Serving students with significant cognitive and/or multiple disabilities. Instruction is aligned to Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards and focuses on communication, independence, social skills, and real-world learning in school and community settings, with opportunities to learn alongside nondisabled peers.

LEARNING FOR INDEPENDENCE (LFI)

Serving students with significant cognitive disabilities who are working toward Alternate Learning Outcomes aligned to Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Students participate in real-world learning experiences in school and community settings, with opportunities to learn alongside their nondisabled peers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (ELD)

Supports multilingual learners through language instruction and academic interventions designed to accelerate English proficiency and classroom success.

BRIDGE TO WELLNESS (BTW)

Provides therapeutic and behavioral supports for students experiencing emotional and mental health challenges in a structured learning environment.

LOCAL & REGIONAL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

MORE PATHWAYS. MORE OPPORTUNITIES. MORE SUCCESS.

Students can pursue career pathways on campus while also accessing specialized regional programs.

LOCAL PROGRAMS

OFFERED AT DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL



AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Hands-on instruction in vehicle systems, diagnostics, maintenance, and repair.



CULINARY ARTS

Industry-focused training in food preparation, hospitality, restaurant operations, and customer service.



CYBERSECURITY & PROGRAMMING

Networking, coding, cybersecurity, and digital technology skills aligned with high-demand careers.



HORTICULTURE

Plant science, greenhouse management, landscape design, and environmental stewardship.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Child development, instructional practices, and classroom-based learning experiences.

ADDITIONAL CAREER PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY

FIRE EMERGENCY & MEDICAL SERVICES (FEMS)

Students may participate in specialized firefighter and emergency medical training through regional partnerships.

REGIONAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAMS

OFFERED AT DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL • OPEN TO STUDENTS FROM THE PROGRAM REGION



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

CRITERIA AND INTEREST-BASED ADMISSIONS

Students explore environmental systems, sustainability, natural resources, and applied science through field experiences and project-based learning.



MUSIC

CRITERIA-BASED ADMISSIONS

Advanced performing arts opportunities for students pursuing instrumental and vocal music through an audition-based regional program.



LEADERSHIP & SOCIAL JUSTICE

INTEREST-BASED ADMISSIONS

Students develop leadership skills through civic engagement, public policy exploration, service learning, and social impact initiatives.

KEY BENEFIT: Students can remain connected to Damascus while accessing high-quality regional programs and opportunities not housed at every high school.

Building Today. Inspiring Tomorrow. Ready for the Future.

LEARNING | SAFETY | OPPORTUNITY | COMMUNITY

DAMASCUS

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE FUTURE.

PROJECT TIMELINE

From Design to Completion

Building today. Inspiring tomorrow. Ready for the future.

COMMUNITY INPUT MOST IMPORTANT HERE!

SCHEMATIC DESIGN



Establish project vision, layout, and major concepts.

October 2026 – January 2027

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



Refine building systems, spaces, and materials.

Spring – Fall 2027

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



Prepare detailed drawings and specifications for bidding and permits.

Fall 2027 – Summer 2028

CONSTRUCTION



Build the new facility while school remains operational.

July 2028 – August 2031

NEW BUILDING OCCUPIED



Students and staff move into the new building.

August 2031

DEMOLITION & SITEWORK



Remove the existing building and complete final site improvements.

August 2031 – August 2032

PROJECT COMPLETE



New building and site fully complete.

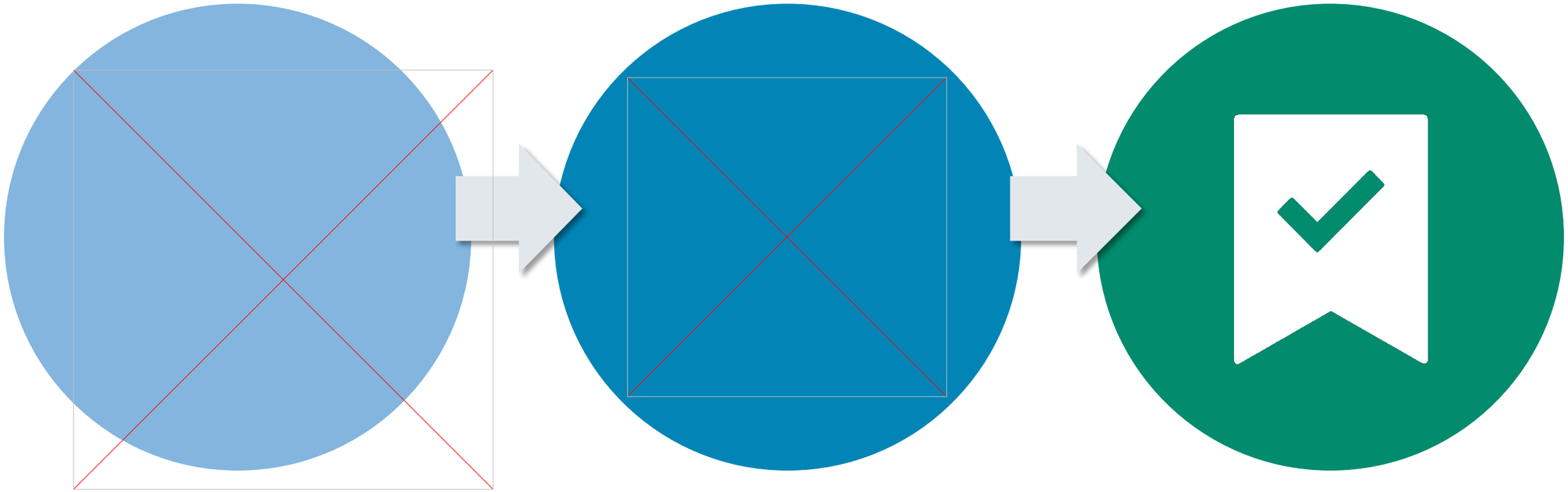
August 2032

COMMUNITY INPUT IS MOST VALUABLE DURING SCHEMATIC DESIGN when decisions about building layout, learning spaces, site circulation, and project priorities are being made.

BUILDING A NEW DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL *FOR THE NEXT GENERATION*

LEARNING · SAFETY · OPPORTUNITY · COMMUNITY

Our Consensus-Building Three Step Process



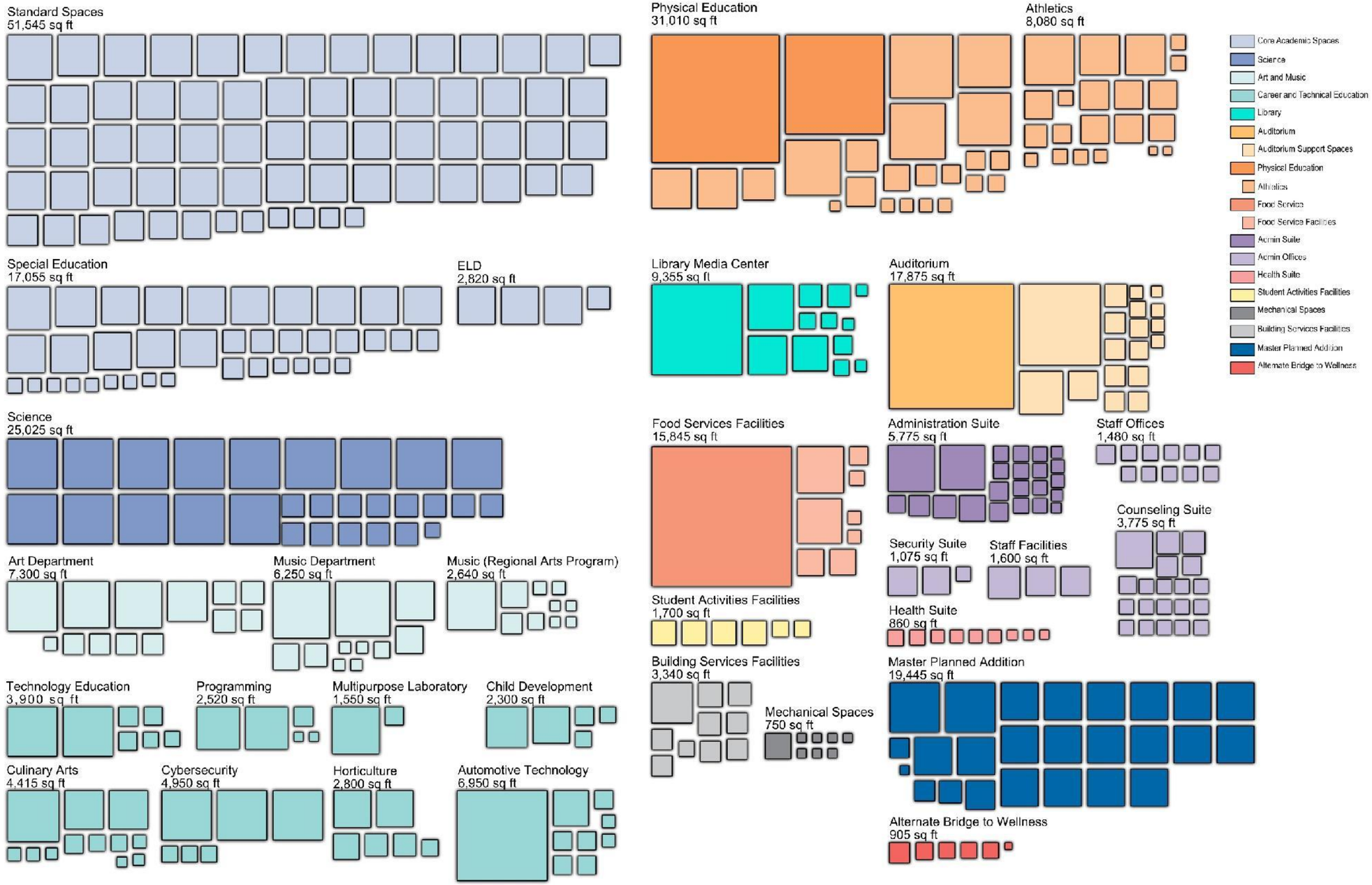
1 Creative Analysis

2 Options

3 Preferred Option

Space Program | Programa Espacial

- Increased Teaching Stations including: Additional Classrooms & Science Labs
- Enhanced Athletic Facilities
- Enhanced Performing Arts Facilities
- Modern Career & Technical Educational Facilities
- Expanded Dining & Media Center
- Master Planned Addition



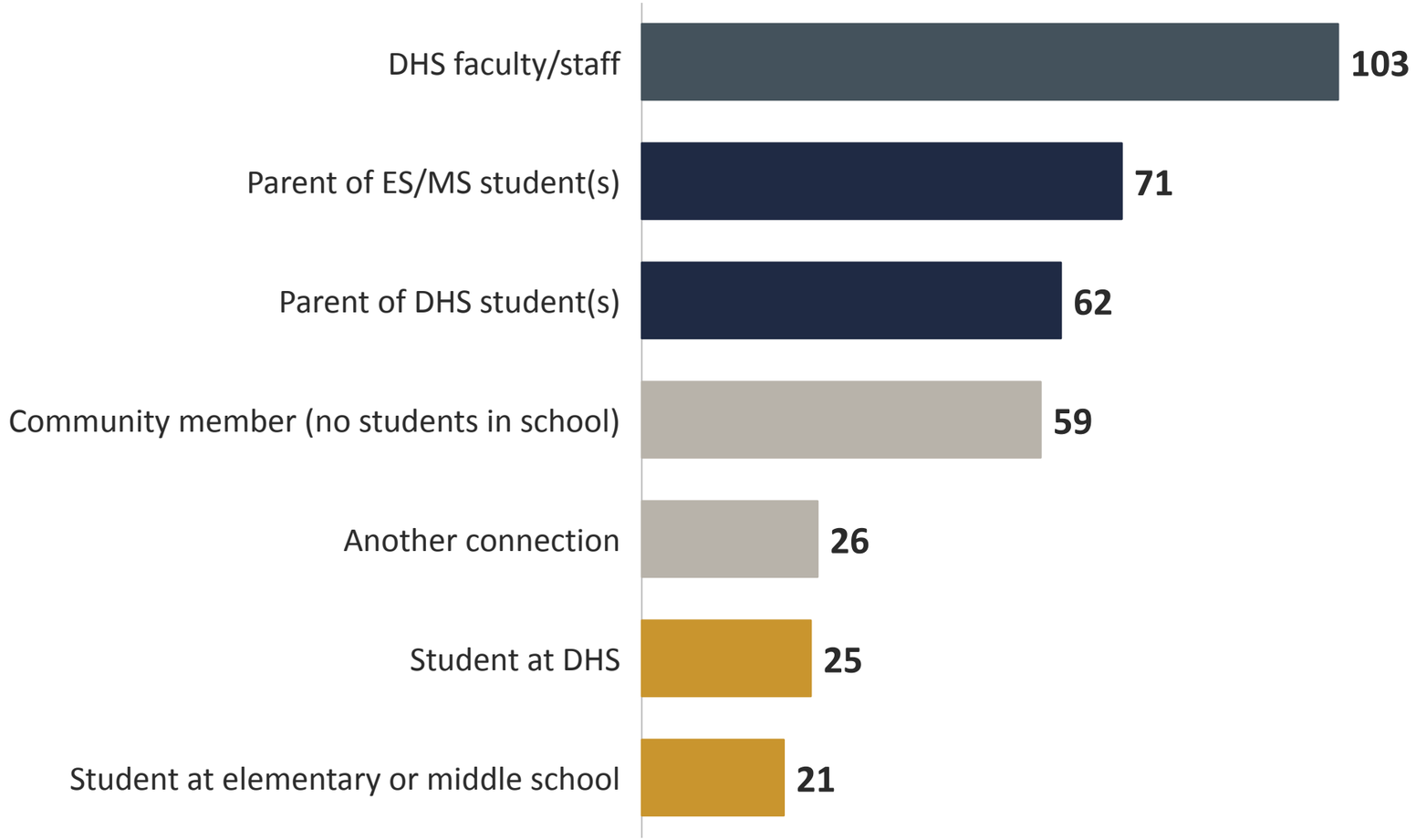
What We Heard

Lo Que Escuchamos



Who We Heard From

RELATIONSHIP TO DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL ACROSS THE ONLINE SURVEY, ONE COMMUNITY MEETING AND A STAFF MEETING



394

voices across two meetings and an online survey

36% are parents (133)

25% are future DHS families: ES/MS parents and students (92)

28% are DHS faculty and staff (103), including 86 at a dedicated staff meeting

- Parents
- Faculty/staff
- Students
- Community, other

Source: Damascus High School online Mentimeter survey, "Please let us know your relationship to the school" (281 of 282 participants answered, October 14 to 27, 2026); DHS staff meeting (86 participants). The community meeting poll (26 responses) is included in the 394 total but not broken out by relationship. Percentages are of the 367 participants with a recorded relationship.

Menti

In one word, how would you describe the CULTURE of Damascus HS?



Community: When This Building Is Complete…

COMMUNITY HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE NEW DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

"A beautiful, LEED building that projects wonderful learning spaces, thoughtful parking and traffic, and nice athletic fields.

SUSTAINABLE

"A school that reflects the tradition of the town it's built in. Incorporate the beautiful things of the past while adding new modern spaces.

TRADITION & RENEWAL

"For the kids to feel like they matter enough to have a really great school that they can be proud of.

PRIDE

"That it's not a huge, looming building.

HUMAN SCALE

"Flexible space. Attractive grounds with native plants, no invasives! A good variety of programs. Lots of natural light.

LANDSCAPE & LIGHT

"Actually enhances the opportunities for the students and the community.

OPPORTUNITY

"The school will become a focal point for the town.

FOCAL POINT

"There is space for all children to thrive.

INCLUSIVITY

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Complete this: When this building is complete, I hope or dream…" (17 responses from 16 participants)

On-line Respondents: When This Building Is Complete…

SURVEYED COMMUNITY HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE NEW DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

"…modern amenities that will adapt to a fast changing educational world ahead of us while holding a traditional pride for our close knit community.

FUTURE-READY

"A place where students feel at home, where they can be a community in academics and extracurriculars. True to tradition…

BELONGING

"Students can maximize their potential and capture their spark through excellence in education, supported by excellence in school design.

POTENTIAL

"I hope all students will be welcome and have state-of-the-art technology, healthy systems and infrastructure, and tools to make their dreams come true.

OPPORTUNITY

"Not just a building but a community. Where students can learn, grow, network and build a sense of community.

COMMUNITY

"The school fits the town and feels like it belongs.

IDENTITY

"…big enough to support the growing community and can transition with student needs for the next 20+ years.

LONGEVITY

"…a production greenhouse, outdoor arboretum, native plant interpretation area and the facility to connect and work with community partners.

PARTNERSHIP

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Complete this: When this building is complete, I hope or dream…"

Five Themes Across the Inputs

Where both Mentimeter formats, the image boards and the site option comments point the same way

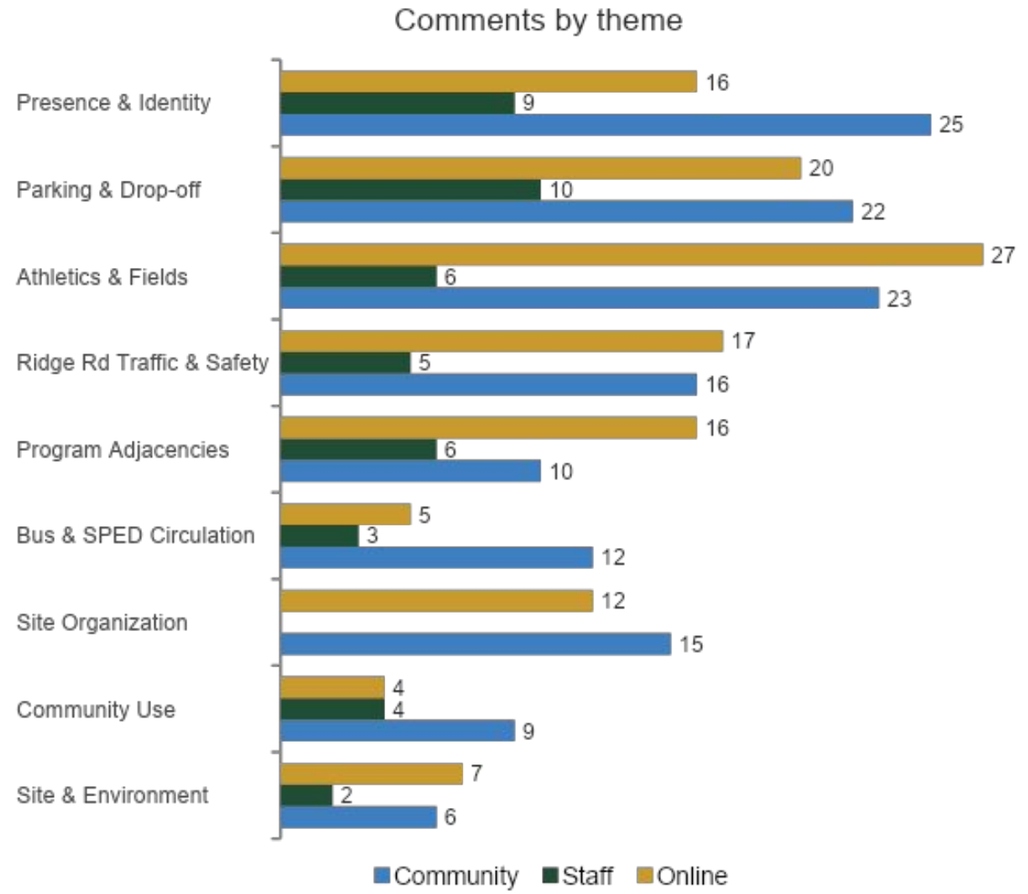
1 **Rooted in Damascus.**
"Tradition" and "small-town"; online: a school that "fits the town."

2 **A community hub.**
"Community" and "tradition" lead the word cloud;
online: "not just a building but a community."

3 **Wellness and connection at the heart.**
Wellness and collaboration ranked highest in the staff's principles; the commons drew the most votes in the gallery walks;
online hopes for a healthy building.

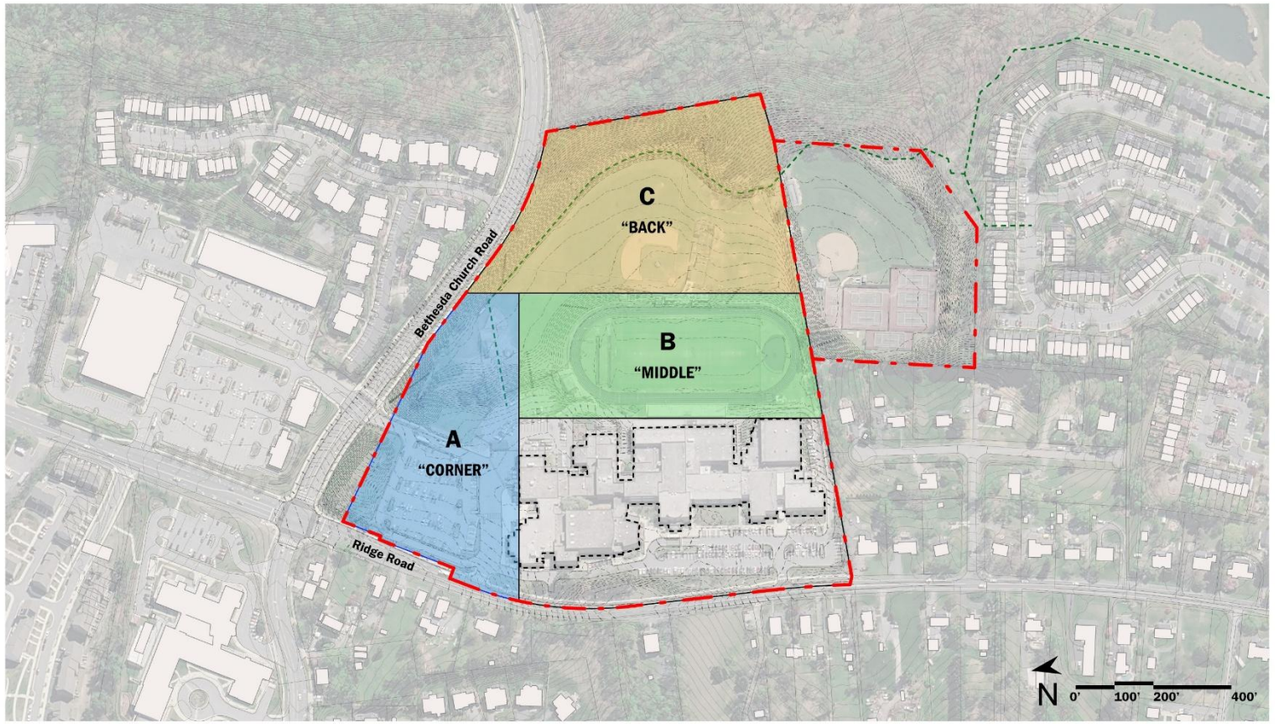
4 **Athletics, balanced with the arts.**
The most-cited online theme. Fields together, restrooms, with a call to give academics and the arts their share.

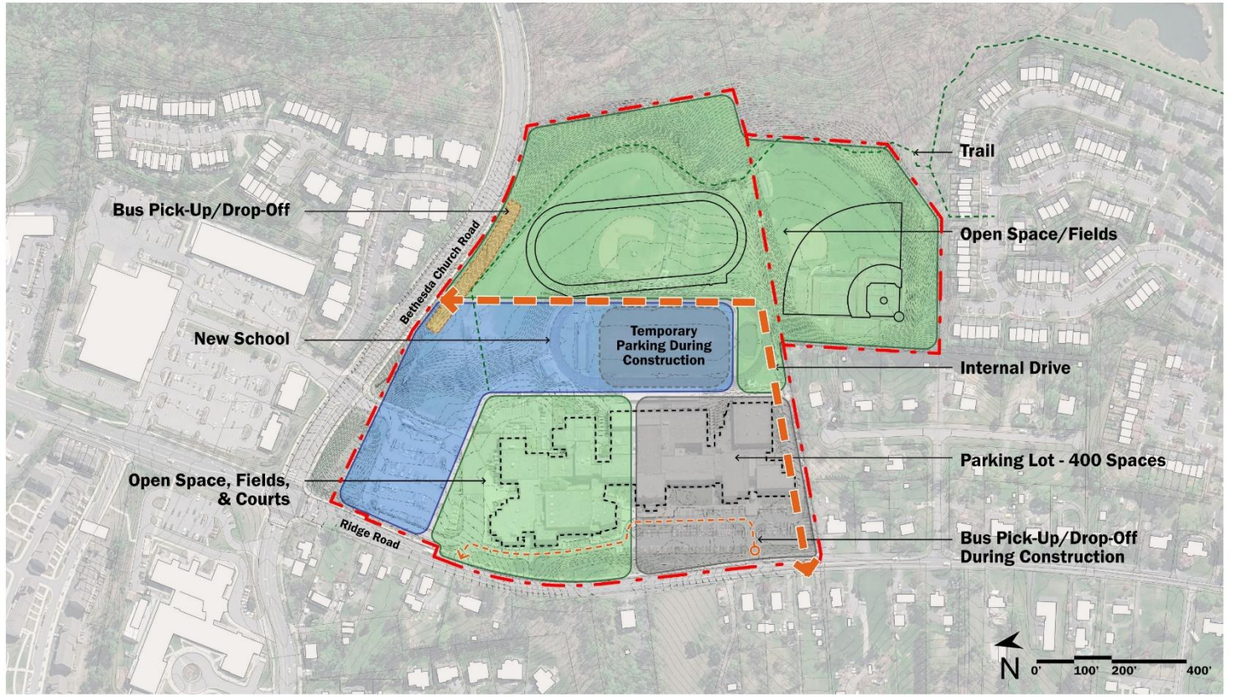
5 **An arrival that works.**
Special Education bus loop at the entrance; separate traffic; safe left turns on Ridge Road.



Meetings: site option comments by primary theme. Online: respondents whose comments touch each theme, keyword-sorted (one respondent can count more than once).

COMMUNITY MEETING #1 DIAGRAMS





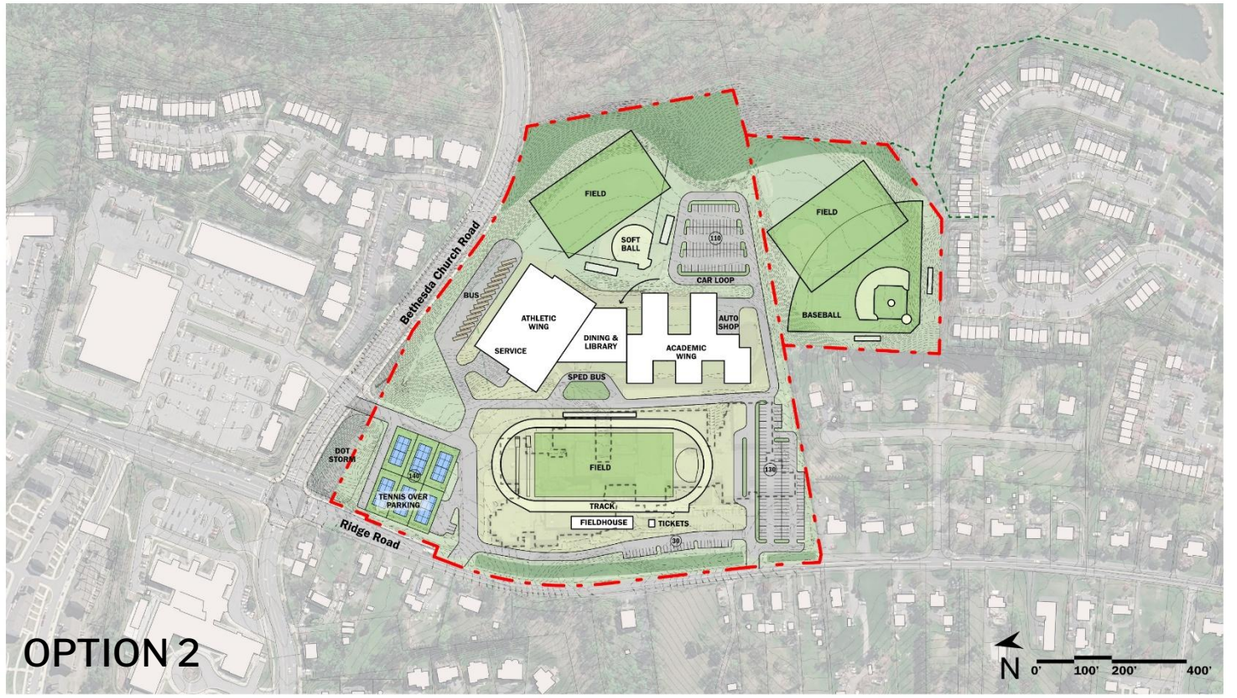


PERKINS EASTMAN

COMMUNITY MEETING #1 OPTIONS



OPTION 1



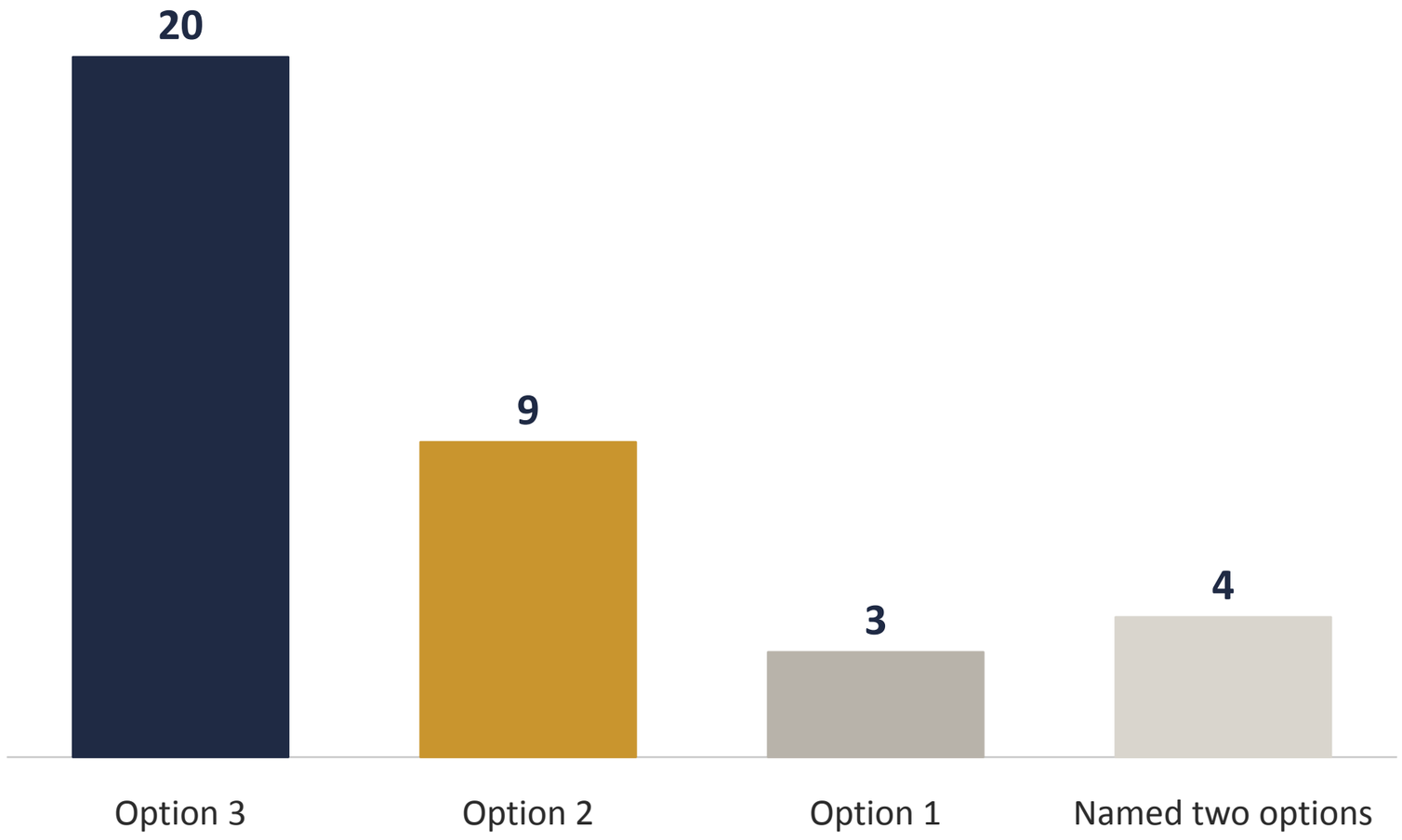
OPTION 2



OPTION 3

Online Respondents: Option 3 Leads Community Preference

RESPONDENTS NAMING A PREFERRED SITE OPTION



20 of 36

respondents who named a preference favored Option 3, more than twice the support for Option 2.

Named two options: two "1 & 3," two "1 or 2."

Not charted: 6 respondents who commented without stating a preference and 3 unclear entries ("N/a," "Next," "T").

Counts reflect unique respondents, not responses; each participant is counted once.

Source: Damascus High School online Mentimeter survey, "Share your thoughts about each option" (68 responses from 45 participants, October 14 to 27, 2026)

On-line Respondents: Why Option 2 Resonates

COMMUNITY VOICES IN FAVOR OF OPTION 2

"Option 2 bus loop where the special education buses have their own separate loop is ideal! They currently have a separate bus loop and it is what works best.

DEDICATED SPECIAL ED LOOP

"Option 2 with the tennis courts over parking, that makes great use of the space by elevating the tennis courts on top of a parking garage.

EFFICIENT LAND USE

"I like that option one and two have the school further from the road. For safety and pedestrians when school immediately lets out…

SAFETY SETBACK

"2 seems to offer the most natural light in classrooms.

DAYLIGHT

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Share your thoughts about each option" (60 responses from 40 participants)

On-line Respondents: Option 2: Challenges to Resolve

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT THE SECOND-RANKED OPTION

"Option 2 is too separated.

FRAGMENTED CAMPUS

"…the school creates too much of a barrier between the outdoor athletic spaces.

DIVIDED FIELDS

"Option 1 and Option 2 have roads and parking lots all over the place.

DISPERSED PAVING

"…the 2 entrances are both on Ridge Road, likely leading to additional traffic congestion.

RIDGE ROAD ENTRANCES

"…the bus area looks too cramped and has no second exit.

BUS LOOP CAPACITY

"…how will that bus loop work on the hill at Bethesda Church especially in winter.

SLOPE & WINTER ACCESS

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Share your thoughts about each option" (60 responses from 40 participants)

On-line Respondents: Why Option 3 Resonates

COMMUNITY VOICES IN FAVOR OF OPTION 3

"I like the idea of option 3 because the high school is in plain view of 27 and Bethesda Church. The other options you see the field first.

VISIBILITY

"Clear academic area and clear fields area, not split by the building or a big parking lot.

CLEAR ZONING

"I think the school should be first when next to a road. Putting a field/stadium in front of the school next to the road is not ideal.

SCHOOL FIRST

"School building has its own space on one edge and athletic fields are all near each other…

COHESIVE CAMPUS

"…especially when considering the existing grade. I like that it most prominently shows the school and allows for the best traffic flow…

SITE & FLOW

"…the central main entrance that can accommodate the school/offices, gym, auditorium, etc.

CENTRAL ENTRY

"…all parking in one area away from the local street and close to Ridge Road. Access to the school building and the fields in one place.

UNIFIED PARKING

"It looks like the least disruptive of what is already there.

LEAST DISRUPTIVE

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Share your thoughts about each option" (60 responses from 40 participants)

On-line Respondents: Option 3: Challenges to Resolve

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT THE PREFERRED OPTION

"

Option #3 doesn't appear to move the drop off and pick up loop far enough into the property to get the traffic that backs up daily today off of Route 27/Ridge Road…

QUEUING ON RIDGE ROAD

"

Option 3: Same issue with the bus parking/pick up…

BUS AREA

"

I am concerned about the emphasis on space for athletic fields and less for academics.

ACADEMIC BALANCE

"

I like that option one and two have the school further from the road. For safety and pedestrians… having fewer large groups of students away from the road is better.

PROXIMITY TO ROAD

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Share your thoughts about each option" (60 responses from 40 participants)

Updated Options

Opciones Avanzadas



UPDATED OPTION 3: "CORNER"



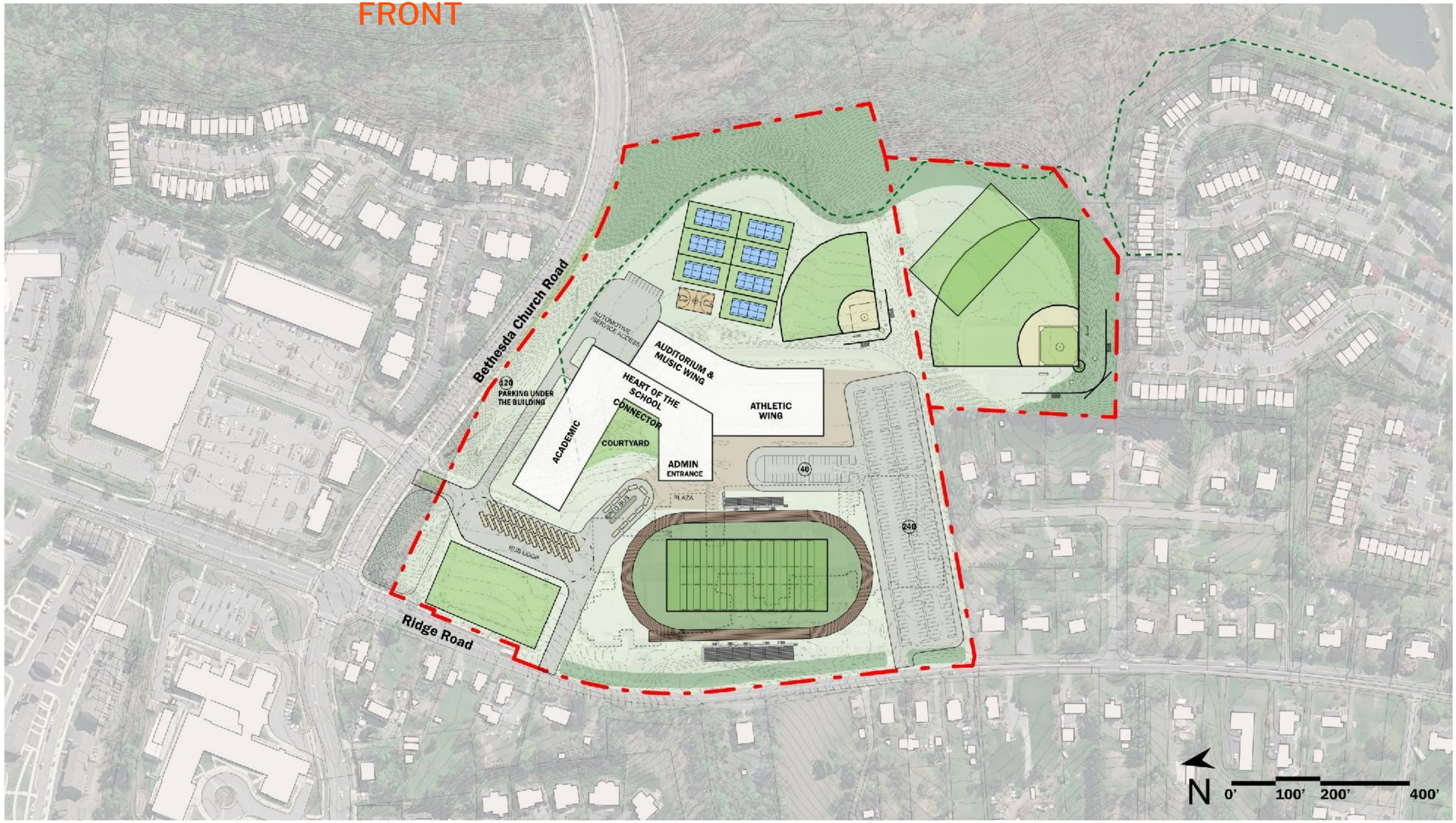
UPDATED OPTION 3: "CORNER" DURING CONSTRUCTION



UPDATED OPTION 2: "MIDDLE"



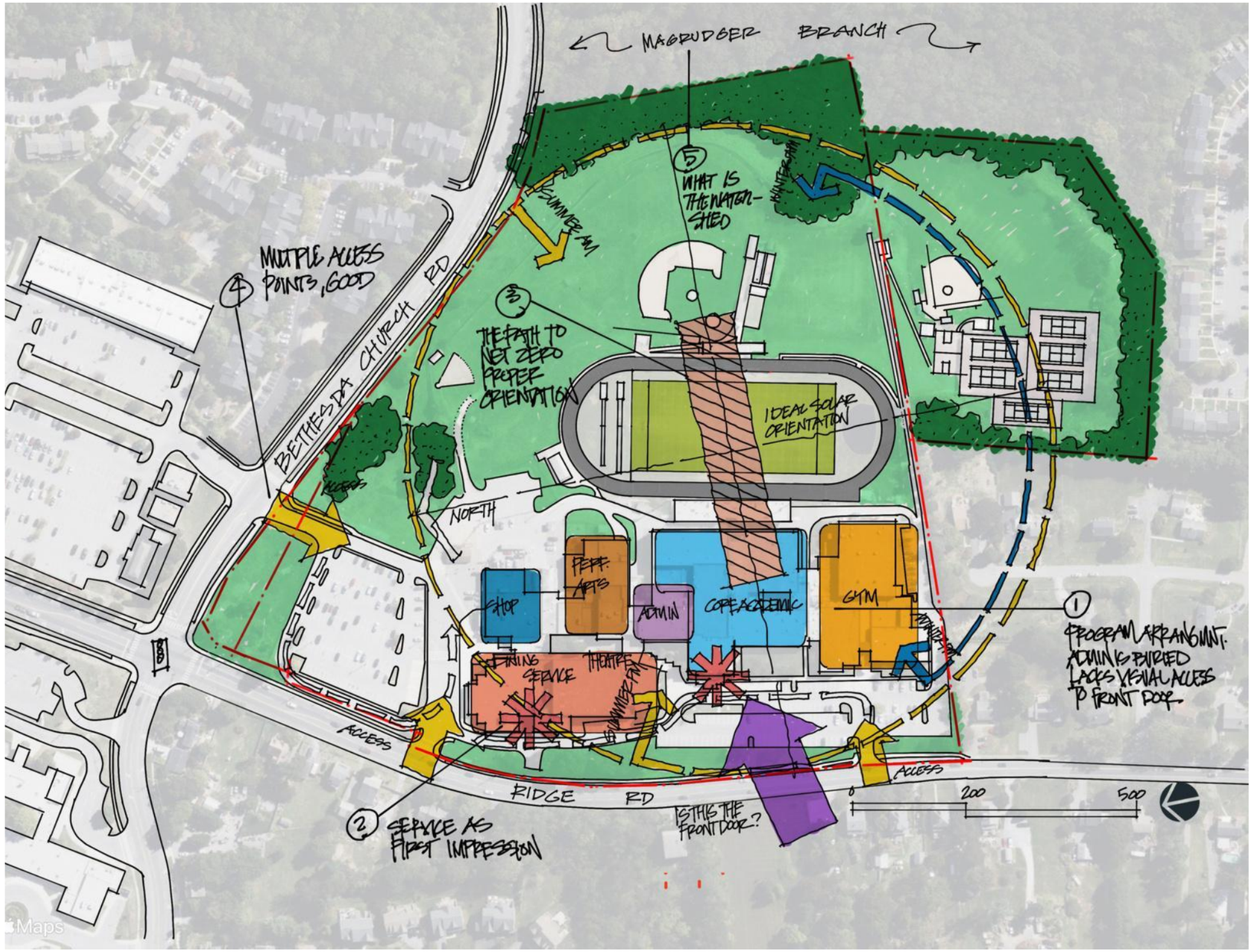
UPDATED OPTION 2: “MIDDLE” WITH FIELD IN FRONT



UPDATED OPTION 2: "MIDDLE" DURING CONSTRUCTION



Human by Design



Understanding the Site
Comprender el sitio

CREATIVE ANALYSIS

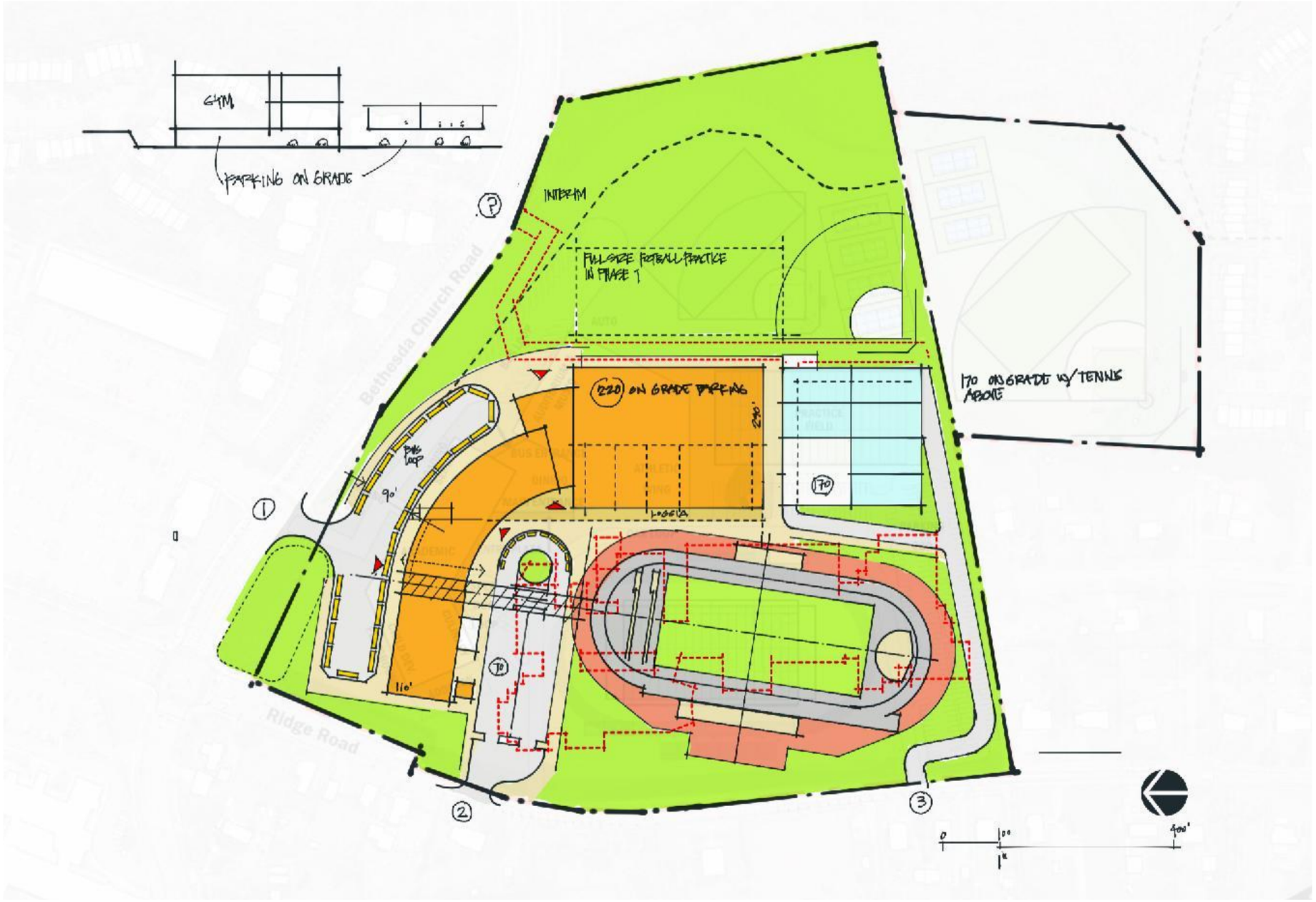
Administrative offices are far removed from school entrance

Service is facing the civic side – the dilemma of first impression

Solar orientation is ignored

Multiple vehicular access points is a positive – flexibility

We note local hydrology and potential watershed impacts


GYM
PARKING ON GRADE
INTERIM
FULL SIZE FOOTBALL PRACTICE IN PHASE 1
220 ON GRADE PARKING
170 ON GRADE W/ TENNIS ABOVE
BUS LOOP
90'
110'
LOGGIA
PRACTICE FIELD
Bethesda Church Road
Ridge Road
1
2
3
?
170
70
0
200
400'