



Town Hall Meeting: School Expansion Update

Monday, February 29, 2016

DaVinci Academy

Purpose of today's town hall meeting

- Share how the board plans to extend our successful model to serve more students
 - Alleviate critical space constraints
- Discuss long-term outlook for the high school
- Engage the community in the process
 - Current families, teachers, volunteers
 - New families and teachers
 - Fundraising

Introductions

Board members:

- Ross Meisner, Parent
 - Matt Manning, Parent
 - Valerie Slaymaker, Community
 - Melanie Persellin, Parent
 - Erin Nelson, Teacher
 - Andy Wallschlaeger, Parent
 - Nicole Brown, Teacher
 - Rachel Engstrom, Community
 - Mark Guy, Parent
- President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary

Debra Lach, Executive Director
Kou Vang, President, JB Realty



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**National
Blue Ribbon
School
Nomination!**
(1 of 8 in MN)

**Reward
School
5 Years
In a Row!**

**High Quality
Charter
School**
(1 of 35)

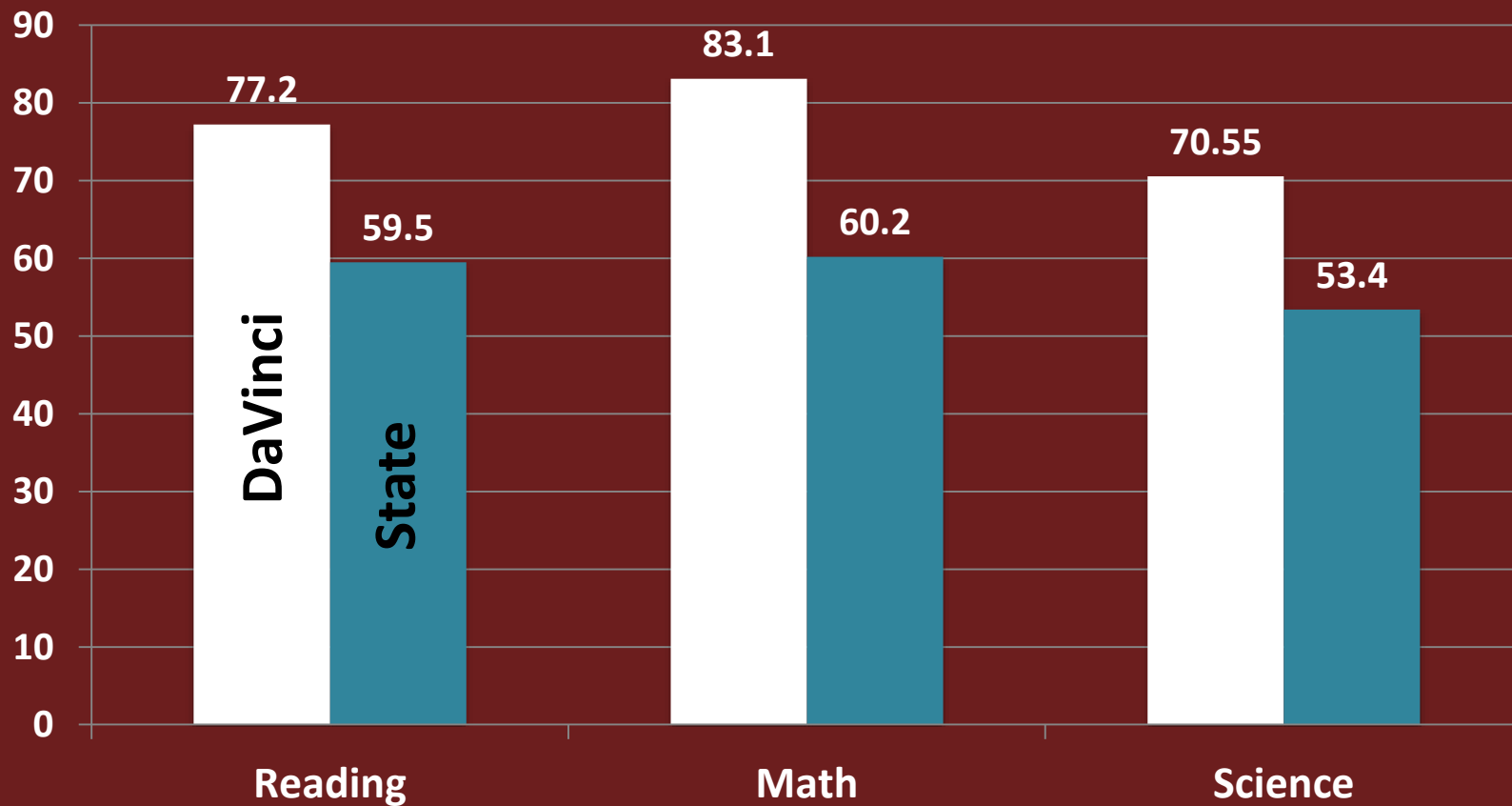
**School
Finance
Award**
(again...)

First, the top strategic priorities for DaVinci

- Achieving excellent academic results *for all* pupils
 - Meet state & authorizer targets
 - Perform above peer group
- Sound financial management
- Commitment to vision/mission
- Deliver on our four pillars
 - Arts & Science integrated across curriculum
 - Enhanced education: core knowledge, data driven, intersessions
 - Differentiated instruction
 - Character development
- Retain and develop our staff



Academic Results - 2015 MCAIII



Enrollment Summary and Waitlists

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
Budgeted Enrollment	35	50	50	50	49	49	48	44	40	415
Actual October 2015	36	52	53	53	52	50	48	48	41	433
Revised Budgeted Enr.	35	50	50	51	50	50	50	44	40	420
Actual February 2016	36	52	53	52	52	50	48	47	41	431
Wait List After Lottery	99	27	27	35	34	18	21	8	2	271



Why Expand?

- We have an amazing program with such dedicated staff, delivering top-in-the-state results.
We should try bring this success to more students.
 - Over 270 students on our waitlist today
- We don't have enough space in our current building, even for our current program.
 - Gifted & talented, gym/cafeteria time, office space, RTI, Special Education, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy
- Long-term intention to serve K-12

Requirements for a viable high school

- *To ensure financial viability:*

Minimum two sections of each H.S. grade

- At least 150 students in grades 9-12 (~ 40 students/grade)

- *To optimize academic performance:*

H.S. students mostly from DaVinci middle school

- So middle school must have 4 sections/grade to “feed” H.S.

- *To compete locally:*

Create a compelling academic/extra-curricular program

- Requires extra funding, especially in a smaller school

School expansion history and status

- DaVinci original charter was granted to serve up to K-12
- High school program launched with 9th grade in 2012/13
 - Hired high school planner in 2011 to create program, curriculum
 - Facility search started, site expansion application submitted
 - 11 students enrolled, 6 finished the year
 - Board decided to not offer 9th in 2013/14 due to low enrollment, space constraints, and desire to review overall HS strategy
- History and status
 - After long delays by authorizer & state, expansion approved 2014
 - Community market research completed August 2014
 - Townhall meeting on expansion options October 2014
 - Board strategic planning sessions winter/summer 2015
 - Applied for \$200k CSP expansion grant, won June 2015

What were our expansion options?

1. Do nothing, maintain current great K-8 program
 - Serious space constraints
 - Not serving clear community need based on our waitlist
2. Replicate a second elementary/middle school
 - Our original thinking
3. Increase K-8 enrollment to have enough students to start grades 9 (& 10) in the future
4. Launch H.S. aggressively, before expanded K-8
 - Much more marketing required to fill H.S. grades from outside DaVinci middle-school

The Overall Plan – “big rocks in the jar”

- Economics don't allow two small campuses
 - We must combine student body into one larger building
- Good site found nearby, in southern Ham Lake
 - SW corner of Bunker Lake Blvd. and Jefferson St.
 - Purchase agreement in place, pending bond closing
- Agreement with current building's landlord for an early exit
 - Buyout of our remaining lease (through 2021)

Highlights of the plan for the new school

- Will serve 1,046 students when fully enrolled
 - Compared to 430 students now
- Four sections in each grade 1 – 8, five kindergarten
 - Add gifted/talented “sections” for all grades
 - Breakout & small group spaces, study space, staff space
- Approximately 108,000 square feet
 - Three story academic wing (by floor: K-2, 3-5, 6-8)
 - Full size gymnasium
 - Auditorium
 - Dedicated open cafeteria space
 - Media/library/computer lab, science lab
 - Two music rooms, practice room, green room

Initial Enrollment Plan

- Start at the new school in August 2017
- Planned enrollment sections for first years in the new building (2017/18 and 2018/19)
 - Balance the addition of new students with the management of school and student performance

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Current Sections	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2017 Sections	5	4	4	3	2	2	3	2	2
2018 Sections	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2

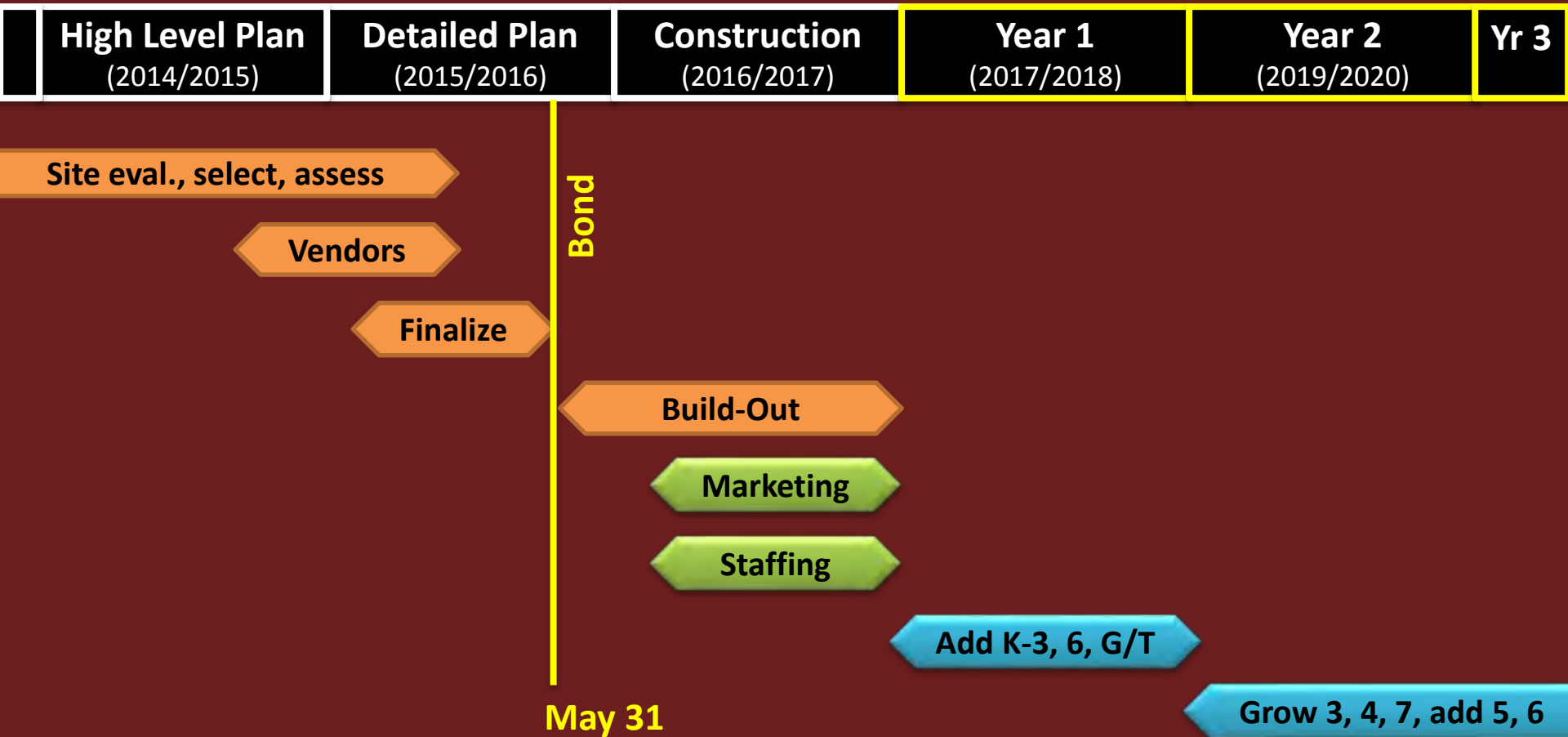
* Plus self-contained Gifted/Talented classrooms (2-3 in first year)

Current status

- All major vendors and service providers in place
 - Owner's Representative: Kou Vang
 - Legal Counsel: Lindquist & Vennum
 - Architects: Rivera Architects
 - General Contractor: Rochon Corporation
 - Bond Underwriter: Piper Jaffray
- Bonding: about \$26 million
 - School construction, service providers, lease buyout, insurance, holdbacks, fees, etc.
 - UPDATE 6/3/16: bonding completed!

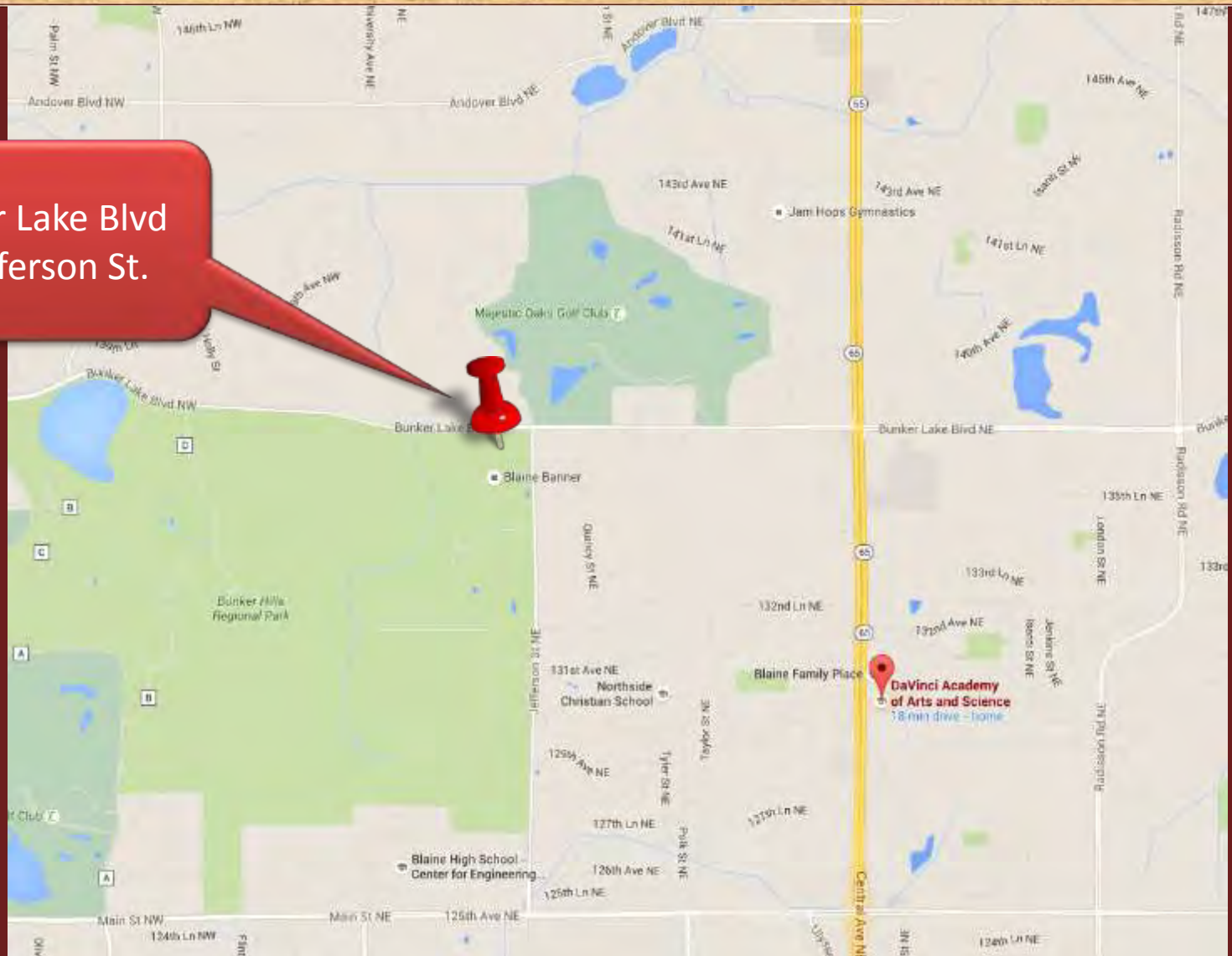
Timeline for new site

- Start in the new building: **August 2017**

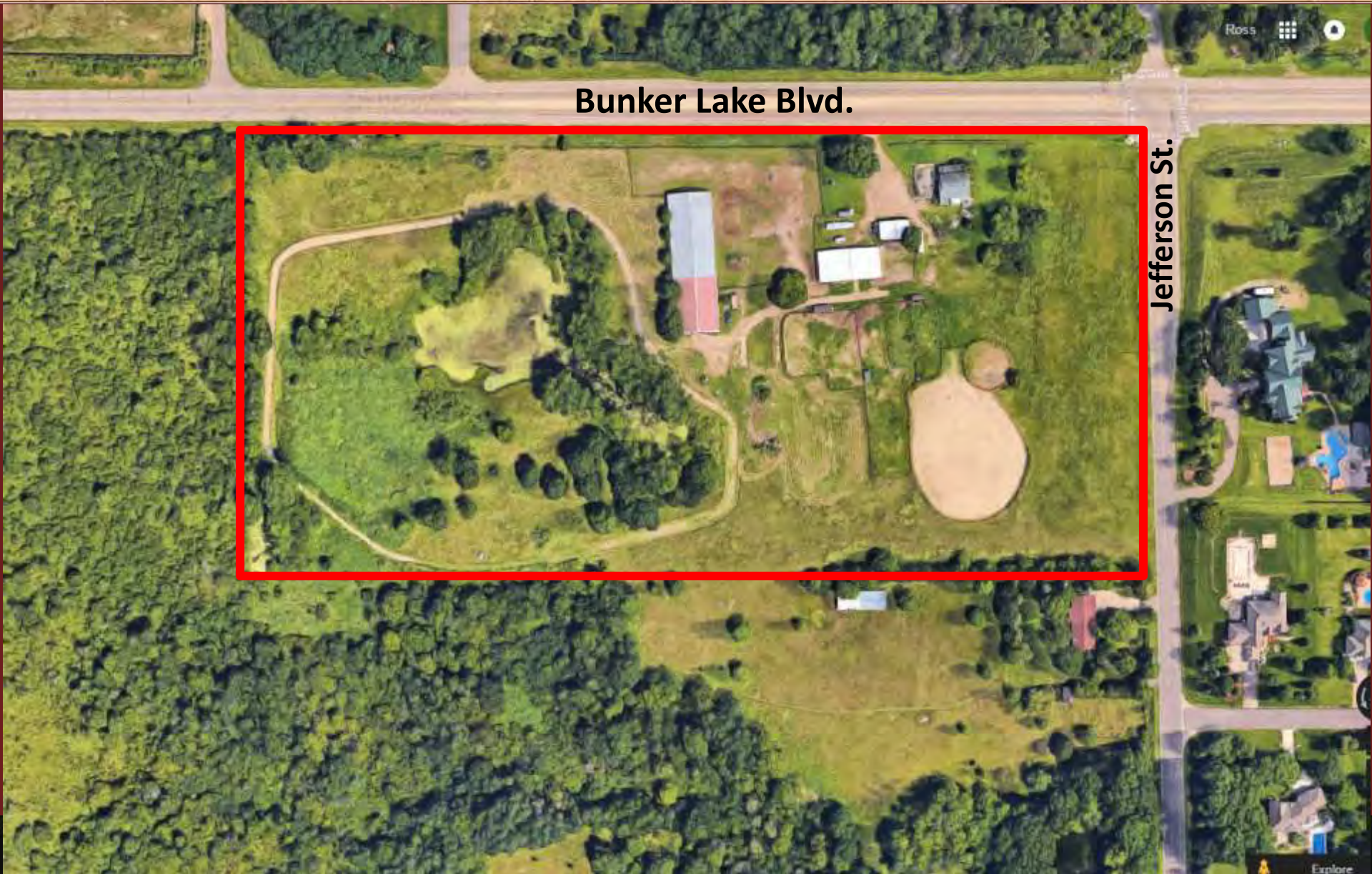


Location: 1.5 miles from current school

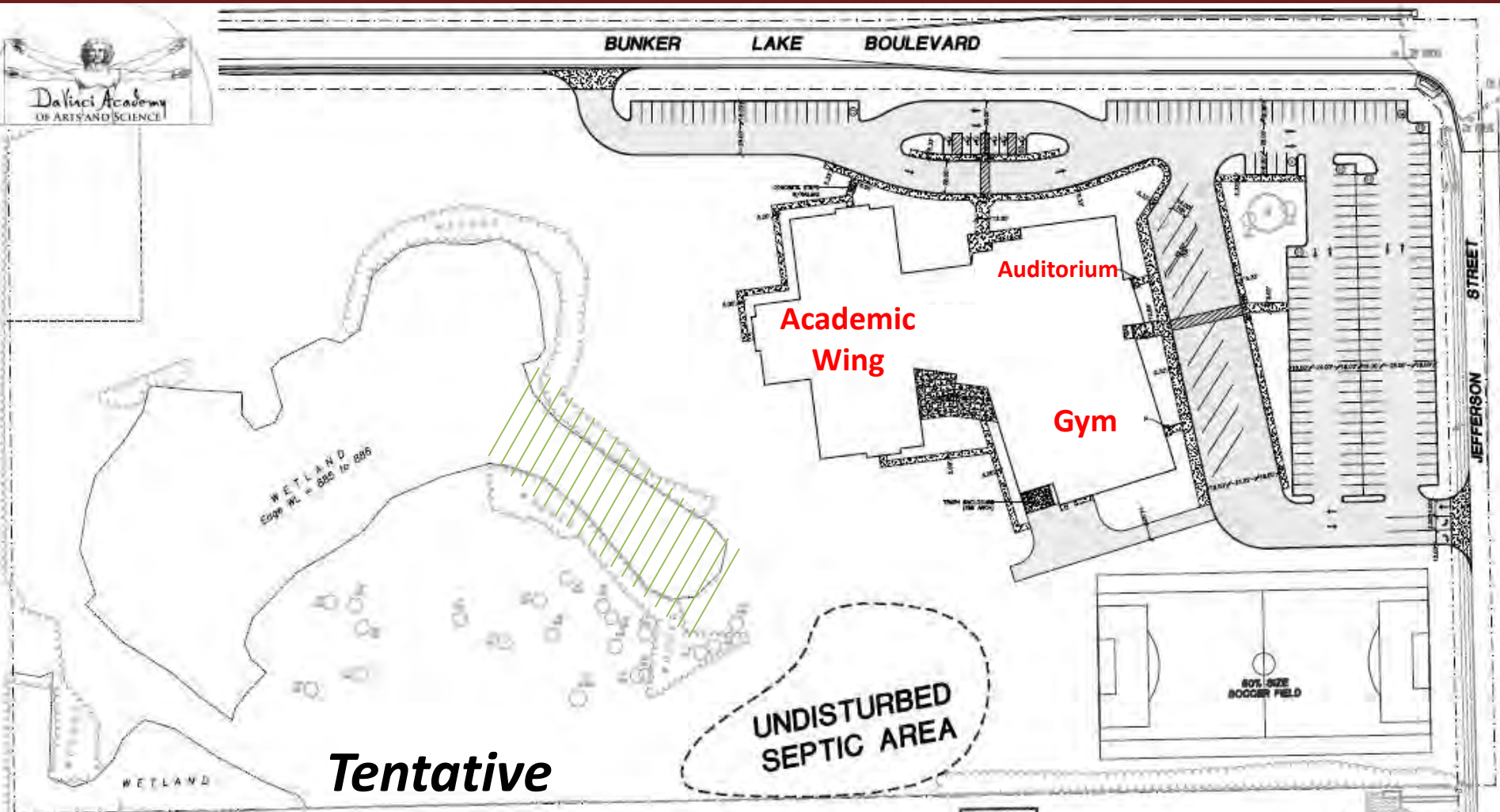
Bunker Lake Blvd
at Jefferson St.



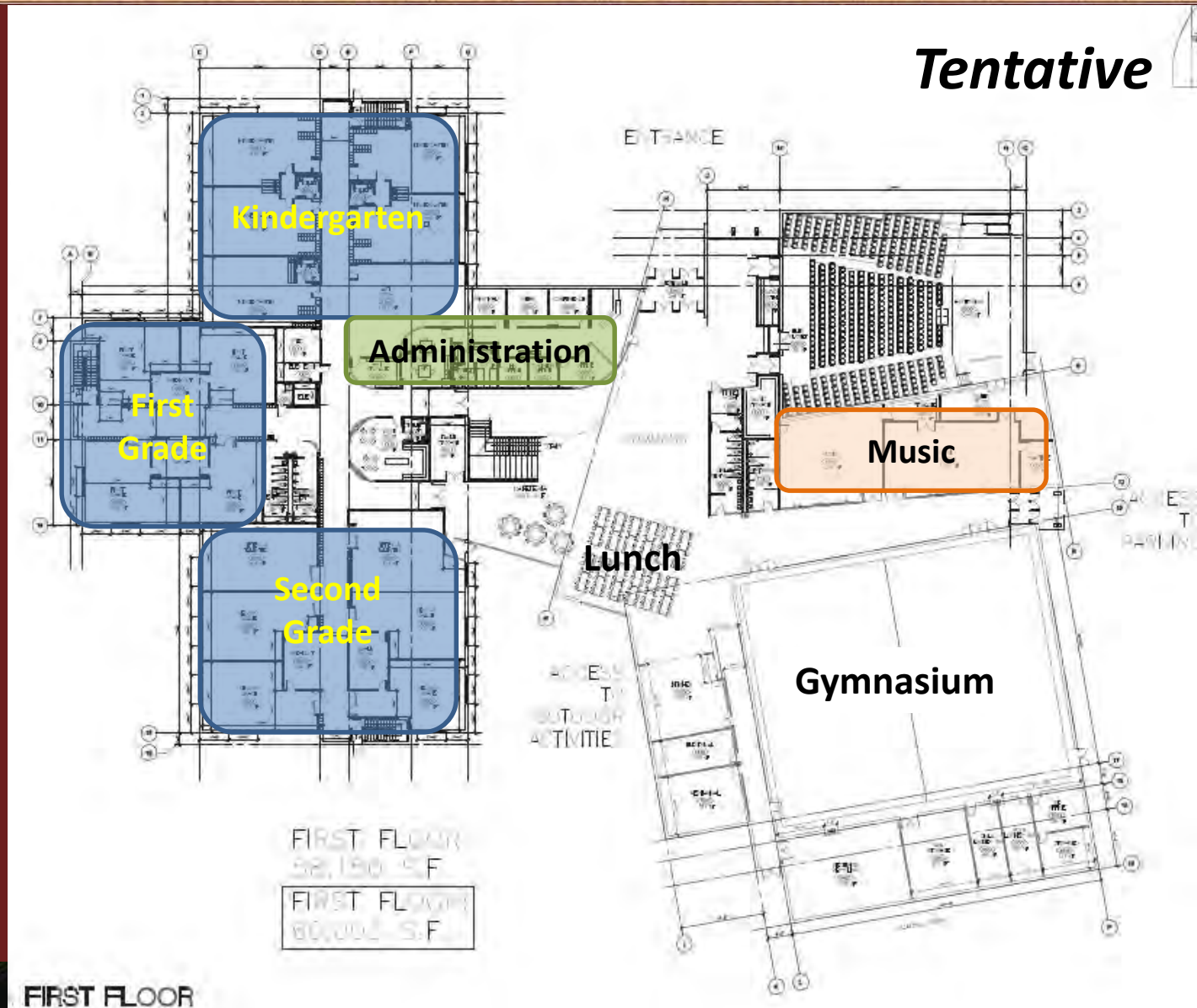
Site (currently a horse farm, with a pond)



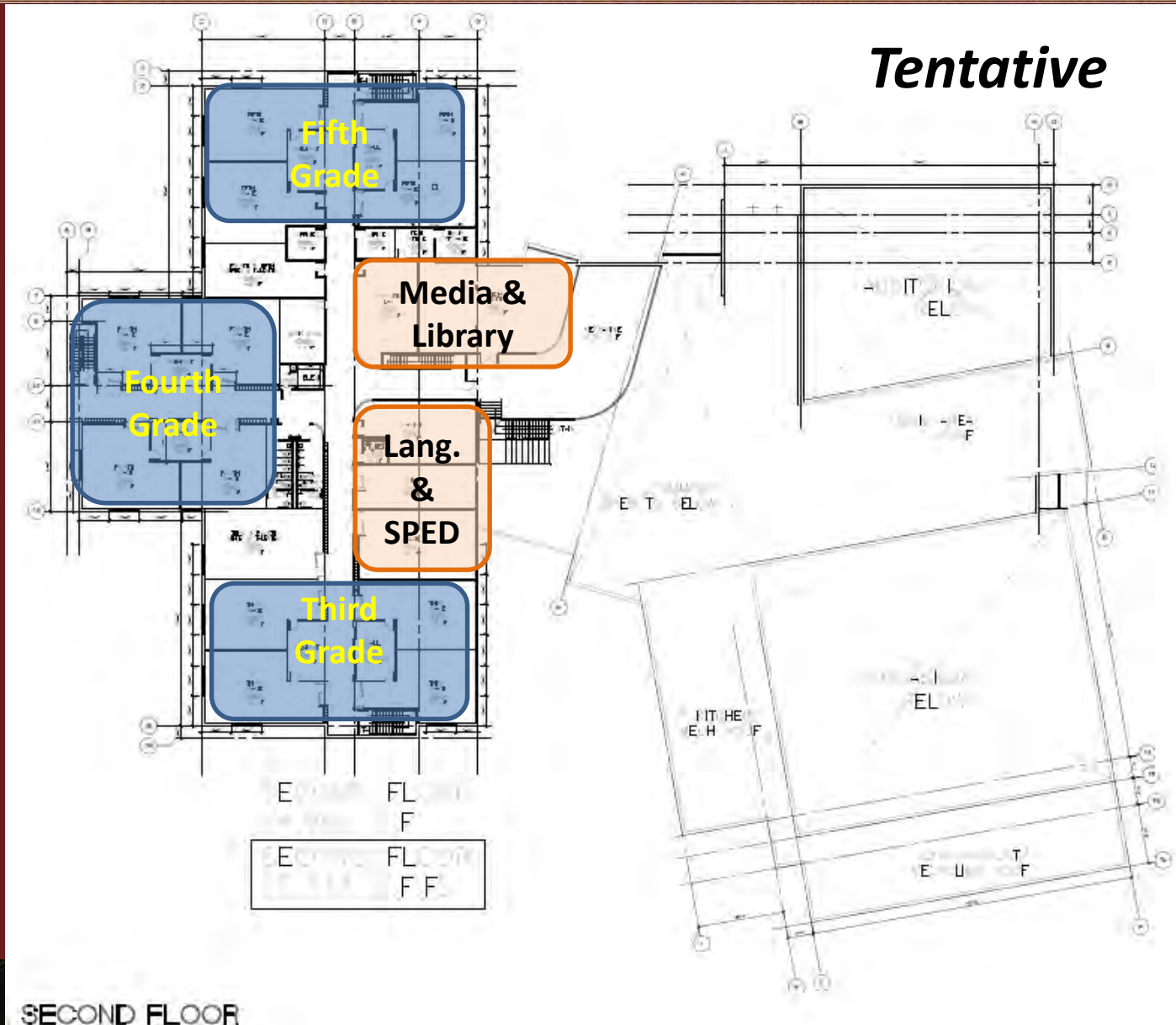
Tentative site plan



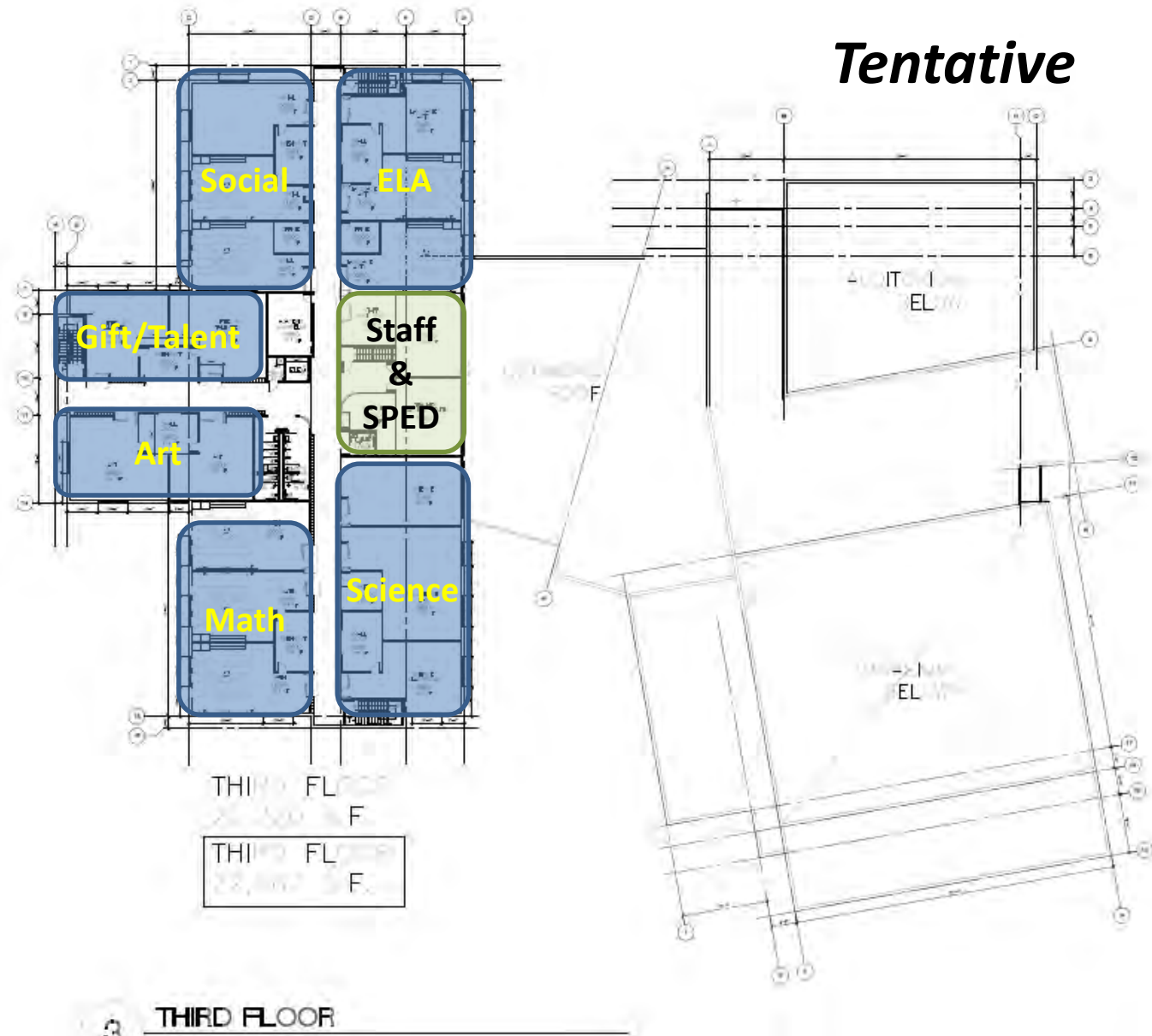
1st Floor (K-2, Gym, Auditorium, Cafeteria)



2nd Floor (3rd, 4th, 5th Grades)



3rd Floor (Middle School)



Very tentative sample front projection



Very tentative sample front projection



Required resources

- **Board**
 - Committed and prepared to invest significant time and effort
 - Dedicated ad-hoc task force meets weekly, interacts almost daily
 - ABC Board in place and handling required legal obligations
- **Administrative staff**
 - Current staff to lead planning and execution
 - Add/augment staff to help with expansion and backfill as needed
- **Community leadership**
 - Passionate, committed, and energized parent and community volunteers willing to invest time and energy
 - 1) **Capital Campaign**
 - 2) **Marketing/outreach**

Impact on potential High School plan

- Current long-term perspective: **9th grade in 2022**
 - High school will need a new site

Phase	School Yr	Milestone	Elementary / Middle	Earliest High School Plan
ONE Expand K-8	2015-16		Planning & design, bonding, buy land, buy out current lease, break ground.	
	2016-17		Construction, hire new teachers, market to families, move in.	
	2017-18	Move to New Campus	Move to new site, add all K-2, one each 3rd & 6th grades, start gifted/talented.	
TWO Grow K-8	2018-19		Add another 3rd and a 5th, grow into grades 4 and 7.	Evaluate H.S. options, do market research, define goals
	2019-20		Grow into 4, 7, and 8.	Find site, start strategic plan, start H.S. program definition.
	2020-21		Grow middle school.	Finalize & approve HS plan, site purchase, bonding
THREE Execute HS	2021-22	Full K-8	Full K-8 enrollment: 1,046 students.	Build H.S., hire staff, advertise.
	2022-23	Start HS	Maintain	Grow into 9th, lateral 10th
	2023-24		Maintain	Grow into 11th
	2024-25		Maintain	Grow into 12th

Next Steps (Updated 6/3/2016)

- Board & ABC to submitted bonding package
 - Bonds approved and sold, all construction to proceed!
- Start construction late June
- Two new committees forming
 - ***Capital campaign fundraising committee***
 - First meeting March 14 at 6:30pm
 - Limited window of time (< 1 year). Start now, meet weekly.
 - ***Marketing committee***
 - Outreach to community, families and students
 - Develop positive buzz to support staff hiring