

Project Narrative
Consolidated Early Learning Academy at Meeting House Hill School
24 Gillotti Road

Overall Project Description

This project includes a new addition to the existing Meeting House Hill School (MHHS) in order to consolidate the Consolidated Early Learning Academy (CELA) and the Meeting House Hill School operations to one campus. The new CELA addition will be approximately 43,000 SF and will house grades Pre-K through 1 while the existing MHHS will house grades 2 through 5. The total building area will be approximately 139,000 SF. The project will include the demolition of the existing 79,500 SF Consolidated Elementary School, site restoration and creation of a new bus lot on the existing Consolidated Elementary School site (submitted as a separate application).

Site Description

Sitework is primarily limited to the areas north and east of the existing school. While minimal work proposed within the existing parking and school areas to the south and west, the project does include a small addition on the southeast corner of the MHHS as well as minor improvements throughout the parking lot, as shown on the Site Plan.

The large proposed addition connects to the north side of the existing school building, enclosing the northern courtyard. Adjacent to the addition, new play areas will be constructed with a variety of groundcover, including lawn and hardscape, as well as play and site elements to accommodate the age-specific needs of the expanded school, as detailed on the site plan. The project includes a revised entrance on the east side of the school to serve as the primary entrance for students during drop-off and pick-up time. To accommodate this change in procedure, the project proposes the reconstruction of the bus drop-off/pick-up areas as well as the creation of a parent drop-off/pick-up loop to help manage the increase in students at the school. The layout has been developed to prioritize pedestrian safety through the use of raised crosswalks, a curbed median, fencing and landscaping. A new parking lot is proposed to the east of the building as well, roughly in the area of the existing bus parking lot that is being relocated to the Consolidated School site. Additionally, a secondary entrance on the northern end of the drop-off area is proposed for CELA, to be used in off-peak hours.

In consideration of the significant grade change across the site, the play area north of the building is tiered. A combination of stairs, ramps, and graded slopes allow full access across the entire play area. To accommodate the increase in impervious area, a new underground detention system is proposed. Additionally, to help divert runoff from the play area to the immediate north, a swale is proposed to redirect water towards the east.

Utilities for the addition are assumed to be fed from the existing building. No changes are proposed to the existing septic tanks, treatment area and/or leaching field, but the existing pump chamber (upstream of the treatment plant) will need to be replaced as will the

forecements to and from the treatment center, as the existing pipes are located within the building addition footprint.

Building Design

The existing Consolidated Early Learning Academy will be relocated to the Meeting House Hill School site in a new addition to the existing Meeting House Hill School. The new addition will provide classrooms and support spaces for the CELA's current Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Grade students, staff and administration. As a result of combining two schools in one building, some renovations to the existing MHHS will be made, most notably, the repurposing of the current bus entrance for program space and the expansion of the existing gym entrance to allow for one, centrally located entrance for students from both schools arriving and departing by bus. Renovations to the existing gymnasium storage spaces, demolition of the existing bus office will be required in order to expand the corridor to accommodate this new access. The existing MHHS main entry will remain with minor security upgrades. A new, dedicated entrance for the CELA will be constructed at the north end of the current bus loading area and a connecting corridor will be constructed along the east façade of the gymnasium to connect the two entries and improve internal circulation within the school.

Building Envelope

The exterior building envelope for the CELA addition will reference the existing MHHS materials in order to integrate the two schools into one building. The primary materials of the building envelope are brick, stone, aluminum storefront and curtain wall.