



## OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

# PROJECT DESIGN REVIEW

There are four proposed designs under consideration for the new construction of a 550-student Elementary School on the Oakdale Elementary property. The large size of the Oakdale campus is considered advantageous for allowing adjustments to parking, traffic flow, and for its flexibility of play and open space. Each structure is situated to maximize natural light for learning, potential solar power and efficiency. All four design concepts include the same number and sizes of classrooms, specialized instruction spaces, cafetorium, Gym (with community entrance), and all other support spaces.

The SBRC must submit a Preliminary Schematic Design to the Massachusetts School Building Authority by the end of August. The four options and short descriptions of each are available for viewing on the Oakdale Project website: [www.dedham.k12.ma.us/oakdaleproject](http://www.dedham.k12.ma.us/oakdaleproject).

## EDUCATIONAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

In January and February a group of 35+ volunteers made up of Dedham Public School leadership, administrators, teachers, parents and community members from Riverdale, Oakdale and Greenlodge participated in three virtual Educational Visioning Workshops run by Johnathan Levi Architects and New Vista Design. These sessions were aimed at capturing thoughts on current and future educational goals and priorities for the District, then connecting them to best practices and possibilities in innovative school design.

### SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL AND DESIGN PRIORITIES DEVELOPED:

- Provide for easy movement of both teachers and students. Movement includes hallways that feel safe and accessible cues such as color-coding and a nonlinguistic wayfinding plan.
- Accommodate small, flexible, fluid group instruction as well as regular group classroom instruction.
- Provide flexible space for large groups to congregate for assembly, exhibition, celebration, and display of student work.
- Support common planning space and time for teachers.
- Enhance hands-on, project-based learning and authentic assessment practices such as performance assessment.
- Provide multiple scheduling options before, within, and after the school day for the differentiation of experiences for all students.
- Provide dedicated, adequate and appropriate space for specialty subjects; and locate support services within the context of the general classrooms and the general curriculum, so it is accessible to ALL.
- Provide positioning so that teachers can team and collaborate creating interdisciplinary project-based learning opportunities.
- Congregate grade-level classrooms within neighborhoods that contain adjacent breakout and commons areas that allow learning to extend beyond the classroom.
- Locate specialist programming for library, art, music, PE, etc. within a central core that is not only security-forward but easily accessible to all students.

These community-led priorities and vision, as well as site logistics and a site walk-through with neighbors have informed the four designs under consideration. A copy of the full March 1, 2023 Educational Program presentation is available on the at: [www.Dedham.k12.ma.us/oakdaleproject](http://www.Dedham.k12.ma.us/oakdaleproject) under Project Updates.

*The Dedham SBRC will be reviewing refinements to the designs and cost estimates, discuss input collected from the public and various Town Committees and Boards and potentially voting on a design recommendation at the*  
**August 7, 2023 SBRC Meeting (7pm O'Brien Meeting Room / Zoom).**



## OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

### OPTION A: ACADEMIC COURTYARD



'Academic Courtyard' – Site plan



'Academic Courtyard' – Level 1



'Academic Courtyard' – Level 2

### DESIGN NOTES

- Two, 2-story wings, correctly oriented for sustainability, frame an enclosed courtyard.
- The courtyard can be used both for recreation and for protected outdoor learning activities or outdoor classrooms.
- The building would be entered from a shared lobby: Grades 1 and 2 would go left to their spaces; Grades 3-5 circulate to the right to their learning spaces.
- Directly fronting the lobby is the media center which looks out through high windows to the cafeteria at the other end of the academic courtyard.
- The cafeteria can be joined to the adjacent gym for whole community events. Both have direct access to the outdoors.

**KEY:** CR = Classroom; MED = Media; ADMIN = Staff working space/offices; KIT = Kitchen; CC = Common class space





## OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

### OPTION A: ACADEMIC COURTYARD



'Academic Courtyard' – Exterior View



'Academic Courtyard' – Interior View



# OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

## OPTION B: COMMON CORE WELCOME



'Common Core Welcome' – Site plan



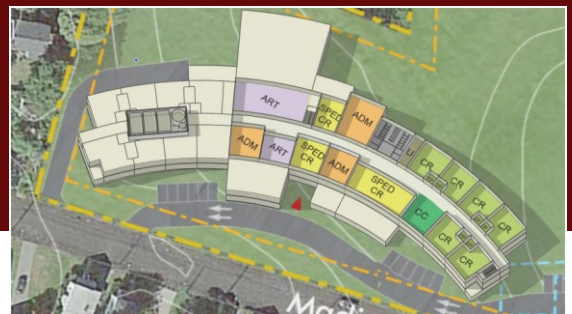
'Common Core Welcome' – Level 1, Single Entry



'Common Core Welcome' – Level 2

## DESIGN NOTES

- This approach could have either a shared entry for all students or separate entrances for Grades 1-2 and Grades 3-5.
- The two schools within a school share a central core of interrelated common spaces including the gym, cafeteria and media center.
- A 2 1/2 story design, the east or upper school wing is three stories in height with its taller portion kept away from neighbors and bordering the large open space of the playfields.



'Common Core Welcome' – Level 3

**KEY:** CR = Classroom; MED = Media; ADMIN = Staff working space/offices; KIT = Kitchen; CC = Common class space





## OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

### OPTION B: COMMON CORE WELCOME



'Common Core Welcome' – Interior View

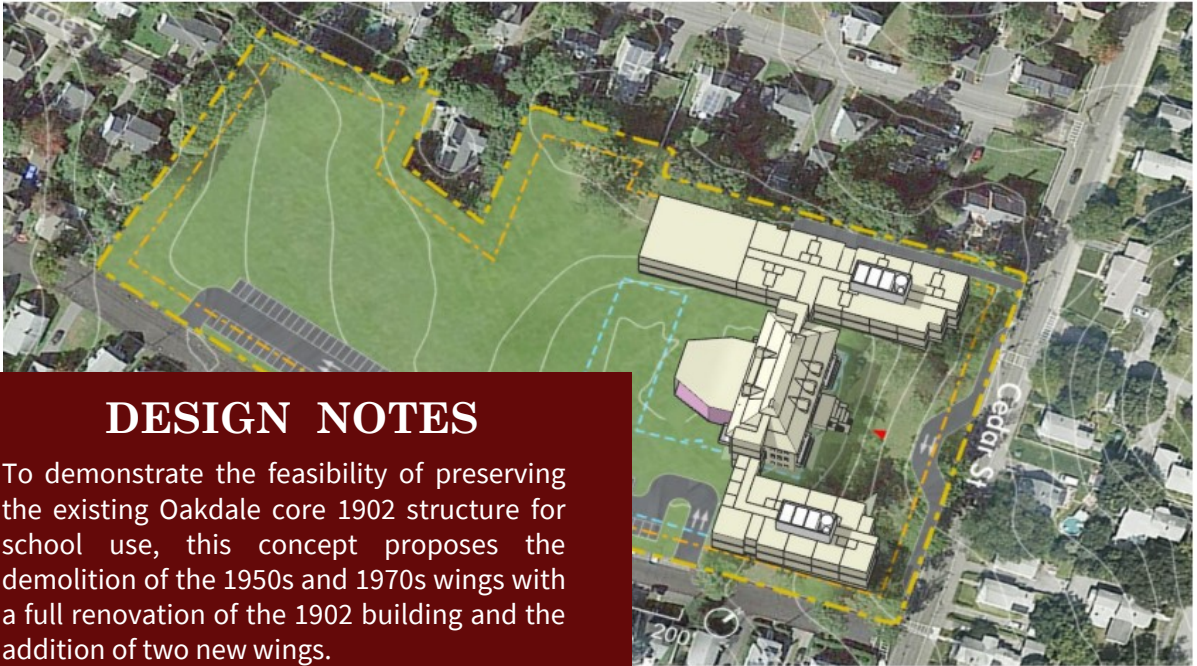


'Common Core Welcome' – Interior View



## OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

# OPTION C: ADDITION/PARTIAL RENOVATION



### DESIGN NOTES

- To demonstrate the feasibility of preserving the existing Oakdale core 1902 structure for school use, this concept proposes the demolition of the 1950s and 1970s wings with a full renovation of the 1902 building and the addition of two new wings.
- The school would be entered from a glass porch whose ramps and stairs would provide full ADA access to the existing building's elevated floor level.
- Office and administration space would occupy the entry level of the 1902 building along with the lobby and the media center.
- The media center overlooks the cafetorium addition, one story below at the rear.
- Glass corridors and new stair towers connect the historic structure to the semi-detached new wings which frame it.
- The first-floor level of the new wings is set at the center building's basement level, with the adjoining ground carved out to allow light and view to their classrooms.
- With multiple phases for renovation, temporary occupancy and sequential construction, this option will require an extended construction schedule.



'Addition/Partial Renovation' – Level 1



'Addition/Partial Renovation' – Level 2



'Addition/Partial Renovation' – Level 3

**KEY:** CR = Classroom; MED = Media; ADMIN = Staff working space/offices; KIT = Kitchen; CC = Common class space





## OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

### OPTION C: ADDITION/PARTIAL RENOVATION



'Addition/Partial Renovation' – Interior View



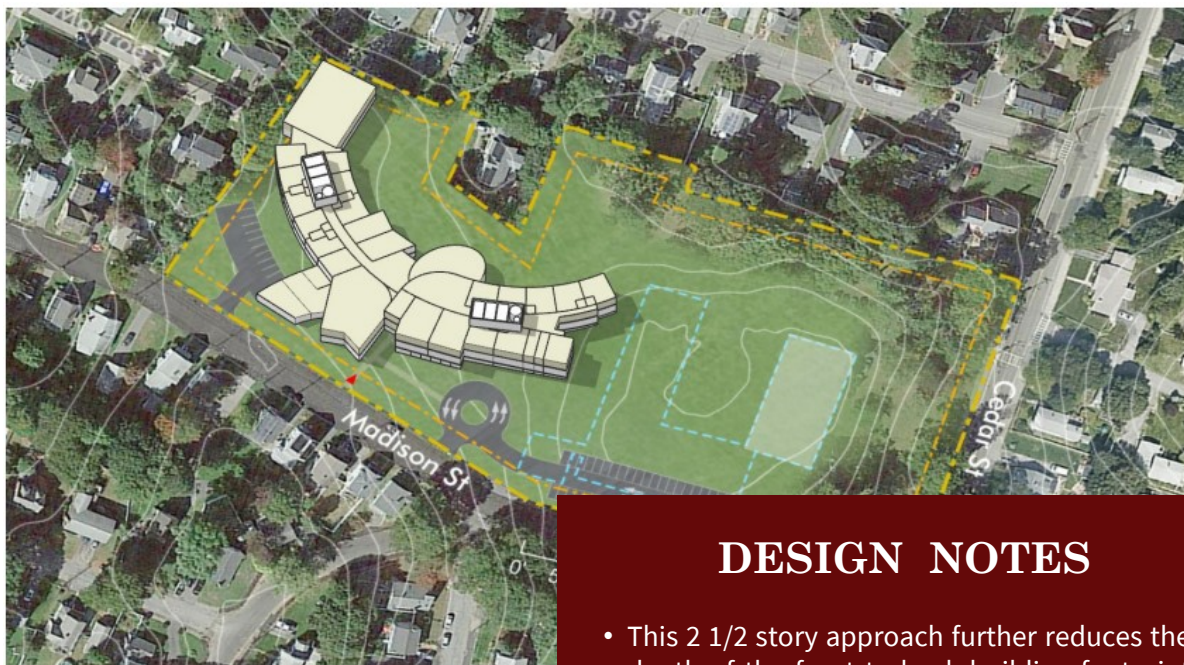
'Addition/Partial Renovation' – Interior View





# OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

## OPTION D: CORE CLUSTER



'Core Cluster' – Site plan



'Core Cluster' – Level 1



'Cluster Core' – Level 2

### DESIGN NOTES

- This 2 1/2 story approach further reduces the depth of the front to back building footprint by relocating the gymnasium to the pocket of space at the NW corner of the site.
- This creates greater continuity of the green space surrounding the building while at the same time maintaining proper solar orientation for the classrooms.
- An exciting cluster of interactive core spaces occupies the center of the building, with cafetorium, media center, maker space, art and music all proximate and visible to each other.
- The two academic wings, Grades 1-2 to the left and 3-5 to the right, are differentiated from each other according to the program requirements; with the 3-5 corridor widening into shared collaborative common class activity areas.



'Core Cluster' – Level 3

**KEY:** CR = Classroom; MED = Media; ADMIN = Staff working space/offices; KIT = Kitchen; CC = Common class space





# OAKDALE ELEMENTARY BUILDING PROJECT

## OPTION D: CORE CLUSTER



'Core Cluster' – Exterior View



'Core Cluster' – Interior View