



Board of Education Agenda Abstract

Meeting Date: February 19, 2026
Agenda Type: Discussion and Action

Subject: Acceptance of the Initial Site Plan Layout, as Recommended by the Design Committee, for the Carrboro Elementary School Replacement Project

Division:	Operations	Department:	Operations and Facilities
Person Responsible:	Al Ciarochi, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, David Contreras, Executive Director of Capital Projects & Facilities	Feedback Requested From:	Carrboro Elementary Design Team, Carrboro Elementary Staff & Administration, PTA, School Community

Strategic Plan Alignment: Equitable and Transparent Fiscal Stewardship and Operations

Previous Work Session (Y/N):	No	Date:	
Previous Discussion and Action (Y/N):	No	Date:	

Attachment(s):

[02.19.26 BOARD UPDATE_CES Replacement_Community Engagement_Site Layout.pptx.pdf](#)

PURPOSE:

Seeking CHCCS Board of Education acceptance of the initial site plan layout, as recommended by the design committee, for the Carrboro Elementary School replacement project.

BACKGROUND:

Carrboro Elementary School Replacement

Project Summary

The Carrboro Elementary School Replacement project is progressing, with early design and community engagement underway. The project will replace the current facility while ensuring school operations continue without interruption. The goal is to provide a modern, safe, and sustainable learning environment that meets educational needs and respects the community and natural surroundings.

Project Timeline and Milestones

Community engagement and listening sessions began in January 2026. Design completion is expected by January 2027, with construction starting in Spring 2027. The new school is scheduled to open for the Fall 2028 semester, and final site work will finish by January 2029. Demolition of the existing school will occur after the new building opens to minimize disruption.

Project Team

The project is supported by a comprehensive team that includes a project management firm, architectural and engineering consultants, and a construction management team. The design team, led by LS3P, includes architects, interior designers, and engineers specializing in civil, structural, mechanical, and landscape disciplines. Clancy & Theys provides construction management services, ensuring coordination, safety, and schedule control throughout the project.

Community and Student Engagement

Early engagement has involved teachers, parents, students, Town of Carrboro staff, and the broader community. Ongoing engagement will continue throughout design and construction to ensure transparency and incorporate stakeholder feedback.

Design Process and Schedule

The project follows a structured design process, including conceptual design, massing studies, schematic design, design development, and construction documents. This phased approach enables option evaluation, layout refinement, and alignment with budget and schedule. Community engagement is integrated throughout the process.

Key Design Considerations

Several critical factors guide design decisions. The existing school must remain operational during construction, requiring careful phasing and temporary access. The design must allow students to occupy the new school before demolishing the existing building and completing final site work. Safety, security, and efficient traffic flow, including parent drop-off, bus circulation, and one-way patterns, are key considerations. The design also aims to minimize site disturbance, preserve tree buffers, use existing cleared areas, and reduce impacts on streams and wetlands. Sustainability, budget, and schedule control remain central priorities.

Site Analysis and Design Concepts

Site analysis identified environmental constraints, property boundaries, traffic access points, and natural features such as streams and wetlands. The design committee evaluated several preliminary site layouts, advancing two primary concepts for detailed consideration:

- Concept 1 allows parking and parent queuing to be completed before the school opens and orients the new building toward the greenway. However, it has a greater impact on wooded areas and wetlands, requires temporary bus and playground arrangements, and places the service court along Shelton Street.
- Concept 2 locates the building mainly within existing open areas, minimizing tree clearing and environmental impact. It offers greater visibility from Shelton Road, places play areas in a secure rear location, and reduces impacts on streams and wetlands. The main challenge is the potential need for temporary bus drop-off arrangements during construction.

Both concepts allow parking and parent queuing to open with Phase 1 construction and support continued school operations during the build.

Based upon the “Key Design Considerations” (mentioned above), it is the Design Committee’s recommendation to proceed with the “Concept 2” option. This option allows the school’s replacement while minimizing impact on the school and the existing site. The Board’s acceptance of the recommended site plan provides the design team with “direction only,” as it is not the final layout. The layout will continue to be modified as the project progresses through the design and approval process. Staff will keep the Board apprised of any major changes that may arise during this process.

Next Steps

The project team will continue community engagement, refine design options, and address key operational and environmental considerations as the project advances through schematic design. Feedback from stakeholders will help inform the preferred site layout and final design direction.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Capital funding for design has been identified within the Board of County Commissioners-approved 2025-26 Capital Investment Plan, as part of the 2024 Orange County Bond Program.

PERSONNEL IMPACT:

None

SUGGESTED ACTION:

RESOLUTION:

Be it, therefore, resolved that the Board of Education Accepts the Initial Site Plan Layout, as Recommended by the Design Committee, for the Carrboro Elementary School Replacement Project.