

JOHN A HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY

2021

JOHN A. HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL
SURVEY RESULTS



process overview

At the outset of a community-centered construction project such as the proposed reconstruction of John A. Holmes High School, the comprehensive understanding of local and community impact is of critical importance to the ultimate formulation of a design solution.

The following report has been developed utilizing data collected via surveys, interactive activities, and interviews - both on-line and in-person - during and following an community event hosted at John A. Holmes High School on January 27, 2021. This event, which invited community members to attend, sought active participation from the community in developing the parameters of design context and inspiration that are to inform future decision-making on the architectural features and planning of a new High School building for the Edenton-Chowan Community. LS3P worked closely with Edenton-Chowan County Schools to plan these meetings, ensuring a successful and informative day of community engagement. LS3P has also prepared a website to gather additional feedback throughout the project and to keep the community informed of all project updates, [www. ls3p.com/johnaholmeshighschool](http://www.ls3p.com/johnaholmeshighschool).

on-line community surveys

Over a two-week span, the community was invited to participate in a eleven-question survey on-line. This survey primarily focused on the important aspects for John A. Holmes High School. In total, 198 community and school members participated in the survey.

prevalent themes

Through the above-described methods, the architectural and engineering team were able to gather a wealth of information on the history, perspectives, and development of John A. Holmes in the context of both its students, faculty, and the community at large. As may be expected, the varying roles and ages of the respondents and participants provided for a variety of visions for John A. Holmes High School, and in some case conflicting, though informative insights. However, through each interview, survey, and later analysis, it became altogether apparent that the community of Edenton-Chowan embraces the High School as a symbol of local history and culture, and an immense source of pride.

John A. Holmes High School was shown to be deeply ingrained in the fabric of the surrounding community. While opinions may vary on topics of design, the thread of historic context and pride featured throughout every response is apparent.

On perspectives of the existing campus design many participants exhibited their concerns of preserving the Town Commons and green space throughout the campus, we are excited to show you how we plan to do this. Of utmost importance to current and former students was the preservation of the historic nature of the school itself.





What features of history or culture of the existing John A. Holmes High School are important to preserve or incorporate into the new design?

The green space on the front lawn. It's the only one left on Broad St. There are festivals, band practice, farm shows that are hosted there and would look so commercialized to lose that.

The Boy Scout Hut - the authentic log building which is close to 100 years old. This building should be preserved and retained for use by the Scouts in Chowan County

None

The auditorium.

Architecture. It is important that we remember the revenue Chowan County receives from tourism and I would not want a modern design within Historic Edenton.

Year and name

Entry Door and signage

Just the front facade.

Athletic Facilities that are existing and create room for non existing ones to be brought onto this campus

I really like how everything is in one space. Also, one of my favorite features is the front lawn.

None

None

None

The location and the main building

Incorporate the the brick design

THE NAME AND ONLY THE NAME

let it all go!

We do need to preserve history of the school, to keep in mind the excellence of academics and sports of years past. Which would be more kept in the inside of the building . Not really in the outside construction!

Multi story brick on Broad Street

Anything that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places should remain exactly as it is today. To include the National Guard Armory, the Boy Scout Hut, the 1950 High School and the WPA baseball stadium.

I would like to see the open grassy area in front of the school be preserved. Also the Hicks field should also be preserved, as well as the Scout Hut and the old National Guard Armory.

I am against building a new high school. The vote of the county reflected this. Renovation is desirable and the present high school has historical value and much better constructed than any new construction

Nothing. Its a blank slate. Build for the future, not the past.

Preserve the front yard in its entirety.

I graduated in '65. Mr. Holmes was the Superintendent. It was a good place to learn, great teachers, the layout made it easy to get from classroom to classroom, Aces spirit was everywhere and in every sport or extra-curricula activity. Keep the school as is. My brother actually helped build the auditorium. My two sons graduated from there. I still live here and participated in basketball, track, cheerleading, etc. -- Great Years!

Keep the main building. Please don't destroy the oak trees in front of the school.

The brick building and the location is prime for high school students. Being able to walk to work or a sport facility is crucial to a student career.

It would be nice to use the historic facade of the existing building if possible.

None

I think it should follow the esthetic of the town not necessarily the current school

Save the building. Save the Scout Hut Dave the Armory

No opinion

Athletics, Arts and History of Edenton

No preference

Historic Hicks Field

Departments should be grouped together.

Bricks- but can be repurposed... interior wall, walking labyrinth, garden path, etc...

The front lawn and all of the front parking including the parking lot by the baseball field I would definitely keep. There are lots of events that are held during the year that would need that area.

What features of history or culture of the existing John A. Holmes High School are important to preserve or incorporate into the new design? (continued)

None - its trash

I like the existing front facade (certainly needs new windows though). Preserve trophies and awards from the past and somehow incorporate old pictures).

Open spaces - the courtyard by the library, the commons, the front lawn

Wish the new school could have a similar look from the outside, but be modern and updated on the inside.

The building has a historic architecture.

The facade

The front preservation of the main building, to maintain the historical image and significance and remembrance of those who have passed through these doors. The field in front of the school.

Design characteristics are not vitally important; the design can be contemporary but should embody the highest ideals of why public education is important - to educate all students so that they may become the best citizens of a community, regardless of race, economic background or social status.

outdoor gathering area, such as I enjoyed when a student there in the early/mid 1970's. there was a sort of courtyard at the back and we sat on the grass and on benches; we also made us of the front lawn.

I have not read anything about the design. Obviously, maintaining Hicks Field, tennis courts and open field in front of the high school is important. I enjoy driving by the high school and seeing the band, football team and other activities of the students. And, including an auditorium with decent seats, sound and lighting.

The original building, or at least its facade.

Historic Hicks field staying the same

I feel it is important to recognize the history, but the school should be all new, we shouldn't sacrifice our students learning facility to preserve bricks and mortar. A "Picture Hall of Fame" could suffice for the history and culture recognition.

I loved the music classes being behind the stage, it made moving instruments/chairs etc very easy and efficient. A direct door to the outside from the band room was also very useful. I like the tennis courts, the mural that's always changing, and the columns in the atrium.

The front facade

No preference

Architectural design that fits Edenton's image. In other words, not some super modern structure.

after-hours community involvement, community visibility

Hicks field

The original architecture and look of the current building.

I think the original main building, brick exterior & window design, along with historic Hicks Field are first items that come to mind.

The name, trophies, photos of current school building, etc.

The facade

the front facade

None

Retain a portion of of the entry way.

front facade

"Honestly, I graduated from John A Holmes and have spent my entire career here and I'm not attached to anything.

My child will attend this school and I will like to focus on the future and be forward thinking with the design. "

The facade and the overall appearance, it has (to me) the educational institution look

Gym

The historic Scout Hut which has served the community which takes pride in preserving the historical buildings and landmarks in Edenton & Chowan County.

To keep a historical look to a certain degree

None in particular. I believe we need a school which will be a foundation for educating the youth of Chowan County. History and culture have very little to do with achieving a proper education, otherwise a school in Edenton, by virtue of the rich history and culture of the community would be turning out Rhodes Scholars by simply opening its doors. That is NOT what this project is about!

No opinion

The new school should be situated in such a way as to allow for the most available sports and recreation area available. If you look at the existing design and at the design of Swain, as well as other historical NC school buildings, we should follow those. See the layout of Broughton High School in Raleigh as an example of a beautiful facade with an excellent and efficient layout. The main thing to avoid is an architectural disconnect between Edenton and a school that will be built in this prime location. It should enhance the area by agreeing architecturally with the nature of one of the oldest and most important towns in the country!

Incorporate some of the bricks from the main two-story building into the wall of history.

What features of history or culture of the existing John A. Holmes High School are important to preserve or incorporate into the new design? (continued)

None

Front facade of 2-story building

The culture of JAHHS is in the name and location. The tradition is in the school colors, mascot, and reputation for its students producing outstanding academic, athletic, artistic, and extra-curricular achievements. An area of main office reception space and/or shared gym/auditorium lobby could be dedicated to a photo montage of the history of the first JAHHS. The front of the Phase 1 structure and all other main entrance/high public traffic areas (gym, auditorium, cafeteria, pool) should have a stately, colonial, brick facade that ties in with this community's love of historical preservation. A negative part of this school's history is the use of this acreage as a short cut from Broad to Oakum. The design and layout MUST incorporate increased student and staff safety.

The Armory because of the visit from Martin Luther King Jr.

A shipping river port..not confederacy not patriarchy

None

none

Hicks Field

Front part of the building.

nothing that I can think of

Possibly the school monogram on the front. That's it.

as much as possible of the existing building and layouy

None

Sports, Academia,

I like the entryway of the school. Maybe can be used in new school

I believe we need to be mindful of the history of JAHHS but not get so caught up in the past that we are willing to ignore the present and future. We must be ready to build a school that is modern, safe, technology sound, and current with today's jobs needs. Please don't lose sight of what today's children need.

Front entrance

None

The front entrance as shown in the picture

None

418 Phillips St.

I love the look of the front of the school.

The Scout Cabin, the common green out front that hosts festivals and other countless activities in Edenton. It's also essential for the school's band and football team.

The brick face.

Items in display

Would like to see the Armory remain. Obviously a little biased here since I am a JROTC Instructor and we enjoy all the space that the Armory allows us. And it is put to good use. We conduct indoor Air Rifle Competitions, Raider, Drill Competitions, and our Annual Awards Banquet within its walls and if torn down the program will suffer because we know we won't have the same amount of space to conduct these events. We are host to numerous other JROTC competitions within the Carolina League because regionally we have the most space to accommodate other schools. Additionally the Armory also host wrestling practice/competitions and cheerleading practice and already supports community use through voting, blood drives and FEMA designation as needed. Also I would love to see the front of the old school incorporated into the new design.

The location, quality, and style.

The name

The baseball stadium.

What matters is that the teachers have a safe space to be able to properly teach the children, our upcoming leaders, and a space for the students to be able to learn as much as they can without race, poverty, or prejudice.

large windows

The main building structure itself.

The name

Historic Edenton knows better than any other community what true architectural history is- it's not this school building! Any short "history" associated with the current 1950s structure is not near as important as the future of our children's education. Their success in the 21st century is increasing reliant on ever-changing technology and the willingness to move forward with a new facility that can support it now and in the decades to come. We must look ahead...

The building itself is not what I would consider Edenton architecture. Look at Swain for inspiration.

What features of history or culture of the existing John A. Holmes High School are important to preserve or incorporate into the new design? (continued)

None

Would like to see the entrance of the building reflect the historical significance of the town and the current school.

The architectural harmony with the other historic buildings in town

None

None. Need new buildings.

None. Need new buildings.

History Hallway should be built into the new design.

maintain some of the old spaces

The facade, step area near auditorium and covered porch area to the right of auditorium entrance. Brick.

History of athletics

Front entrance and window design

Do not relocate the 1929 Boy Scout Cabin

new design needs to be just that, a complete new look that carries us forward.

I honestly don't think that students really care about issue. I think they would like the school to look modern and updated.

The Town Commons should be kept open, given its near 300 year old history

Classic exterior, Boy Scout Hut, Hicks Field, and town commons

The historic Town Commons in front of the school

All of them

The two storey front view is impressive and should be retained or the new front view should be something very similar. The grassy area in front of the school needs to be preserved as that area hosts a number of community events and gives Edenton the warm, hometown feel that we are known for. Also the grassy area, much like the front view, is impressive and gives the building and grounds more of a collegiate feel.

Keep Commons Area in front - unique and significant to the town, keep Boy Scout Hut (it is a community center) - used by Both Scouts and Community, Maintain the Historical Hicks Baseball Field (Location and Features) and Incorporate Historical Architectural Design that compliments the Historical homes and buildings on Broad St and within Edenton (many towns incorporate all new structures including schools, fire dept, etc to be architecturally complimentary to the history of the area and we should definitely make sure the architectural design of the new high school fits appropriately into Edenton)

You MUST preserve the school's front 1723 Town Common

None

Preserve the exterior look of the current building & save Edenton Town Common

School should be maintained in same location. Incorporate as many existing features as possible.

Preserving the 1723 Town Common

Leave the existing middle part of structure alone (2 story part)

As I am a graduate of Chowan High School, I do not have any feedback for this question.

Just the front facade. New everything else. Red brick of course.

Its architecture/exterior appearance

Hicks field and the Town Common, the Boy Scout hut

The Town common and the brick facade of the school facing broad street. Also the baseball stadium and field

preserve as much of the facade of the core building as possible; greenspaces are important as well. the campus needs to remain accessible and useful for the community as well

The large green in front, and the front entrance of the school facing Broad St

we need to leave the big space in front of the high school undeveloped

Biography of JOHN A. HOLMES

Town Common should remain free of construction

I think the front of the current building is stately and beautiful. I love the auditorium & armory. It should certainly be preserved knowing that Dr. King spoke there when he came to Edenton long ago. I think the baseball & football fields are in good shape. I love the space that the front yard provides for numerous activities for the school & community. It would look strange for a new building to front Broad street in the current green space; that would be a true loss.

the green in front of the building

What features of history or culture of the existing John A. Holmes High School are important to preserve or incorporate into the new design? (continued)

Maintain front grassy area and maintain the front facade

It's place in our downtown; the green space and its history, the green space which in addition to its history is where the band practices and several community wide events are held; the original Wilson Brothers architectural design

Prefer to see the original school renovated at the current location

The front facade as well as the green space (the town's original common area) in front of the school, the tennis courts, the Boy Scout Hut and the Armory. All of these pieces have a historic footprint for the town and the preservation of these sacred historical pieces is in tune with Edenton and its reputation of historic preservation. Historic preservation is one of the big draws for tourism. A new building will be defacing all that has been preserved.

The redesign should be architecturally in harmony with the town's historic buildings

The general appearance of a vintage building, not some modern design

The front lawn of the school, also known as the Town Commons

The GRAND front lawn, baseball field and tennis courts that face broad street are most welcoming feature of the school. Along with the quaint boyscout hut. The picture gives us a sense of pride and community.

Town Common and Boy Scouts cabin

the historic community space in the front.

“When we saw the town for the first time in the fall of 2001, it was sleeting and rainy. We were astounded by the open spaces and the grandeur of Broad Street leading into down town. The town was busy and there wasn't an empty parking space to be had...so we drove around this pretty small town and fell in love. The building that houses the High School reminded me of my old high school in the mountains of Virginia where I grew up. That visit was remarkable as it made our minds up to move here as soon as possible. As we are older now I guess some would say we don;t like change, but that isn't the case here. Change is sometimes for the better...but the loss of the public park and open space when you enter would be detrimental to the beauty and fairness of the town if it were lost forever.“

Historically, I would like to see the open green space preserved for shared uses with the community.

the open Town Common in front for community festivals etc., and the tennis courts & Boy Scout Cabin both fronting on Broad Street

It's location right where it is. Restore, renovate or add on to the current buildings.

Maintaining the town common

To me the current building is a pretty building, but it is not that historic (like the rest of town) since it was built in the 1950s. I do like the front lawn and a place to park/drop off students being in front of the school. I know with building the new school right in front of our current building, we can't keep the entire front lawn, but I would like to see it set back just a bit off Broad Street and have a drive in the front to drop of students and for visitors to park. The design that I have seen leaves no room for this and the school would be sitting right on top of Broad Street. I think this would lead to issues with people walking up and down Broad Street wanting to try to come into the building.

History

It's location right where it is. Restore, renovate or add on to the current buildings.

History

Football and baseball field

The front lawn

brick exterior; shape; the front lawn where weekend frisbee or tag football happens; band practice, festivals - it is community space

It's a waste of resources

The facade of John A. Holmes High School is such a classic design, it hasn't lost its charm over the years. There are ways to freshen it up (just watch a few episodes of Fixer Upper) while totally revamping the interior to make it more efficient and up to date. If more space is needed for expansion, I'm sure there are countless alternatives that would NOT involve using the Town Common in the front of the building. I believe John Morehead would be an excellent consultant as to these alternatives.

I think it would be a mistake to swallow up the existing land in front of the school which has historically served as the Town Common. There are very creative ways to design the school to meet all the needs without infringing on that spot of land, and since Edenton is such an important town in not only North Carolina history, but American history as well, it would be sacrilege to despoil that historical spot. “

Save the existing common area.



If you could bring one piece of the old school into the new school, what would it be and why?

If you could bring one piece of the old school into the new school, what would it be and why?

The name on the building and signage should be integrated into the new school regardless of where the school is located.

The lockers. Keep the lockers from the old school. Definitely keep all the old athletic and marching band photos. Incorporate them. Bring back the original reason we were called the ACES. But keep the playing cards as well (tie them together).

I would like to keep the original two-story building and not disturb the open green space in front.

The monument beside the flagpole. History

The front entrance. This is a classic entry way, and reflects the history and age of the school

The existing entrance

all athletic facilities, we dont need to go backwards, old gym remains and become PE/aux gym, can not lose the foeld house and become like C’tuck, P’tank, Northeastern, and other schools that have no dressing facilities and weight room detached from the main building

The front lawn. It’s such an iconic part of the school and would be really upsetting if they got rid of it.

As a former student, the gym being connected to the cafeteria works well for students and the flow of the space.

Nothing

Nothing

I see nothing historical about that building.

Location

The flat front front look

NOTHING

nothing.

To keep its name , on outside of building!

Outside brick color and style

The “ Hall of Fame”

I graduated from JAH and think that the building should be upgraded but not demolished.

Nothing.

The entire front yard/common area.

I would leave the school as is. If it has to be offices, so be it. But I would not tear it down. D.F. Walker is a viable building in Edenton. John A. Holmes could also be a viable building for Edenton so leave it as is. Do not want a new campus for JAHHS. Learning/teaching is done best inside--again, keep JAHHS as is and don’t start tearing it apart. The community-use space in front of the school is all that is needed. It has evolved over the years as a great place to the townspeople to get together--town-sponsored Halloween celebrations (hayrides, games, fortune tellers, bobbing for apples, etc). It was a playground with swings, merry-go-rounds, slides, monkey-bars to climb, etc. Craft shows for Peanut Festivals always drew a lot of people into Edenton. We don’t need a new campus--make use of the space that is used for parking, etc. People could ride by and see the activities that were going on.

The name of the school

The football hall of fame in the Cafeteria, because if you excel in sports you can achieve just about anything!

Historic Facade.. Edenton has a strong history of leadership relative to historic preservation and is often recognized for its efforts on the National level.

N/a

The school spirit

Keep facade

No opinion

Sports memorabilia

The flag pole with a plaque/ picture of the old campus.

Parts of auditorium; maybe just seats, if nothing else

The original historic building. Salvaging a piece seems ironic as the building itself wasn’t important enough to keep.

The school seal on the cafeteria floor should be updated and incorporated back in the floor.

Lots of windows, floor to ceiling windows in cafeteria, brick

The trophy box. That is the one thing I remember most about when I was there. Looking at all those trophies that were won by some pretty amazing athletes.

Nothing

If you could bring one piece of the old school into the new school, what would it be and why? (continued)

See above

“dark room” for photography in rear of lab beside chemistry/biology lecture room in 1955-1959

The floor in the commons, at least the design. The teapot shows the facets of the vision the community had for the importance puzzle pieces of the school.

corner stones

All of the windows.

The overall look of the front of the school.

The front preservation of the main building, to maintain the historical image and significance and remembrance of those who have passed through these doors.
The field in front of the school.

Nothing to identify; we did not grow up here. Local people may be better able to answer this question.

the façade of windows and welcoming walkway to the front door

There is nothing of which I am aware.

Keep the lawn out front and circular driveway.

Not anything I would want to bring from the old school into the new one.

Not locking the parking lot gate. That is really absolutely absurd.

Parts of auditorium; maybe just seats, if nothing else

Exterior. Exterior makes the biggest public impression.

The front archway; the front center of the school is something everyone remembers.

Replicate the white large windows and exterior front entrance way into the new additions throughout.

Keeping the main original building as the center structure and implementing similar architecture in new construction to help blend with historic downtown Edenton.

See previous question

The stage

the front facade

Maintaining the common area out front for festivals and celebrations.

bricks from the building, can be used to tell the story of JAHHS as well as be a fundraiser.

Honestly nothing.

Trophies, jerseys,etc. These represent the accomplishments of the past

tennis courts

The wing where the library is built

The style of the front of the building.

Nothing. A school building is nothing more than concrete, bricks, and mortar. Edenton needs to divorce itself from the culture of “appearance”. The true measure of success with ECPS or any school system for that matter, is the quality of education that is provided to the children. If forced to choose one “thing” to “bring”, I would say, bring 2019 NC Milken Educators Award Recipient Rachel Ward O’Kelley, but I daresay she will be out front leading the charge!

The wall in my classroom has hand prints of past seniors. It’s a sweet tradition that my students wish to continue in the new building. It would be nice if we could bring those cinder blocks and put them in the wall of the new choir room.

The old Gym, baseball field, front green, tennis courts, football field, and softball field. But if I could bring one piece of Swain, it would be a proper auditorium and a multi-story building with a small footprint!

Be sure the teapot that President Ronald Reagan signed in part of the wall of history.

None

Preserve front lawn as a buffer between Broad St. and facilities

1) The old metal letters for the school name can be mounted proudly and prominently inside the main gym. It would be history and school pride wrapped into one. 2) Some of the hardwood in the very expensive, old gym floor can be repurposed as decorative signage in various areas of the school.

The aesthetics of an old school instead of a more contemporary look.

open sunny eating area

None

The track open to the public

N/A

If you could bring one piece of the old school into the new school, what would it be and why? (continued)

- nothing
- nothing that I am aware of
- Nothing
- moments of racial unity and respect
- No e
- Facade or entrance of current building could be removed and used in the design of entrance to NEWLY constructed building.
- The outside design
- Sports has always been a big thing here. Use some of the granite on the existing building to create new entrance for NEW school.
- No e
- Just the entrance.....
- None
- Possibly ;Wood from floors And place them in area of new building to represent the Joining of the past/future
- I like having green space(the front lawn). We see kids practicing football, band, kids playing frisbee golf, etc.
- The school's hall of fame because it shows future adults that those before them have paved a way to greatness and they can too.
- Scoreboard
- The front of the school. I thought Perquimans did a nice job of keeping the face of the old high school front and center when they built there new school some years ago.
- I enjoy driving by and actually seeing a front entrance. In a lot of new builds, the entrance, the beauty of the structure is lost. I would like to see a designated grand front entrance. Something to set us apart from the average new school build.
- The name and Aces mascot

The trophy case. The legacy of the school should always be carried forward to build on with pride. The mascot and legacy are the features everyone remembers.

The name and original tea pot logo.

The floor of the cafeteria with the large logo

Trophies, shows the history of ACES sports.

American flags; trophy and awards display cases with academic and athletic awards.

Re-purpose the brick into a courtyard.

None

Again, the main front entrance of the school

The front facade of the original 2-story building

None

Baseball field. It is historical to Edenton but still useful to the school and community.

Baseball field. It is historical to Edenton but still useful to the school and community.

The front doors

Armory stay in tact

The older design of the facade of the building, keeping the integrity of the design, while incorporating modern amenities.

Center basketball court - history

Hall of Fame for continuity of family interaction and dedication

the front of the building appearance, maybe, as long as it fits into the theme of a new and complete building design

I cannot think of anything

The Town Commons, retained as a clear field

Classic Exterior Design

The historic Town Commons in front of the school

The mural in the cafeteria. It's been there 9 years.

The front facade

Not sure about the physical aspects of the current building but would recommend to Keep the Commons Area in the front - what an excellent real example of history as well as a continued area to utilize for the future.

If you could bring one piece of the old school into the new school, what would it be and why? (continued)

The Schools front 1723 Town Common

Nothing

Exterior appearance

Exterior architecture

Same as above - preserving the 1723 Town Common

Do not move the Scout Cabin

see above

Hall of Fame. Keep the large trees out front. The green space in front.

The facade of the school including the town common to preserve the feel of the historic high school in our quaint historic town.

front facade

The entrance

the ability for all of the town to use it, that the facility does not sit idly by when school is not in session

FACADE AND GREENSPACE FRONTING BROAD STREET

Front entrance facade to preserve dignity of traditional architecture

The front of the current building & the front green space. I just think it is symmetrical & makes a statement. That open space is used so much. I just can't imagine it not being there.

facade

The original facade created by the original architects

The architecture of the old school should be preserved

The facade and the green common area

Use brick detail inside as well as out

I believe it is essential to preserve the front lawn of the school where many community events are held each year including band practice, football practice, festival and more! It is such a welcoming site to see these activities taking place as you enter the heart of our community. aw

I would keep the front lawn and common space.

The front of the building because it is representative of the town's architecture.

the open Town Common in front for community festivals etc., and the tennis courts & Boy Scout Cabin both fronting on Broad Street.

The architecture of the front of the building.

Maintain the architectural style

In my opinion, the old school should be torn down and a brand new school built. The building is beyond repair and trying to renovate it is not in the best interests of the students, staff, or 21st century learning.

The architecture of the front of the building.

The brick exterior with appeal as well as the armory.

Location of main building; Layout; Armory with an improved parking lot

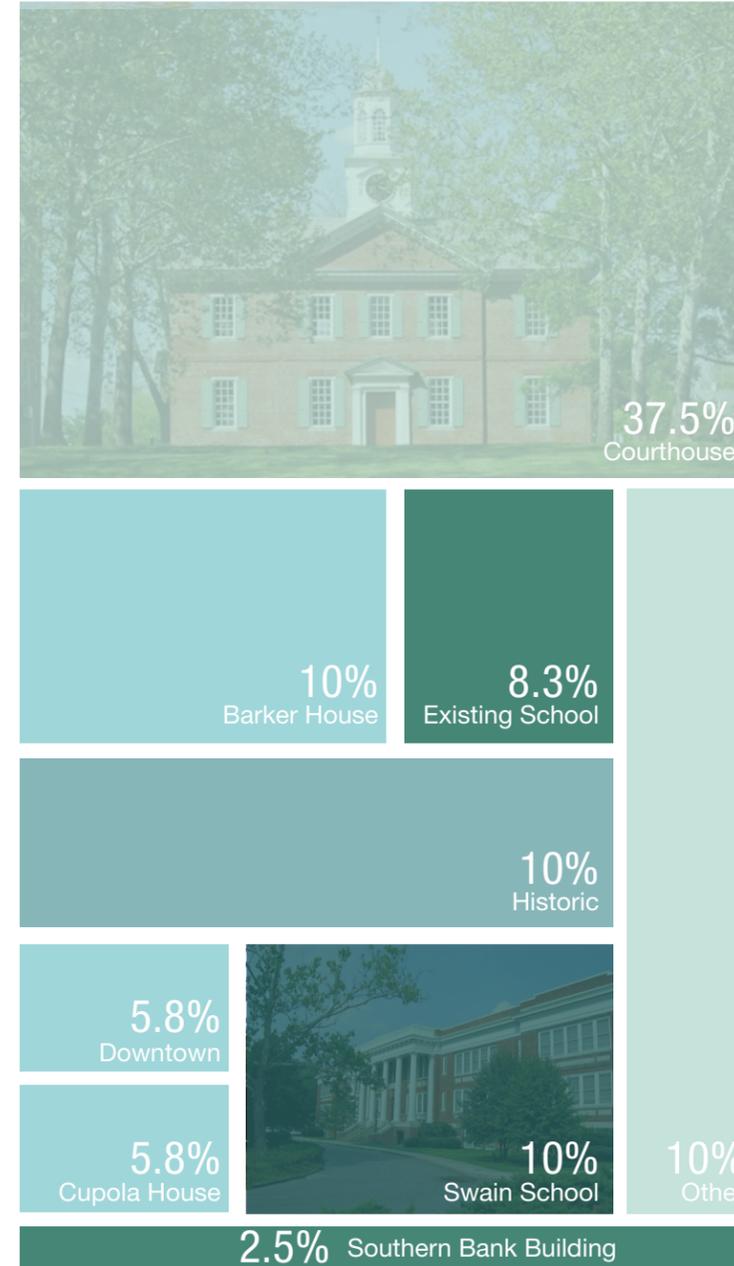
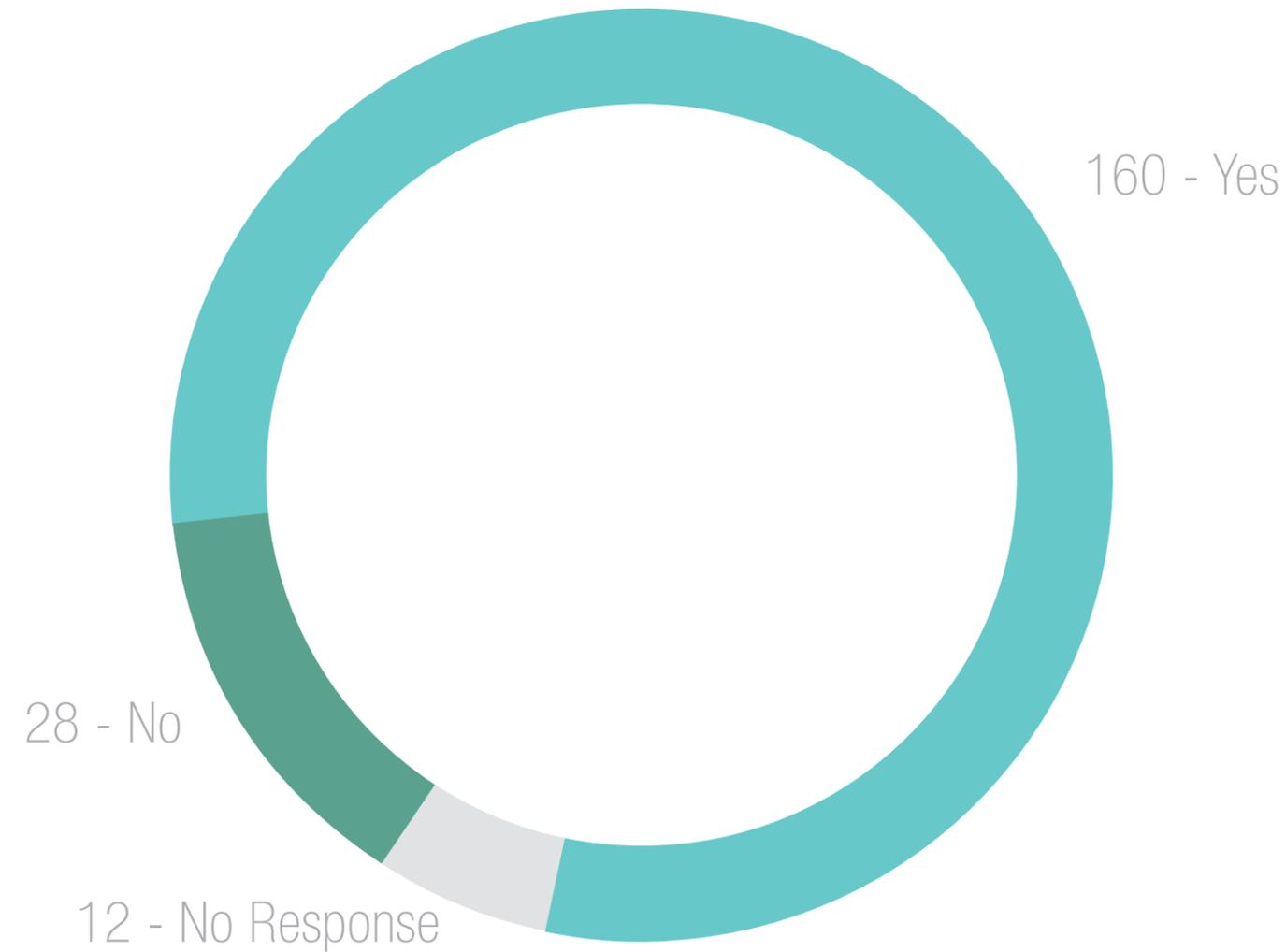
Keep a auditorium

Save the money

Why destroy the old school in the first place? When I went to England, it amazed me how much older the buildings were there, and yet they were still strong and highly functional. And they are absolutely gorgeous! The feeling evokes a connection to the past, which is critical to success. For how can people learn from mistakes and progress if they don't remember their history? If you need help figuring out how to blend the old with the new, just call Chip and Joanna Gaines of Fixer Upper. Renovation without complete destruction absolutely can be done!

Save as much as you can. Preserve our history.

Would you like the new campus to have community-use spaces?



Is there a particular building in the community that you would say represents the “Architecture of Edenton?” If yes, what building and why?

RESULTS

(Results grouped into categorical theme by keyword usage)

- 45 Courthouse
- 12 Barker House
- 12 Historic
- 12 Swain School
- 12 Other
- ACES Stadium; Edenton Baptist Church; Methodist Church; Pembroke Hall; Public Safety Building; Sam Dixon’s House; Scout Hut; St. Pauls Church; Taylor Twin Cinema; Iredell House
- 10 Existing School
- 7 Downtown Business District
- 7 Cupola House
- 3 Southern Bank Building



Can we, as a community, use the construction of a new high school to spur redevelopment of Edenton and the County, resulting in economic growth? Ideas?

YES .

One of the reason families with children are hesitant to move here is their concern over education. I am not sure a new building will answer that, but investing in the quality of education and the ability to challenge our top learners will.

Yes.

Possibly

A new HS would provide a campus that embraced new up to date technology and other vital learning centers. This would allow parents the opportunity to sent their children to a Public School of NC instead of enrolling them in local private schools, private schools in Virginia ; which is currently whatâ€™s happening for those that can afford Private School. This would also help with Promoting Social Injustice ; offering ALL students an excellent learning site.

Yes. Only by investing in a NEW, state-of-the-art school (rather than attempting to somehow “fix” a deficient structure), can the future of Edenton and the area-- its children-- be properly equipped to play a powerful role in ensuring the area’s economic growth!

“Are we sure we want to redevelop Edenton and the County?”

I don’t know if the construction of a new school will help redevelopment of the city and county. I think it’s the training and education that it provides to the population of the city and county (school aged and adult) that will help redevelopment.

People come to Edenton because it represents a gracious time that is fast eroding in our country. Visitors always comment about its unique beauty and warmth. That stems from an appreciation for its history and reverence for all those who came before no matter what color of skin or social standing. Our high school is such a place. Maintain that heritage for our future generations which teaches them the value of preservation and our common history.

Community spaces could be used to host economic development classes for small businesses. Including classes on using social media to boost business or adapting to change(ie. Covid 19).

good teachers do that plus good test results

I believe the growth would be a spurt rather than a sustainable result. Once the construction is completed the growth will disappear. Using only Chowan residents in the construction effort would definitely improve and grow the community, however it may not feasible to use only local labor and talent.

MORE TRADE SCHOOL, AUTO MECHANICS, CABINET MAKING, WELDING

No. Not without industry and a viable workforce

Renew and expand the industrial arts curriculum. Skilled technical trades are essential to any development or growth. Carpentry, Welding, Electrical, Drafting for starters.

I am not sure what you mean by redevelopment of Edenton and Chowan County

Perhaps in the neighborhoods adjacent to the school property, but I don’t see that happening on a community wide basis.

Yes but it has to be done to fit into our town.

probably not unless we add industry and jobs to our county, to bring in new families with children

Yes. We need housing for public servants.

Yes, if we incorporate technology training and techniques to expand curriculum and make public education desirable AND necessary, not just necessary.

yes! bring back shop and home economics classes! These curriculae teach practical skills and inspire creativity that goes far beyond handwork in the long run. I started and ran a successful sweater business out of having learned to crochet at JAH, eventually employing a network of knitters in central NC and in WV. Other could go much further.

Including an auditorium with separate easy access so that community meetings and activities for organizations can utilize that space. Easy access to walking/ jogging area for all residents to enjoy.

Only if the location is changed

I honestly haven’t the foggiest. Having the highschool stay close to downtown would help add revenue to downtown but thatâ€™s about the extent of my knowledge.

Yes and No. The interior should reflect the direction of modern America with emphasis on digitization, existing local manufacturing and attracting tourist and retirees, as well as good integration with COA. The exterior should communicate a solid community dedicated to honoring its history as we prepare student for the future. It needs to be relevant 50 years from now, not just a decade from now. The most visible perspective should not be a parking lot.

Yes, a modern vibrant campus that is available not only during school hours will be an enhancement and benefit to all of Edenton and Chowan both in economic terms and pride!

Yes- fundraising opportunities for organizations

I’m not sure how the new school will directly correlate to economic growth.

Can we, as a community, use the construction of a new high school to spur redevelopment of Edenton and the County, resulting in economic growth? Ideas? (continued)

Possible sports tournaments if courts and fields included or if auditorium could be used for theatre or concerts perhaps? Festivals always popular.

I'm not sure about this.

I don't believe so.

Only if we, as a community, can find investors willing to open their wallets to fund such redevelopment. A major sticking point here is that the Edenton Town Council has a policy that certain portions of the Town must comport to Architectural Standards, and such standards stifle redevelopment. Witness the "wonderful" dilapidated grain bins and grain elevators within a stone's throw of the Chowan County Public Safety Center on Freemason St., or the old Bunch's Garage at the foot of Virginia Ave. Joan Maxwell of Regulator Marine has a whole binder full of such derelict structures.

A safe, well appointed, clean, and modern school facility speaks volumes to those who consider relocating families and/or businesses here. Moderate to large spaces suitable for academic and public gatherings, in addition to the auditorium and gyms, should be accessible to the public and possibly rented to host regional meetings. Maybe the performing arts culture could be revitalized in the community with state-of-the-art indoor facilities and an outdoor amphitheater type of space that would draw acts capable of producing tourism-type dollars through venue rentals, tickets, and associated food/lodging sales.

Yes as long as all economic and cultural racial groups are represented. Integrated recreation center with more than basketball or tennis, a swimming pool that is open to all people. Work out classes, 21st century activities. Rental space for community activities.

possibly

Absolutely - School facilities focusing on high tech learning are vital for younger families desiring to relocate. The work from home trend will open up an entirely different economic development focus.

Yes use the old Food lion site

I don't believe a school alone will spark economic growth. Having served in the Military and moved around quite a bit, quality of schools is definitely a key reason for moving to a particular area/neighborhood but again, what new jobs would exactly be bringing people into the area?

"Yes. Theater programs"

No. The people of Edenton politics are not interested in growth and the politicians of the county are afraid to spend a dollar. Without the two entities working together no growth will happen here.

Believe in our history and it's important to protect our current school.

No, we cannot use construction to do any of that. Programs and high quality teaching and education offered through the new building will be what attracts businesses to our community

Yes. New gym and performing arts center could bring in more spectators from out of town.

Use locals for plumbing, electrical, etc

I hope so!

Absolutely. improved/consolidated athletic fields, natatorium, area for conferences/dinners/etc, area for hosting regional sporting competitions and events

Yes; Improved school resources and facilities will hopefully draw and retain young families, and educators to the area.

Plenty of people who consider moving here ask about the schools. A new high school here in town would be a great attraction to any newcomer. More people we have moving to town can only help our community and businesses.

No don't want a completely new high school, want to adapt current building. A new structure will be too expensive particularly as it serves only approximately 600 students.

Only job and business support will spur growth

I don't think a shiny new building will necessarily bring people here. I believe that the reputation of the school's performance ie: test scores, teachers, and the most up to date curriculum is what will invite or draw families to settle here. The schools reputation will also be more inviting for new companies and industries to come and provide a great education for their employees children.

A new, 21st century High School will be impressive; but, we must not put the County in a situation where we will be "house poor" and unable to pay our teachers a competitive salary. To spur redevelopment, we need to attract development/investment in high speed/broadband internet. Without it, development will pass us by. School age population is decreasing; COVID has transformed learning opportunities -- "one size no longer fits all".

Yes. I'm particularly interested in how the new high school might improve housing in the North Edenton neighborhood so that it might provide homes for teachers and other educators.

Its a long-term investment in youth, don't burden education with other priorities.

I sure hope so. Edenton is known for old moneyand control of the community development. That can be a strength... but to a point, I believe it has become a detriment to show a distinct different between the haves and have nots

Redevelopment is code for what... realization of near-term goals and gains for a few interests (builders, developers, politicians) under guise of platitudinous terms? Please - first DO NO HARM... preserve the 1723 Town Common

Yes

If vocational training is made part of the curriculum and space is planned and built for this purpose. In order for population to increase in this county for working families, there must be not only new industries brought to this county, but also the need to be able to have skilled workers. I am so happy that COA is finally putting in a trucking school that I have advocated for since 2010. 99% fo the jobs offered locally are tucking and healthcare.

Community gatherings are important and the use of the high school's auditorium, gym or sports fields should be available to the citizens of Chowan County, not

Can we, as a community, use the construction of a new high school to spur redevelopment of Edenton and the County, resulting in economic growth? Ideas? (continued)

just Edenton. Not sure about economic growth. We're a small town which attracts people here in itself. Educating our children with a first class education within a first class building will be the economic growth of the future.

I think so...a new high school would hopefully bring new opportunities for our school and community.

Yes... Education and access to a well rounded education where emphasis is on learning and applying those principles can foster entrepreneurs locally as well as draw businesses to the area that look at the educational base of a community for employees

Insure the greater community is involved with the planning

Only if the school concentrates on high quality education, not just a new building

Yes, utilize as many contractors or subcontractors from Chowan Co. as fiscally feasible. Is it possible to allow for small flexibility in bidding process for local vendors? Incorporation of community use spaces.

“I believe that a school is central to the present and future economic success of the community and therefore, grateful that the high school will remain on its present site. Construction of a new building will not enhance the economic success of Edenton and the County whereas renovation of the current structure, to include space needed to deliver a 21st century education, will complement the architecture in the town and serve the needs of the students. What will spur economic growth is the quality of education our students receive. Take a look at Walker School to see what a successful school renovation looks like.”

I believe a new, modern school that will offer all of the modern educational classes that are currently drawing students out of our community is necessary. Why do we have to have second rate? Why can't we have the best? It's time to grab the bull by the horns and have a facility that is second to none anywhere period.

Not sure a new school will spur economic growth. To spur economic growth we need more jobs that are not tax payer funded

Economic growth comes from job opportunities in our county not what our high school looks like and the town of Edenton spends thousands of dollars a year preventing change within the town. They have spent over 30,000 dollars fighting someone over the color of a fence so just understand once you make the commitment of building a new school how much they will be in the appearance of the school not the community

There is a whole shopping center sitting sad and empty. Couldn't we use that space in our community??

We do not need a new high school. There is a lot of land around the existing school that could be used to connect to the main school. When people come into Edenton, they see a clean-looking school now that the window frames are white once again (the back windows need to be redone in white frames). Chowan County is, of course, the smallest county in the state. I just don't believe the number of students in the community is going to outgrow our present school system.

Yes. Auditorium

i do not think this should be the goal...a wonderful history, arts and their intersection with tourism could be a specialty

YES! If you incorporate state of the art performing arts learning spaces and auditorium and stage/theater, you will become a hub for cultural events in eastern NC. Not only will the youth of Chowan County benefit from state of the art facilities, but local private and/or community music, dance or theater groups will flourish with access to rent state of the art performance spaces. Chowan county has a history of supporting arts and entertainment, and drawing patrons from the region to enjoy the town, its restaurants, downtown and B&B's.

Absolutely, young families would hopefully be attracted to modern state of the art facilities. May also help us retain some of our young families from leaving and never coming back.

Yes, in the creation of appropriate facilities to support modern skills such as software development, autonomous vehicles, citizen journalism, arts and science capabilities. New generations need to be able to compete in the new era of remote working, in business fields such as customer success, software development, hardware electrical design, agribusiness modernization.

Sure!

Yes, we can, but we can construct a new high school while preserving the historic character of the existing building. Historic Tax Credits warrant consideration for this project. It would be a shame to lose this iconic structure and lawn. It is central component of Edenton's charm

Yes! A new facility is necessary, but we need to maintain the community feel of the campus.

Personally, I feel like we need to focus on building a school and not adding every little thing for the community. There are other areas around Edenton that would work great for a pool and Rec center. The school should be the only thing on the grounds. There will be too much traffic throughout the day and it would cause a safety nightmare.

Yes! Showing education is important (tangibly) will help recruit new businesses and citizens.

Philanthropy for special causes or needs not endorsed yet. Building “green energy” through solar panels and recapturing rain waters for PE and plumbing needs undiscussed to my knowledge. Architecture encouraging excellence in teaching and learning essential.

“Use local talent, resources, and strengths. Let people be able to say, “we had a hand in that...”
One of the most endearing pieces in ECPS is the inclusion of the handprints at WOS. Find the “handprint” for JAH.”

Yes, quality, state-of-the art schools are important to population and economic growth. Many of our state's and country's top schools are in old buildings--that have been maintained and thoughtfully updated and enlarged.

Yes, we can have a NEW facility with state of the art learning opportunities for the students that would make people want to move to Edenton and Chowan County. We have to offer more to make people want to relocate. New people coming into our area could care less if the school looks like it did 50-60 years ago. But, if it DOES look like it is 60 years old, it could turn them off before they ever even decided to check it out on the inside.

Can we, as a community, use the construction of a new high school to spur redevelopment of Edenton and the County, resulting in economic growth? Ideas? (continued)

Not in current location, where drug houses line the street to the left and behind the school. Deals are made on front porches and residents of these slum houses curse and threaten children on the sidewalk. This is not a picture perfect town, no matter how much violent crime is swept under the rug

Rather than redevelopment, I would say continued development. This community captures the old, while still keeping up with the trends. That's the beauty of Edenton. It's old, but it's still classy.

Incorporate the schools front 1723 Front Common in the design

The most important thing is to show respect for the architectural history of the school itself. That would be an important statement. All periods, or layers, of Edenton's architecture are important and together they tell the story of Edenton.

“Not alone. This is not the case of “if you build it they will come” ! There must be an investment in industry . Local jobs that will bring residents and families. A simple school will not simply increase population”

People seeking jobs relocate to areas with great schools. Great school are what takes place in the building and outside of the building.

“If the new high school is in the same location, it may create temporary jobs and spending (hotels, restaurants, etc). This would only be a temporary infusion, and we'll end when the construction is complete. This infusion will occur regardless of where the school is built. If the new high school site was on an abandoned Chowan County site that was not downtown and possible more central to the County, it would encourage participation by parents and support for sports. It would also make the existing site available for either a corporate manufacturer, distribution center, or support center. If we could attract something like a call center, it would create jobs, and increase revenue for the County and City. This would also create investment by the corporation into our community.”

Yes, better technology

Yes.

If the County and Town work together. Right now there exist a gap in how the county views this project.

Not sure

Absolutely. Better schools make more people want to raise families here. More population equals a larger need for growth. Redevelopment areas are already on the rise in/around the historic district, let the growth continue all around the high school.

I don't know at this time.

A project of this size will benefit many local businesses financially. Hopefully getting rid of the old buildings and having all new and modern facilities will bring a sense of pride.

Yes

YES

Yes

Absolutely. I wish the planned auditorium had more seating. The projected 399 seats is not big enough for outside artists/troupes/performers/etc to be attracted to our venue. If they can't sell the number of tickets to outweigh the cost of coming to us, people won't use our space. We could be a central hub for north eastern entertainment but with such a small auditorium, I doubt we could attract as many opportunities as we would like.

yes

Build new school on new site

Yes - classroom space to provide trade school classrooms as a part of the curriculum

Yes, a new school and community space that serves both students, community, and businesses.

By giving our kids the ability to learn without worry, our teachers the ability to teach in a way to help further the kids future, we can have well educated high school graduates that will want to come back to our community and invest into the community.

Hard to say, a new high school would be an encouragement to further redevelopment

Not only economic growth - but wholesome building of community relations. The pride of building a new high school that promotes the historical lessons and future visions of the uniqueness of the Edenton community should be a priority. Include low-maintenance/efficient water use system, electric/heating/ac system, use of sustainable materials (recycled benches, desks, use of electronic ports throughout the building, corning fiber optic surfaces for teaching, etc)

No absolutely not.

Make them stay in the old school

Nice fantasy to believe so, but I don't see how as a practical long-term outcome

as a former economic developer for the community one of the first items new business leaders look at are our educational facilities and for years our school has had the appearance we are not keeping up with the times. we need this facility to be a modern showcase for future education, not a symbol of the past

Yes. that is best left to architects and those with the correct cultural backgrounds

Yes

Yes

A lot of families now are choosing to take their children out of town and county for high school. The current condition of building is horrible and offers ZERO as to modern day options and excitement.

Can we, as a community, use the construction of a new high school to spur redevelopment of Edenton and the County, resulting in economic growth? Ideas? (continued)

Yes. Include state of the art career and technical education curriculum and facility focusing on local career pathways - i.e. healthcare, advanced manufacturing, agriculture/biotechnology, and business support services

Yes. Add a swimming pool building to the north side of the property, near the water tower. Partner with the community to teach swimming lessons, offer a community basketball gym, and include a second basketball gym for tournaments. Preserve and improve the football, baseball and softball fields so that Edenton can host tournaments. Then partner with the Edenton recreation department so that there are organized sports events on a regular basis for the community. Edenton has great pride in it's football, basketball and baseball and all can be featured. Keep the teaching areas simple and traditional.

Maybe. But you need more jobs so younger families will want to stay and raise their kids their.

I would like to see new additions, but I do not think a new building will spur economic growth. If we do not put a cap on how much the County goes in debt we may see the opposite and business may leave along with citizens because of tax increases.

yes, the location of the high school helps N Broad and hopefully helps develop a more growth in line with the rest of downtown

Yes - by building in spaces for work-study programs - agriculture, culinary, business management

It is probably better to just concentrate on the school.

I think we can because you'll have new jobs and new opportunities.

Yes, multiuse spaces for meetings and auditorium for community events.

A new building alone will not bring economic growth; however, it could be used in tandem with other initiatives, such as increased connectivity, to spur growth. There is some interesting economic growth happening in the Northwest. It is directly tied with increasing connectivity and attracting remote business out of the Atlanta area. I am sure those young families are looking into the schools (performance and facilities) before moving.

Economic vitality and development and the quality of education are closely tied to one another. When potential residents are interested in moving to Edenton one of the first things they ask about is the school system and many times they ask to see our school buildings. Our population growth has been stagnant for a number of years and I believe Edenton can accommodate slow growth and one way we can do that is attract families with school age children. We have a wonderful school system and the facilities are the front porch of our school system. I believe our new high school should be just as impressive as our town itself and should not be built in a manner that most suburban schools are built in a cookie cutter fashion. Unique architecture is a big draw to Edenton and our new high school needs to reflect that to make a positive impression on our citizens, our visitors and families who are thinking about moving to town.

perhaps developing the “right” fit facility might not spur economic growth, but definitely developing the wrong fit facility will inhibit economic growth- companies will not want to relocate here if their employees’ kids don’t have a high school that they want to attend

Our community has a commitment to live up to our reputation for preserving our structures from the past. It's what we do & what attracts people to our charming, historical town. Anyone anywhere can build something new, but it takes special care & wisdom to hold on to what's important. My parents went to school there; I went to school there, and so did my two children. I am all for renovating while saving what is valuable.

Yes, if the architecture is inspiringly traditional and if the Town Common is left open as a continuing attraction to new families with children.

Yes! It would be wonderful to have an area that could be converted and used for events such as arts & crafts fairs, job expos, history with a twist (evening BYOB history lessons/lectures), etc. Edenton is full of talented people, tons of history, and dependant on local companies. It would be excellent to have a space to help this wonderful town grow.

No

Yes, as long as it remains the focal point of the town and we acquire as much land around the high school as we can. We need to own the entire facility and not have to share it with other entities

I believe a new high school will greatly help encourage new families to move here.

No! There are no new jobs, our youth are leaving and not returning as is evidenced by declining enrollment in the schools. This county and town are struggling from lack of growth. Building a new school will not change lack of growth.

Yes

I don't think this should be the primary focus, but yes. These graduates can go on to open successful businesses. But no, the financial success or failure of the community shouldn't rest on children's shoulders or be tied.

“How does construction of new school in same location result in economic growth

Absolutely! A new building will give a sense of pride and will encourage people to get involved.

Incorporate original and moder

In corporate the armory into more better used school area.

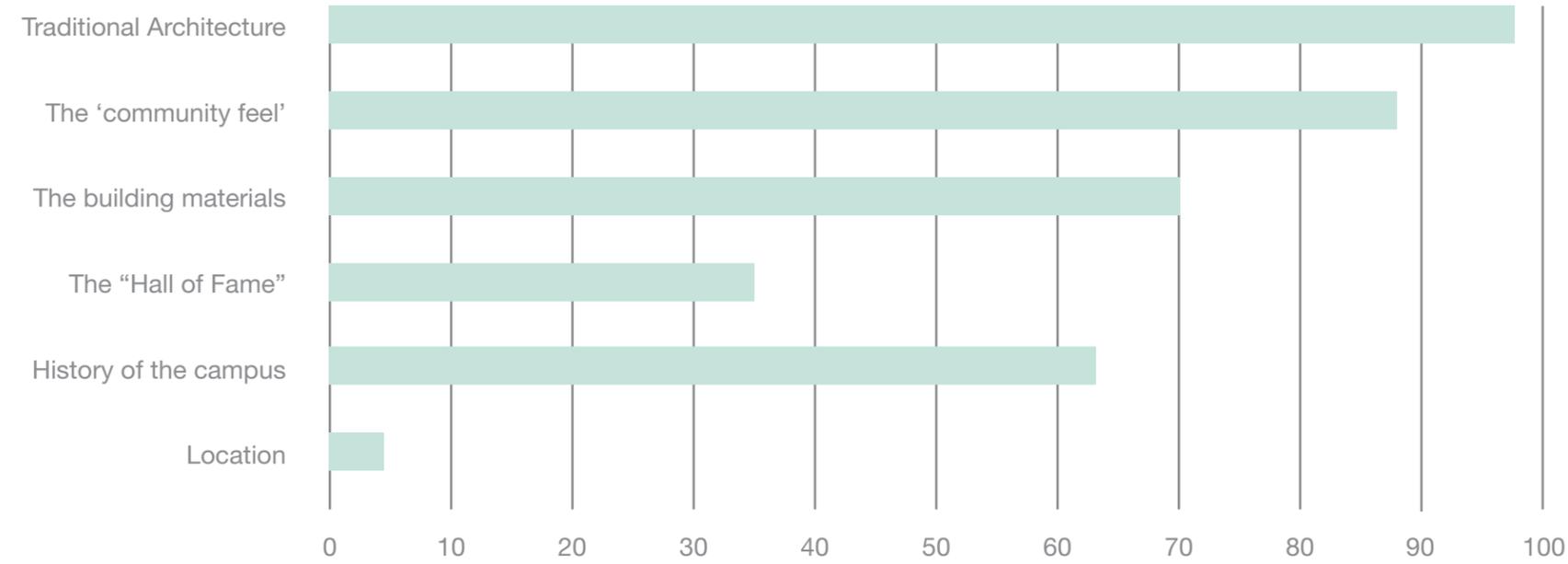
Construction of a new school may show interested outsiders that we are progressing yet keeping with our history

I still feel it should move out of town

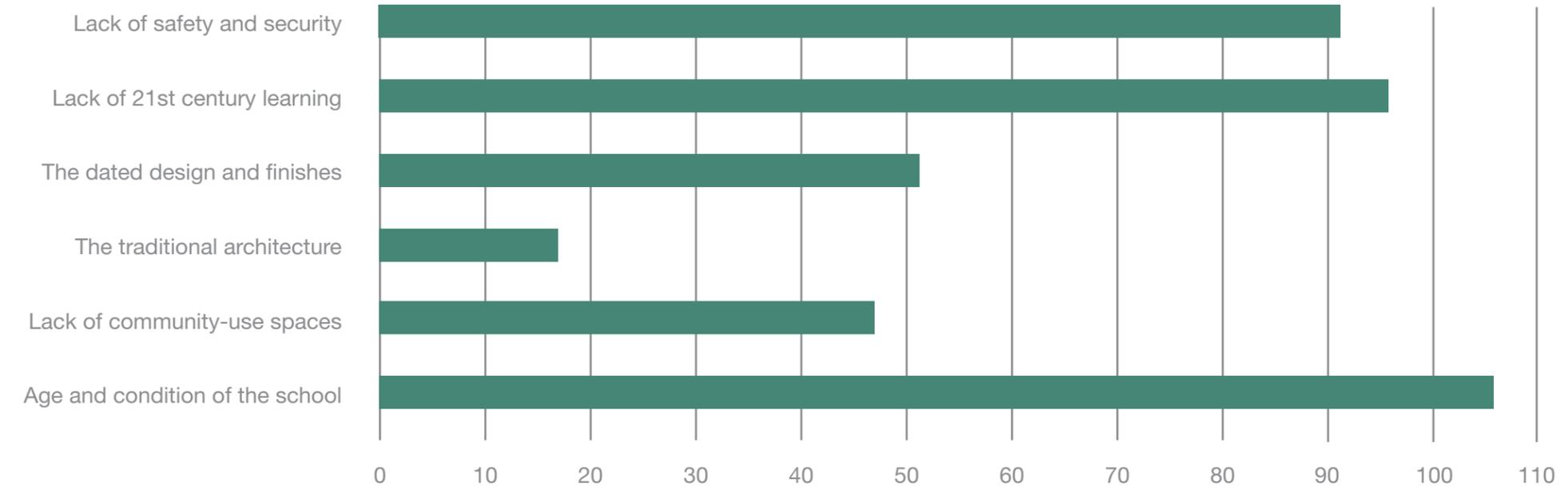
A new high school? No. A renovated high school? Absolutely! New construction is the easy way out. And nothing easy is ever worth it. Take the time and employ the best architects to continue the heritage of the “South's Prettiest Small Town”, and you will see more pride in the eyes of your residents. With that will come a stronger lure to your town resulting in economic growth.

it will aide in attracting new business & keeping existing

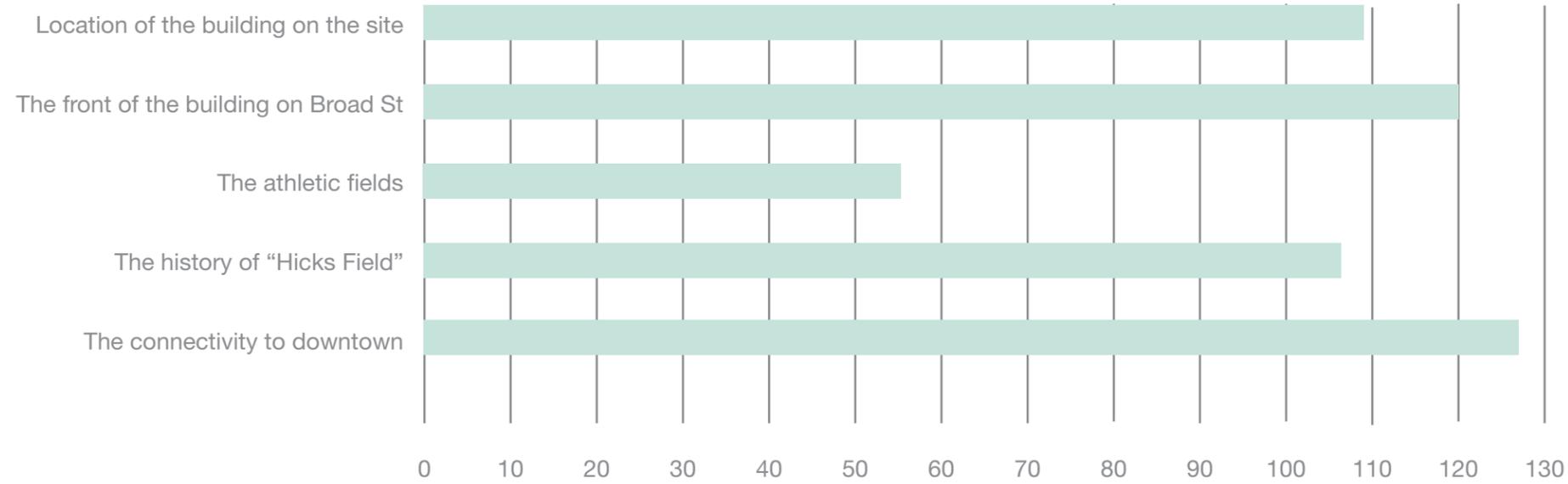
What do you like MOST about the existing John A. Holmes High School? (Check all that apply)



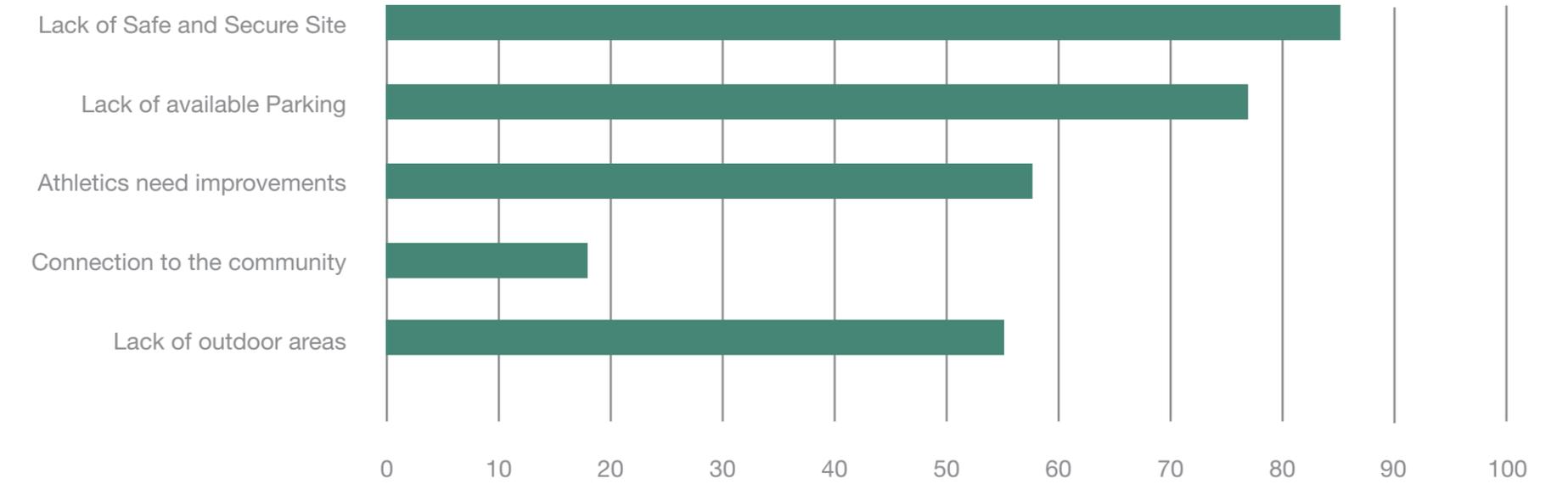
What do you like LEAST about the existing John A. Holmes High School? (Check all that apply)



What do you like MOST about the existing John A. Holmes High School Site? (Check all that apply)



What do you like LEAST about the existing John A. Holmes High School Site? (Check all that apply)



Do you have children or grandchildren who attend the existing John A. Holmes High School?





This project will be a success if...

“If you take the time to sift through the correct amount of input from valid sources. It is critical during this project that you realize that all input is not what’s best for the current and future students and staff at JAH. Use the input from those who currently work for ECPS schools and JAHHS coaches and staff. Be weary of those who only support one side of the equation that is our high school.

Realize that Athletics play is a massive role in community connectivity. When athletics are rolling and successful at JAH. The town of Edenton is connected as one regardless of race, creed or Financial standing. Since 2015 into ACES athletics have seen state championships, eastern regional finals and conference dominance in just about every sport. Athletics success generates revenue for not only athletics but for the local businesses in our community.

Create an athletics complex that can be secure from all sides and is extremely functional for the long term. On paper it will be cheaper to build grass or Bermuda practice fields and/or game complexes. However turf fields will serve as a better long-term solution that will allow developers to maximize the current space available on Broad Street. Maximize a new gym facility that will allow the ability to transform and host large community gatherings.

As a graduate of John A Holmes in 2009, I take great pride and being an alumnus. I simply ask that you take your time and get this thing right. This will more than likely be the school that stands for the rest of my lifetime and I want to be able to show my son the pride and tradition in being an Edenton ACE! “

The citizens of Edenton work in a cohesive manner to improve A site for ongoing productive education.

You build mid county

If it meets the ongoing educational and training needs of the community (and has the flexibility to do so for many years after construction to give the facility a long useful life) as well as retains it’s appearance and commons area in front of the school for community and school events and use

Students feel encouraged, parents feel safe, and teachers feel refreshed.

Meet the needs if our students and keeps on the budget proposed.

Community input can be put into action.

the teachers teach the lesson plan

More students graduate, and the school’s performance scores improve dramatically

START FRESH WITH NEW BUILDING AND IDEAS

You keep the historical options in place

The plans for the new school take into account the “uniqueness” of Edenton. We don’t need a copy of something that worked “up North” or some other place. This town is different, it holds on to and respects its history like no other place I know of. The New School should represent and celebrate that difference. It should incorporate the history, the values and people that have existed here as well as prepare the students for their future here or elsewhere. If you look at the older universities in our state, the new structures they build blend in to the existing architecture rather than building something that is completely out of place. I think that can be done.

“Honor the traditional architecture of Edenton

No flat top one story buildings. The Scout Hut, the Armory and the High School are contributing structures and therefore on the National Register of Historic Places.”

You get the community behind you.

The entire county community - rural and town - come together to feel that they have had a hand in decision-making. Building a community is as important as building a school.

students love being there and using what they learn there in the community; and if the community is all the more involved and proud of the light that comes naturally from the space, as well as the natural lighting in the space.

You move the school somewhere just north of town. The current campus would be a great sports complex/YMCA/ community center, but it’s a terrible school. Building a new campus just north of town would be more convenient for the citizens, would be a safer location and would allow for better recruitment of good young educators. Selling an old, dilapidated/historic building might be a hard sell to young teachers who won’t have much to do in a historic and sleepy town like Edenton. You’ll run into the same problems with the middle school up in Tyner soon, so please plan ahead. Pay now so we don’t have to pay later.

You take into account the desire of the teacher and educators who will be working and have to function in the space you are designing. You focus on making a school - not something that makes you money. You realize that technology is an ever growing and changing thing and that as a small and not extremely affluent community we will never be able to STAY a “modern school” so focus on building a solid good one that can be adapted to fit future needs without much cost.

Everyone remembers the objective is to improve educational outcomes, not creating a new physical image for Edenton. Both can be accomplished, but your survey indicates your focus may not be well placed.

the student population continues to increase, and new technology implemented in the build, attracting additional well qualified teachers & teaching opportunities.

The cost isn’t outrageous, if the design allows for flexibility for possible need for future changes, if the project includes laboratory facilities, computer labs, improved connectivity, safety features without ugly chain link fences, and renovated tennis courts.

“We keep in mind that the most time is spent in the classroom so we really focus on that space-making it large enough to accommodate when we have 30 plus kids in a class, to allow for groups to spread out when they work, to give teachers the mobility and flexibility to rearrange the space to suite their needs.

This project will be a success if... (continued)

We also need community use spaces such as a large enough auditorium to accommodate community events and indoor graduation.

There doesn't need to be any wasted space like the unnecessary space between buildings right now. "

It is moved outside city limits.

The historical attributes of the property are preserved... which is what Edenton takes pride in.

1. The Town of Edenton realizes that we are constructing a school for the purpose of educating our children, NOT to make some sort of a foolish statement.
2. We have a team of architects and designers who have the forethought to look ahead. Just imagine that the existing JAHHS was constructed in 1950. It is 72 years old! The design team needs to create a vision for a facility which will serve us from now until 2092! What will a school in 2092 look like? Difficult to tell, but that is precisely why LS3P has been hired.
3. The design team comes to us with plans for a facility which will carry us through the remainder of COVID-19 and even into the next Global Pandemic. JAHHS was vacant starting in March 2020. Why? If we are planning and building a school that will be vacant during Global Pandemics, then we are truly wasting Taxpayer Money, and anyone who believes COVID-19 will be the last Global Pandemic is whistling past the graveyard!

Community, teacher, and student input is really put into the design. If the classrooms are designed to meet the needs of today's and future learners.

If public is informed, educated as to what, when and why. Marketing efforts to inform the public must go above and beyond the norm.

You have the funding and location that will improve the community

Continue to be transparent in the build process, listen and where feasible/reasonable implement the will of the people but of above all do what is best for our students.

You do it promptly!! Need this years ago. We use to be the standard or higher for area schools now we're the bottom.

The county stops delaying entering the current times and stops trying to coast through time without spending any money. Chowan county and Edenton are falling far behind neighboring communities and show no signs of catching up.

It improves the learning opportunities for these students and improves quality teaching. So that these students student can contribute meaningfully to the economic welfare of the community.

They leave the commons area.

THE COMMUNITY IS CONVINCED THAT A NEW SCHOOL IS

1. NEEDED
2. FITS IN WITH EDENTON'S ESTHETIC
3. FINANCIALLY WISE.

Students are more successful as a result of the project.

We get it built for our future Aces!

The facility provides access to state of the art learning, a safe and secure environment, preserves the dignity of the site and is not of a design that does not recognize the architectural history of Edenton

We can, as a county, afford the project

It stays in the current location and keeps the historical architecture

Careful consideration of repairs and remodeling of the exiting Buildings.

we can build a new school with 21st Century equipment and technology while staying within a budget this county can afford. (The county has other recurring capital financial responsibilities) -- 70% of the County's revenue comes from the Ad Valorem Tax. We cannot afford to impose a property tax that results in Chowan County being unable to compete regionally for economic development.

It improves the educational opportunities for our young people.

You build a facility that enhances the learning process. If you build a structure that speaks to the future, not the past.

It remains true to the architectural and community charm of Edenton that already makes it attractive ... rather than pushing "developer" interests of "if it ain't broke, break it!" and sell tomorrow's charm for all for today's gains for a few.

Improving what happens on the inside of the structure

there is planning for space to incorporate vocational trainings. Not all students are college bound and the skills to go out and get a job are a necessity. Examples of vocational skills taught in the past in the county: welding, agriculture, woodshop, business courses, and auto mechanics. It would be nice to add these and some newer ones: fireman and EMT training for our volunteer services here in the county, child care development and state regulations so that youth could step into the child care industry, computer hardware servicing and software design, computer graphics design, healthcare, and business courses that focus on how to be a good employee by teaching manners, how to handle conflict and stress, time management and leadership skills. I know that these ideas fall under curriculum changes, but there has to be space to incorporate future curriculum that may involve a specially designed classroom to deliver the courses.

the community as a whole is "all in". This has been on the table for decades. Our children need to know they are worth it. They need to know that within those walls are where dreams begin. That within those walls, as academics are taught by the best, those dreams take shape. They need to know that as they walk across that stage, their dreams begin to become a reality. It's those same walls, that our kids feel safe, valued, and above all else, that their education is important to them, their families, and their community. Build the school. Build the dreams. Lay the foundation to support the community and the high school, so that together, we build a bright and promising future for all who enters its doors.

You don't destroy the Town Common

The community realizes this new school is best for the community.

This project will be a success if... (continued)

We work together... There is enormous promise and potential if we, again, work together and put the needs of education, students, teachers at the top of the list. Once we get the project complete, we need to revisit and insure we maintain a gold standard as opposed to letting it collapse.

If everyone in the community feels they had input.

Concentration is focused on the quality of teaching staff and curriculum rather than a building.

Keep focus of design on the present and future needs of students.

we are able to get a new gym and keep the old gym as an auxiliary for PE and practices. Our gym floor get redone twice a year, and within 2 weeks is worn out from all the use.

The finished product retains the look of the original building while adding space(s) necessary to deliver a first rate education, even a third storey.

Must be a NEW Facility. If renovation is chosen I will totally be AGAINST it.

If you listen to your whole community not just a certain group

it gets done in a timely manner. These kids have waited and waited! They deserve a new, fabulous school. I have a son getting ready to go to JAH and my concern he will never experience the finished product.

everyone will get on board with the idea of a new school for our students.

Leave the school as is and where is, leave the Boy Scout Hut as is and where is. If additions are made, reduce the parking for students--the lot is never full,

Consider all suggestions.

the current building is maintained as much as possible....that new building uses existing footprint and leaves broad green space in front of school....the scout building is removed...the landscaping is updated and expanded

Teachers, administrators and students have the most input and the arts are given equal weight to athletics and academics.

County and Town citizens come together and understand there has to be compromise. We MUST have a NEW FACILITY. Not in favor of renovation.

That the input from the community is seen as having input into the overall decision.

Everyone contributes, and compromises to work together

We provide students in Chowan county a safe, beautiful, clean environment with access to 21st century learning while preserving the historical and architectural significance of the property.

This project will be a success if the school is left where it is. Also, if the front lawn stays as is and all the athletic fields are in one area.

It is built :) Let's do this for our community and build a bright future for Edenton and Chowan County!

The community speaks up honestly and the committee listens

If you consult other schools who have been in similar situations. Don't presume you or the public know what works best. Look at Broughton in Raleigh, Maury in Norfolk, John Handley in Winchester VA, Stadium High in Tacoma WA. These are schools that value preservation and deliver state-of-the-art education. The two are not incompatible!

IF- we look to the future and not the past. There are alot of people who are more concerned with preserving what the old school looks like, even wanting to keep the old dilapidated building, just to keep it looking like it has forever. To me, those people are not thinking of the students at all. Also, this is a Chowan County High School, not an Edenton High School. The location of the school is not ideal, but to get a new school, the people of the county (all of the county) have decided that the location is ok, as long as we get a new school. If for some reason the plans for the school incorporate keeping the old 2 story building, I do not feel a bond would have a favorable vote.

Drug activity reduced beside school

This project will be a success if the new high school is safe, provides up to date learning opportunities, while capturing the old charm of Edenton.

You show respect for the history of the site and the building, as is done elsewhere in Edenton. That is what makes Edenton unique.

You find a way to respect the needs of the town and community while fulfilling the desires of your grand plan. New is not always better.

It creates a safe and secure facility for high school students to learn and play sports

New school is built

TEAR DOWN the building! Our children and grandchildren deserve a totally new facility. The time is NOW to build a new JAH.

The school is a place of pride for the community.

It meets the needs of staff and students to take them into the 21 century

The money is spent for new construction that will have a future and not just patching the old as has been done for years. The buildings were dated when I graduated 40 years ago. I can only imagine with the changes in technology that the buildings are not providing the environment needed for today's learning needs.

You get rid of all the old rednecks that hates change

The students feel proud of their school!!

1) We don't take short cuts; 2) we go with new construction vs. renovation; 3) we tie the COA campus to the JAH Campus; 4) look for ways to expand community use/learning - include swimming pool; expand adult continuing education partnerships with COA; expand dual enrollment programs with COA as well as career pathway programs for high school students and adults.

We build a beautiful, but pragmatic and conservative, building, while preserving, improving and maximizing the use of the existing fields, tennis court and the log cabin.

You leave it at the current location and don't make it look too modern on the outside, but upgrade the inside.

“The County Commissioners and BOE come up with an agreeable amount to spend that the citizens will support.”

It's not trendy and doesn't have spaces deemed important now but useless and outdated in 10 years and doesn't look or feel like a prison

The existing school is completely demolished (don't try to renovate or save parts of structures), it maintains its architectural look and front facing Broad Street location, safety of campus is a priority, and the historical trophy, pictures, etc are maintained and showcased.

you don't waste money

We provide a school that our students, families, and community are proud of and is in harmony with the architecture of Edenton without overburdening tax payers.

We retain the front lawn, design something similar to the existing front facade, keep a two storey design and have the school incorporate traditional Edenton architecture. The project will not be a success if we have a rambling, one storey building that would look like so many others that have been constructed all over North Carolina and which have been stuck out on some field outside of town and designed and built in a cookie cutter fashion. This project has to stand out from others and be compatible with who and what Edenton is.

you can get the whole county on board, and not just the southern half of chowan

...we are all very thoughtful. It's easier, of course, to start brand new. But it's better to preserve what's important for our school community & community as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to share our insight.

... if it's done, not cheaply & the easy way, but thoughtfully & carefully (whether with rehabbing the main building or with replacing it at essentially the same spot) so that the tennis courts & Boy Scout Cabin and Town Common remain open facing Broad Street.

The school is build on the current school grounds, completed on budget, matched the historic nature of the town, and MOST importantly, a place to prepare Edenton's youth for an evolving & technological world.

The existing structure is gutted and updated and new structures are added to compliment that.

This project will be a success if... (continued)

We actually build something that is going to be cost efficient and meets the needs of everyone. It would be far cheaper and more efficient to build a new building. The current building is in terrible shape and will only set the entire project back more than it should be in both time and money. I also think it is ridiculous that the auditorium is going to be so small. We should be investing into the arts as much as we do sports. It should be a place that the community could use and rent to generate revenue. The current plan for the auditorium shows the lack and concern for the arts and the students that this program could reach and develop not to mention a thought towards including a community space.

You care about the arts too. If you want to bring this school into the 22nd century then you have to plan for how big you want your arts programs to be, not just your sports and academics. All students have the right to an excellent arts program, arts education, and art facilities.

New building on new site

Existing building is torn down; new construction put in place

Good Solid Common Sense Vision for the Common Good of Future Generations while Preserving Historical Aspects that Blend with the Edenton Community. Too often, society wants to start from scratch with disregard of how to utilize and tweak foundations that have already been created and proven to be useful. It's exciting that Chowan Schools has the unique opportunity to combine the old with the new into an example of state of the art institute of education within the confines of both budget and anticipated futuristic needs.

We offer a variety of course offerings for all students, not just those who are college bound, if we work closer with College of the Albemarle to encourage more AP courses and college level courses. We need to stop the exodus of students leaving this community for other educational opportunities.

If the historic character of the building and site is maintained, particularly the historic Town Commons in front of the school building

a new and modern facility that gives our student body, teachers and community a facility to be proud well into the future!

We must first keep our eye on the ball: education. Other opportunities that can present themselves at the school's location can be managed without totally encompassing the "town commons" concept

We don't want to be "Cookie Cut" the structure like other new schools going up in the State.

We all need to pull together and look at our students education. Also, the safety for our children in that building.

We have to build a new building. I will not support renovation at all.

Wouldn't it be nice if visitors to Edenton in 10 years looked at the NEW J.A. Holmes High School on their way downtown and said, "Edenton has done the best job at meshing the past with the future-- with one foot in both worlds!" The future is bright- let's invest in it by making sure our children and children's children have what it takes to be successful! We have but one chance to do what is right for them at this critical time through this once in a lifetime investment.

You get it out of town.

It meets the needs of the Great Staff and all the kids that go there! That they have a safe school, that is secure and they can learn with new technology!

the community does not waste an estimated \$11Million on a pool that not only serves very few students but has built-in extended costs of maintenance, staffing and liability insurance. Nobody seems willing to discuss that aspect.

The community expresses their issues!

If the community (regardless of age and race) feels like JAH is "THEIR" school; if more community events and programs are hosted there;

The community stays committed to the project.

if it meets the needs of 21st century learning and technology. Has ample space to house the many classes and courses that are relevant to today's learning needs.

1) foresight for educating decades into the future is evident, along with the clear ability to adapt the structure and infrastructure in the coming decades 2) meeting the space and equipment needs of ALL academic and extra-curricular programs is fairly addressed 3) the people with no children/grandchildren in line to attend this school are appeased with an awesome design that still allows them re-live their "glory days" when they pass by or enter the building 4) those with children and grandchildren in the pipeline are truly valued and encouraged to spearhead this endeavor (A lack of evening times for public input on school design, for example, caters to the retired and/or privileged who can easily take off work and can be viewed as a slight to younger working parents without employment flexibility) 5) Clear funding plans that are DETAILED. Talking points are not enough, as evidenced by the failure of the recent sales tax increase vote.

It has a diverse use not elite use.

Make a decision, protect and use the current building and move on. It is past time. Interest rates are at their lowest and sure to go up.

All involved parties partner with the community and seek continuous input.

It maintains its current look with the Town Common in tact!

the new school is built and they don't try to just renovate the old school!!

We spend wisely to update and modernize our school without just building and spending lots of unnecessary money just because some other school has lots of luxurious things. Build so we can expand in the future and not overbuild now especially since the student enrollment is declining and obviously we are moving to more online classes

Consideration is given community wide, not just the city limits of Edenton. The last time I checked, Edenton is part of Chowan County, not the reverse. I graduated from Chowan "High" School. Where it was a little emotional seeing a large portion of the school demolished, it was for the best for cost and longevity. Just to note, I survived and am not emotionally scared!

Wind farm built and significant taxes paid in addition to bond issue discussed.

This project will be a success if... (continued)

We do what's best for the faculty and students in our system. Often times people that do not have a vested interest are making decisions that impact those of us that have to work and send our kids here. Do what's best for the kids because at the end of the day that's all that matters. This school will define legacies for some folks and how this is handled and what is built and/or isn't built could determine how a lot of us are remembered and perceived in this county for years to come. I for one do not want to ever move again and would like to be able to hold my head high when folks talk about and discuss the new high school. We shouldn't let tax money, politics, race, and/or outside influences effect how we approach this project. Lets ot cut corners, cut buildings, and short change our kids and teachers any longer. You want to attract a new wave of teachers and coaches for ECPS and JAH, dont spare any expense and build the best school in eastern NC with the best athletic facilities that money can buy. Remember Field of Dreams, "you build it and they will come"

You renovate. New and shiny doesn't equate to quality education. Concentrate on quality staff and improve the mechanics of the building. A new building will not be the quality and craftsmanship of the existing building.

You build a new school with a pool, and athletic field, and build a new middle school on the opposite side. And for goodness sake improve the handicap accessibility. The pool would increase the opportunity for disabled middle and high school students to be on a team, any team in their community. It's garbage being a disabled student here. They're invisible.

There is a plan for the old school before the new school is built

A High School that is built to last and will be appropriately maintained.

Blending new construction keeping with the overall historic value of the town and community

it becomes a catalyst for unity --provides a common goal that can help our community come together. Black and white, native and transplants, young and old, etc.

You listen to the community and don't try to give them something they don't actually want or need

All areas like safety, education and athletics are met.

...our children have new opportunities for academic and career success now and in the future. This investment in our children (and in some people's eyes, our own future) is too important to be limited by a desire to "make do" with old, unsafe, deteriorating facilities that can no longer meet upcoming needs. Looking ahead, true success will only be realized if the money, time, and effort being allocated are invested in a new school building that can HOPE to meet changing needs over the next fifty years or more. It would be a misstep to get the future hung up on some desire to keep using this school building just because it is there.

Thankfully John A. Holmes High School will remain on the present site. Renovation of the present building is completely preferable and necessary to building an entire new building. While there are areas that need upgrading, replacing and updating, the “bones” of the building are a product of a time when construction standards were the best, well built in every aspect. There is no real comparison now. The Town Commons in front of the present building, established almost 300 years ago, is a focal point on Broad Street and an area that is utilized by all Chowan County citizens for a variety of events that are part of the heartbeat of this historic area. Renovate, improve, update, upgrade the present building and keep the common area that faces Broad Street. The city and county communities are ones of proud history and historical significance. We preserve; we do not destroy!

This project will be a success if... (continued)

You absolutely preserve and maintain the School’s front 1723 Town Common

We keep educating our students as our central purpose and vision.

We think about the future and what Edenton needs to do to compete with other cities. What can we do to bring young people to Edenton and keep them here?

The students are proud of it and anxious to learn

We provide a place #1 for our students to learn that is safe and effective for 21st century, #2 provide community spaces as JAH is a hub, #3 improve athletic facilities as MANY people attend events that do not have children that attend JAH. It creates that community feeling, #4 I would love to see space available for businesses to use/rent for conferences, etc.

Tear down the old and build new

You move beyond the web and engage the many people in our community who do not have Internet access. Everyone has to buy into your plan if you are going to get the support you need, not just parents and school employees.

While there is no way to please everyone, a school that is safe and conducive to learning will fill the ultimate goal of educating our students. A premiere facility will also attract great teachers and staff.

If can secure the Boy Scout Hut and the town commons

a brand new school is built elsewhere and use existing space a larger athletics complex to house all of JAH sports. Turn existing building into apartments.

Our community supports it

If you are able to preserve Edenton’s Common and the Farm Heritage in front of the school.

If you didn’t do it.

Move it

Produced for:



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