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New School Construction Project Statement

Bear Creek Community Charter School's mission is to embrace a diverse student body and inspire student success through an innovative curriculum, the cultivation of environmental stewardship, and by holding students, family, school, and community accountable for results.

The following core principles guide the mission of Bear Creek Community Charter School:

- Setting high expectations for academic achievement will lead students to be meaningful contributors to society;
- We have an obligation to expose children to content-rich materials and programs derived from research-based teaching methods;
- Engaging children at all levels will inspire them to rise to academic challenges and develop a life-long enthusiasm for learning;
- Quality teachers are critical to student achievement;
- Staff will be provided the resources necessary to support their success and be held accountable for delivering measurable results;
- Education is powerful when students, families, school, and the community are involved;
- Children must be taught their inherent responsibility to respect the environment and will encourage others to do the same;
- Children will be challenged to develop leadership skills, build self-esteem and exhibit exemplary character;
- A safe and nurturing environment is essential to student achievement.

Bear Creek Community Charter School's Board of Trustees is seeking a well designed facility that will compliment the school's rigorous academic program and nurturing staff, to motivate children to want to come to school and learn. We are seeking a cost-effective, functional design that will allow the facility to blend into its natural, rural surroundings and compliment the School's mission and guiding principles, but also incorporate the following key principles:

1. Sustainable High Performance Design
2. Buildings that Teach
3. Community Planning
4. Safe Learning Environment
5. Technology Infrastrucure
6. Physical Education and Wellness

It is intent of the School and the Bear Creek Foundation to build a new public school on approximately 96 acres of undeveloped land in Bear Creek Township, which is owned by the Foundation. The expected outcome will be modern educational space, along with space for recreation, support services and community use.

The School seeks a design solution that will provide a functional learning & working environment while respecting the importance of preserving natural resources and effectively utilizing limited public funds.

Sustainable High Performance Design "Green" Facility

Bear Creek Community Charter School is committed to being a responsible steward of our natural resources and believes that public education should provide leadership in developing an ethic of sustainability in all of its practices. Bear Creek Community Charter School has the desire for a sustainable high performance design facility.

Sustainable high performance design is the systematic consideration, during design, of a project's life cycle impact on environmental and energy resources. Perhaps the best way to understand the principles of sustainable high performance design is not by defining the process but rather looking at the results of the process. The ideal characteristics of development based on the principles of sustainable high performance design are development constructed from renewable resources collected onsite, development that generates its own energy from renewable sources, and development that manages its own waste. This, of course, is the ideal - we mention it here only for illustrative purposes.

By engaging in sustainable high performance design, Bear Creek Community Charter School hopes to build a higher performance learning environment that:

- Harmonize with the natural landscape;
- Consumes less energy;
- Provides higher quality lighting;
- Conserve materials and natural resources;
- Enhance indoor environmental quality;
- Safeguard water, and
- Teach principles of sustainability.

It is anticipated that solar energy design, day lighting, wind power, uses of renewable materials, etc. will be incorporated into the project. Any projected additional cost above conventional construction must be justified in terms of life cycle costs. Although it is anticipated that LEED principles will be considered and incorporated into the design of the new facility, a decision has not yet been made to pursue LEED certification.

A key component of Bear Creek Community Charter School is the cultivation of environmental stewardship, and one of the School's core values is to teach children about their inherent responsibility to respect the environment and use them as a conduit to help others do the same. Environmental education teaches children and adults how to learn about and investigate their environment, and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how they can take care of it. One reason why parents choose to send their children to Bear Creek Community Charter School is to ensure their children to get a solid understanding and appreciation for the natural environment in which we all live, and learn how to sustain our environment for future generations. Ecology and Environmental Science are woven into the academic fabric of the school, and each student receives dedicated instructional time specific for environmental education, in addition to the traditional Science coursework. Students engage in hands-on learning opportunities, participate in field-work (work outdoors), and actively participate in school-wide environmental leadership opportunities. The design of any new school facility must seriously consider this approach to hands-on environmental learning.

Buildings That Teach

The building environment offers a wealth of teaching and learning opportunities for students, teachers, and the community. It is the goal of Bear Creek Community Charter School to have the building designed that enables groups to take advantage of these opportunities. For example, the following are possible strategies for achieving this goal:

- Flexible learning spaces - recognizing that learning styles change, learning spaces and clusters should be flexible to accommodate changing program needs.
- Provide visually and physically accessible building systems (HVAC, communications, plumbing, structure, electrical, etc.) with real-time building systems performance feedback.
- Provide spaces designed to enhance learning and engage students.

Community Planning & Design

Bear Creek Community Charter School believes that the school can serve as the core or “hub” of our community and seeks to collaborate with other community stakeholders. There is a consensus that some level of joint programming and planning should occur such that the community has a sense of pride in the facility and the facility supports community programs and activities. Designated areas of the new facility will serve a dual role, for public education as well as public recreation and community service.

Safe Learning Environment

Bear Creek Community Charter School has a concern that facilities are designed to promote safety and security for students, visitors and staff. It is expected that the design process will consider a systematic approach to school security – looking at the big picture of what goal is to be achieved in order to arrive at an optimal security strategy. Incorporating principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) should be considered in the design process.

Technology Infrastructure Planning

As school systems adapt to 21st century teaching and learning, facilities must be built with proper infrastructure to accommodate the technology necessary for today and tomorrow’s educational requirements. When designing a new school, it is imperative to make decisions that will allow students to acquire the appropriate technology-related skills during their time at Bear Creek Community Charter School. Integrating current and advanced technology into new school design can also provide the added non-educational benefit of increased efficiency and convenience to the daily operation of school facilities.

Physical Education & Wellness

The opportunity to create inspiring spaces through the design process as well as incorporating physical education and wellness considerations targeting all ranges and levels of ability will promote lifelong habits of healthy living. Well-designed athletic and recreational facilities can make a strong contribution to an enjoyable teaching and learning experience and can increase participation by the school and its community.

Additional Information

Additional consideration should be given to the following in the design process. This is not an all-inclusive list, but a preliminary listing of potential needs for consideration.

Consideration should be given to the placement of the building on the site, as well as structural/electrical/mechanical/plumbing that would facilitate a facility expansion if necessary at some point in the future, or even the placement of a second building on the site for a future secondary school.

Instructional

- Kindergarten through Eighth Grade – Two Sections/Classes per Grade
- Twenty Five (25-30) Students per Classroom
- Classrooms Supporting a Grade Span of Kindergarten through Sixth Grade
- Middle School History Classroom
- Middle School Science Classroom
- Middle School Language Arts Classroom
- Middle School Mathematics Classroom
- Computer Technology Laboratory
- Environmental Education Instructional Space
- Special Education Instructional Space
- Space for Remedial Educational Support
- Guidance Counselor
- Educational Meeting Space (Teachers)
- Educational Meeting Space (Parents)
- Art
- Music

Administrative

- Chief Executive Officer
- School Operations Assistant
- School Accountant
- Technology Coordinator
- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- School Secretary
- Receptionist
- School Nurse (Medical & Dental)
- Administrative Meeting Space
- Board of Trustees Meeting Space
- PTO Office/Storage

Community

- Public Access Gymnasium
- ~~Public Access Fitness Center (*Potentially*)~~
- ~~Public Access Meeting Room~~
- ~~Public Access Auditorium (*Potentially*)~~
- Public Access Restrooms
- Public Access Playground
- Public Access Nature Trail
- Public Access Exterior Recreational Fields

Support Areas

- Restrooms
- Shower Facilities
- Custodial & Maintenance Supplies & Equipment
- Vehicle and Equipment Storage and Maintenance
- Mechanical/Electrical
- Data and Communications
- General Storage
- Food Service Preparation
- Food Service Storage (Dry, Refrigerated, Freezer)
- Student Dining
- Staff Dining & Respite

Potential Flex-Space

- ~~Day Care Center (Separate, Public)~~
- ~~Fitness Center (Separate, Public)~~
- ~~Indoor Soccer Field (Separate, Public)~~
- ~~Youth Center (Separate, Public)~~
- Athletic Fields/External Recreation
- ~~Staff Training~~

Other

- Egress onto State Route 115
- Bus Loading Zone
- Parent Parking
- Student Drop Off and Pick Up
- Staff Parking
- Sewage Treatment
- Emergency Access to Site
- Loading Dock
- Dumpster Pad/Recycling Center
- Vehicle/Equipment Storage
- Supply Storage