



Central High School at Dodds Park

Presented by:
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to the Champaign Park District
Board of Commissioners

February 25, 2015

The search for a new Central High School site has been ongoing since 2006.

The search effort has included previous superintendents, Boards of Education, and the community.

2006 - 2014

- Tiered analysis to determine feasibility
- Contracted with City for planning services
- Discussions with Park District
- Representation from University of Illinois, City of Champaign, Park District, and the School District to define criteria
- School District issued an RFQ in December 2013 for professional assistance to uncover all possible site options for a new high school, especially interior sites.

<http://futurefacilities.champaignschools.org/sites/futurefacilities.champaignschools.org/files/Tague%20Memo.pdf>

Site Selection Process

A scoring system was utilized to objectively rank the viability of the available sites.

Factors taken into consideration included:

Site Size

Cost

Accessibility

Infrastructure

Utilities

**Expansion
Potential**

Transportation

Zoning

**Water
retention/
detention**

January – July 2014

- January 2014 - Interstate Drive ranked the highest using objective criteria and purchased property (Promises Made, Promises Kept)
- April 2014 - Park District presented the option to use Spalding
- July 2014 - Response to Park District

<http://futurefacilities.champaignschools.org/sites/futurefacilities.champaignschools.org/files/Letter%20to%20Joe%20DeLuce%20%287-1-14%29.pdf>

Community Response

An overwhelming majority of community members are voicing their understanding that a new Central High School is needed, with nearly 48% voting in favor of the issue in November.

However, the lack of an infill location holds some back from supporting this project despite the clear need.

When using the objective criteria, the Dodds location is considered the best option that addresses the infill need while providing added benefits for a 21st Century high school offered at no other site.

Central High School at Dodds Park

A new Central High School at Dodds Park addresses not just the desire for an infill location—more importantly it supports the **programming vision** for our high schools.

Other infill sites may be a good location, but present significant site challenges that drive up cost, reduce feasibility, and require eminent domain.

Transportation Friendliness Rating

When assessing the viability of potential high school sites, the District assessed the transportation burden on minority populations.

This is a critical factor to consider given the District's commitment to the Consent Decree settlement agreement.

Dodds Park Ranks among the top three of the sites for our minority students.

Regional Planning Commission Friendliness Rating

Summary of Findings

Site Name	Estimated Median Commute	Estimated Transport Impact	Friendliness Rating
Central High School (Existing)	2.92 miles 7.32 mins	Less	7 of 12
Centennial High School (Existing)	4.61 miles 7.41 mins	Baseline	Baseline (12 of 12)
Atkins Tract	4.86 miles 7.61 mins	Less	6 of 12
Bradley and N. 4th	3.05 miles 9.35 mins	Less	8 of 12*
Clearlake Site	3.1 miles 6.87 mins	Less	7 of 12
Country Fair Site	2.81 miles 6.26 mins	Mixed	7 of 12
Dodds Park Site	2.83 miles 7.17 mins	Less	8 of 12
Faucett-Carr Farm Tract	4.93 miles 11.34 mins	Less	6 of 12
Lange Farm Tract	4.02 miles 11.2 mins	Less	7 of 12

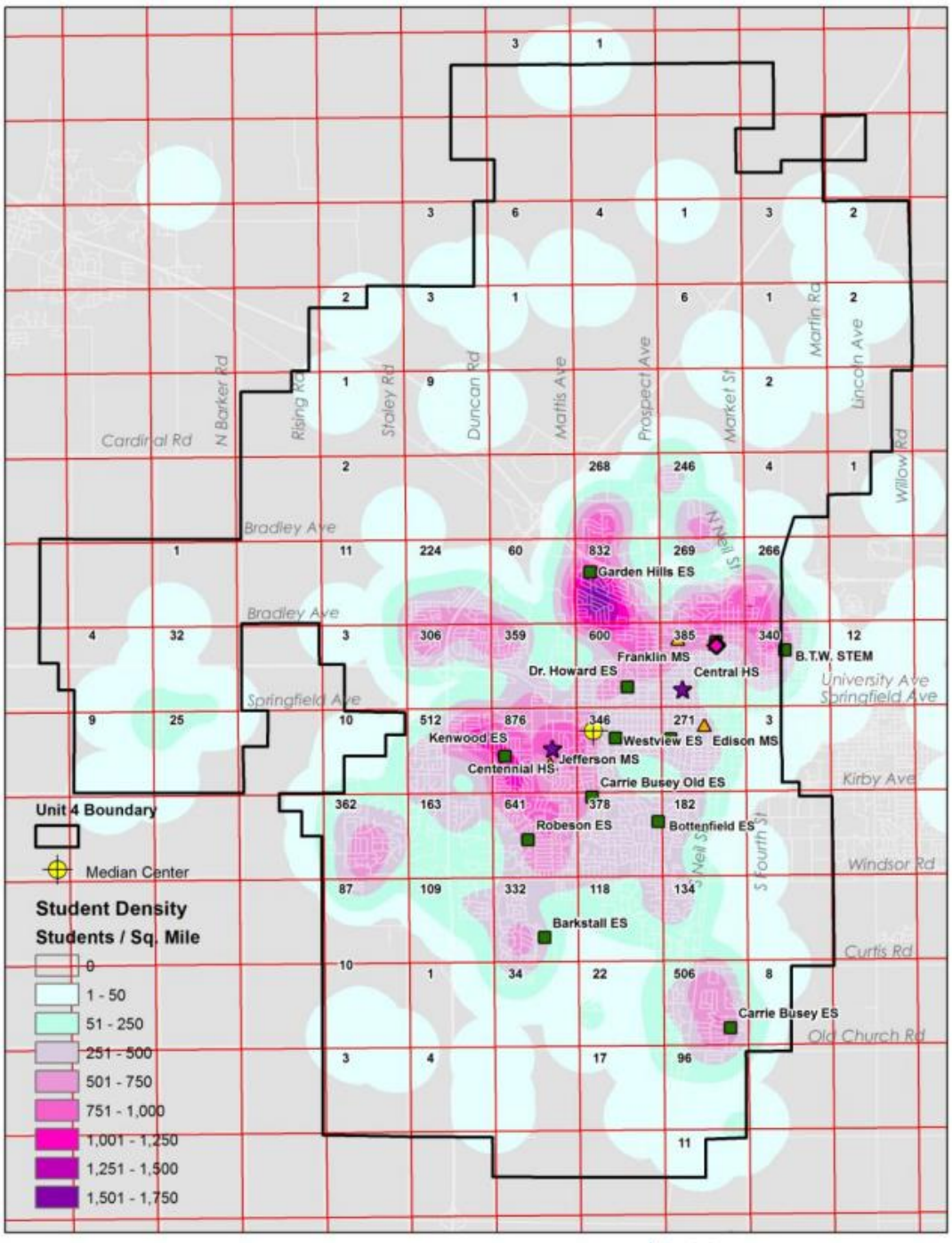
New 1	4.51 miles 8.78 mins	Less	7 of 12
New 2	4.5 miles 10.53 mins	Less	7 of 12
New 3 (Interstate Drive)	5.03 miles 11.34 mins	Less	9 of 12
Ponder-Moore Tracts	6.02 miles 11.54 mins	Less	6 of 12
Solon Tract	2.61 miles 7.94 mins	More	6 of 12
Spaulding Park Site	2.84 miles 9.37 mins	Less	8 of 12*
U of I Tract	5.14 miles 12.38 mins	More	8 of 12*
Voightlander Tract	3.81 miles 8.67 mins	Mixed	3 of 12

** additional transportation or site concerns exist at this location*

Students Located in “Walk Zone”

Students 1.5 miles from Existing Central – **1,442**

Students 1.5 miles from Dodds Park – **1,828**



Teacher Collaboration

Locating a new Central High School next to Parkland College would allow high school and Parkland faculty in similar disciplines (English, Math, Science, Computer Science, Technology, etc.) to collaborate as they prepare students for the rigors of college.

College & Career Center Collaboration

Collaboration between the Parkland College Career Center and the Central High School College & Career Center would be beneficial in preparing high school students to be career ready and create a post-secondary plan.

Access to Dual Credit & Expansion of Existing Partnerships

Increased accessibility for high school students to participate in Dual Credit courses offered through Parkland College, not just in the Career and Technical Education areas but in all curricular areas of Parkland College.

Education for Employment #330 is developing an “Early College & Career Academy” for high school students who want to take Dual Credit courses at Parkland College. An increased number of students would be able to take advantage of this new academy due to the location of our high school across the street.

Dual Credit Enrollment Facts

Dual Credit enrollment has increased 93% over the last 4 years.

In 2009-2010, Unit 4 schools enrolled an average 75 students, or about 6% of eligible Dual Credit students.

In 2013-2014, Unit 4 schools enrolled an average 143 students, or 12% of eligible aged students, exceeding 16% in the Spring semester.

Workforce Development & the P-20 Pipeline

The Illinois P-20 Council was established by the Illinois General Assembly in 2009 to foster collaboration among state agencies, educational institutions, local schools, community groups, employers, taxpayers, and families.

Parkland College is leading the way in this area and having a new Central High School in close proximity would allow School District staff to be intimately involved with the design of the P-20 program in the area. One of the highlights of the Parkland College P-20 Action Advisory Group is the establishment of Programs of Study (Starting with grade 9 through 14) for all schools in the area.

College Readiness Among High School Students

A concern shared by the School District and Parkland College is the number of students requiring remedial coursework once they reach Parkland College.

By working more closely and exposing students to the academic expectations of post-secondary coursework, the School District and Parkland College can work together to address this issue.

Exposure to New Academic Areas

With a new Central High School in close proximity to Parkland College, students would have the opportunity to be exposed to new subject areas not typically offered in a high school setting, including agriculture, horticulture, and diesel mechanics among many others.

Shared Facilities

Parkland College and Central High School would have the opportunity to share some athletic and arts facilities in order to maximize taxpayer investment in a new Central High School.

For Example: Auditorium, Gymnasium, and Swimming Pool, and others.

Other Advantages

Dodds Park is already owned by the taxpayers.

Building costs are comparable to building on a greenfield site, however, approximately \$1 million is saved due to existing infrastructure.

No additional tax burden for this infill location due to acquisition of homes or businesses.

Request from Unit 4

- 40 Acres for a New Central High School at Dodds Park.
- The remaining 70 acres would remain park land.
- A land trade of equal value to jointly relocate the displaced soccer fields.

The Proposed Plan Presents the Following Opportunities for the Park District

- Improved soccer facilities with room for expansion at a new site
- Shared fields
- Expansion of the existing partnership with Unit 4 to maximize public dollars

Closing

In closing, we believe that a new Central High School at Dodds Park is the most sensible, innovative solution to a long-standing community issue.

This new campus would reflect the innovative culture of our city, and provide the space for unprecedented partnerships and collaboration that benefit all stakeholders.

This is an opportunity for community leaders to come together for the future of not only our City, but the children in our community.

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