

Working with the Community to Identify the Right School

Belmont may be known as the Town of Homes, but it is also known for its stellar schools and emphasis on education. The Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) is working with the community to find the best solution for Belmont High School—a building that will mirror our investment in education and our investment in our students, all within the right-sized, educationally appropriate, environmentally conscience, and most fiscally responsible facility.

At the same time, as a community we must determine the best enrollment configuration for a new or renovated school that will support the needs and educational vision of the entire District. While "high school" is in the name of the BHSBC, it is the goal of the Committee that a new or renovated building will benefit every member of the community. The overcrowding and "new normal" of ever-expanding enrollment currently impacts every student at every school.

As part of an ongoing feasibility study, the BHSBC is exploring a renovation, a renovation with an addition, and new construction of the existing building site for each of three different grade configurations. These grade configurations – 7-12, 8-12, and 9-12 – are being explored as possible ways to create new and exciting learning environments for our students while, at the same time, meeting our ever-increasing enrollment and space needs district-wide.

The BHSBC has been engaging with the community so that together we can discuss these issues, formulate ideas, and create a school that will serve Belmont's needs for generations. To date, the BHSBC has held multiple educational visioning workshops, where experts from all areas of education have led more than 130 community members through productive discussions about the future of education. Additionally, the BHSBC has presented at all Back to School nights and PTO/PTA meetings throughout the District and has hosted three community engagement meetings with several more meetings planned in the future. If you have not made it to any of these events, don't worry - the BHSBC is also actively gathering community feedback through an online survey on the Project website.

There is still work to be done and there is still time to hear from you about what you think is important.

Specifically, how can you be involved?

- Be Heard Complete the BHSBC online survey (<u>www.belmonthighschoolproject.org</u>) and tell the Committee what you want in a new or renovated school. What do you think would best serve the needs of your child, your grandchild, your Community?
- Be Involved Come to Community Engagement Meetings. Hear updates from key players in the BHSBC and give them your feedback. Ask for clarification, express your opinions, and be part of the process. Meeting schedules are posted on the BHSBC website.
- Be Informed Sign-up for email updates, sign up for a tour of Belmont High School. If you haven't walked the halls of BHS since your graduation, now is the time. See how it has changed. If you have never walked the halls of BHS, this is your opportunity.

While the building process is complicated, the goal is simple: produce the right school for the Belmont Community.

Upcoming BHSBC Community Engagement Meetings:

Saturday, October $28^{th} - 10:00$ AM - Belmont High School Auditorium Optional Facility Tours - 9:00 AM

Tuesday, December 12th - 7:00 PM - Belmont High School Auditorium Optional Facility Tours – 6:00 PM

To sign up for email updates and to learn more about the Belmont High School Building Project, including project timelines, community surveys, videos, meeting schedules, presentations and more, please visit www.belmonthighschoolproject.org.

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