MCPS Damascus High School

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT

COMMUNITY MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2026

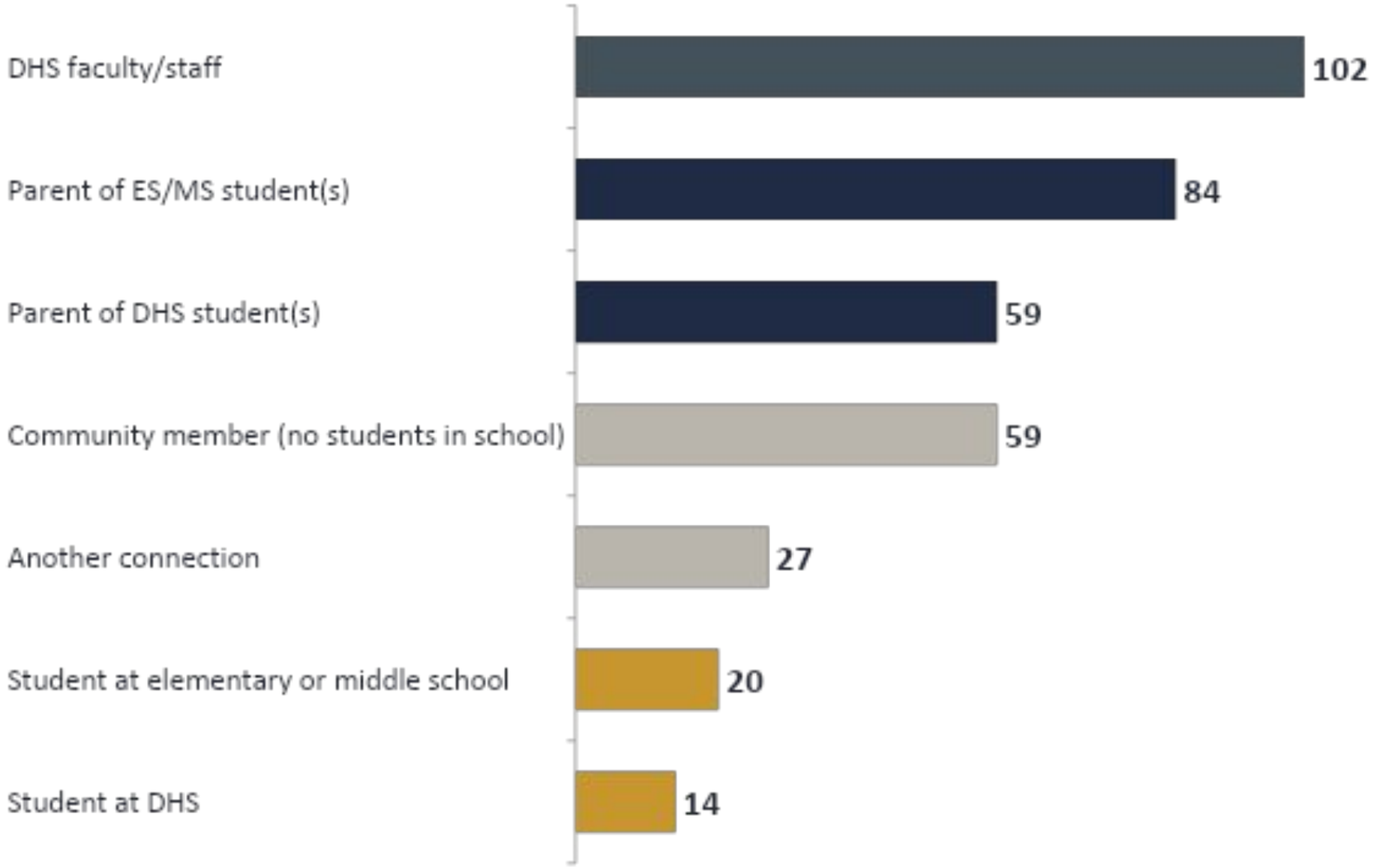


PERKINS EASTMAN

Human by Design

Who We Heard From

RELATIONSHIP TO DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL ACROSS ONE COMMUNITY POLL, ONE COMMUNITY MEETING AND A STAFF MEETING



365

voices across two meetings and an on-line poll

39% are parents (143)

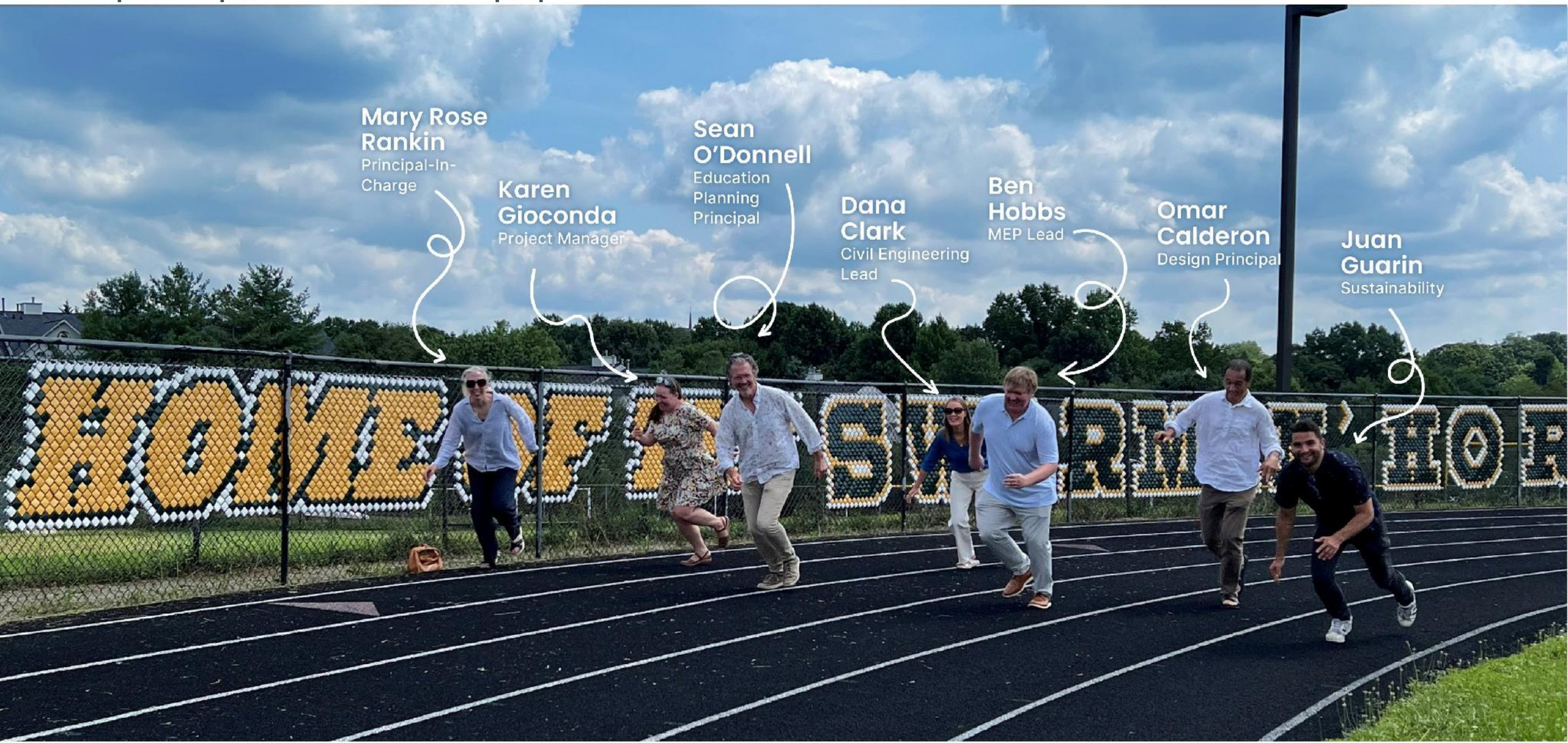
28% are future DHS families: ES/MS parents and students (104)

28% are DHS faculty and staff (102), including 86 at a dedicated staff meeting

- Parents
- Faculty/staff
- Students
- Community, other

Source: Damascus High School community input, “Please let us know your relationship to the school” (two polls: 253 and 26 responses); DHS staff meeting (86 participants)

From Start to Finish: Your Damascus Team
De principio a fin: su equipo de Damascus



Agenda

01	Welcome & Introduction Bienvenida e introducción
02	Hopes & Dreams Esperanzas y sueños
03	Site Analysis Análisis del sitio
04	Closing & Gallery Walk Cierre y recorrido por la galería



Team Experience

Experiencia del equipo



A Team Proven to Innovate in Secondary School Design

Un equipo con una trayectoria demostrada de innovación en el diseño de escuelas


Bard High School Early College


Boston Arts Academy


Monroe High School


Dunbar High School


PGCPS P3 Frost Middle School



Neelsville Middle School


Alexandria City High School at Minnie Howard

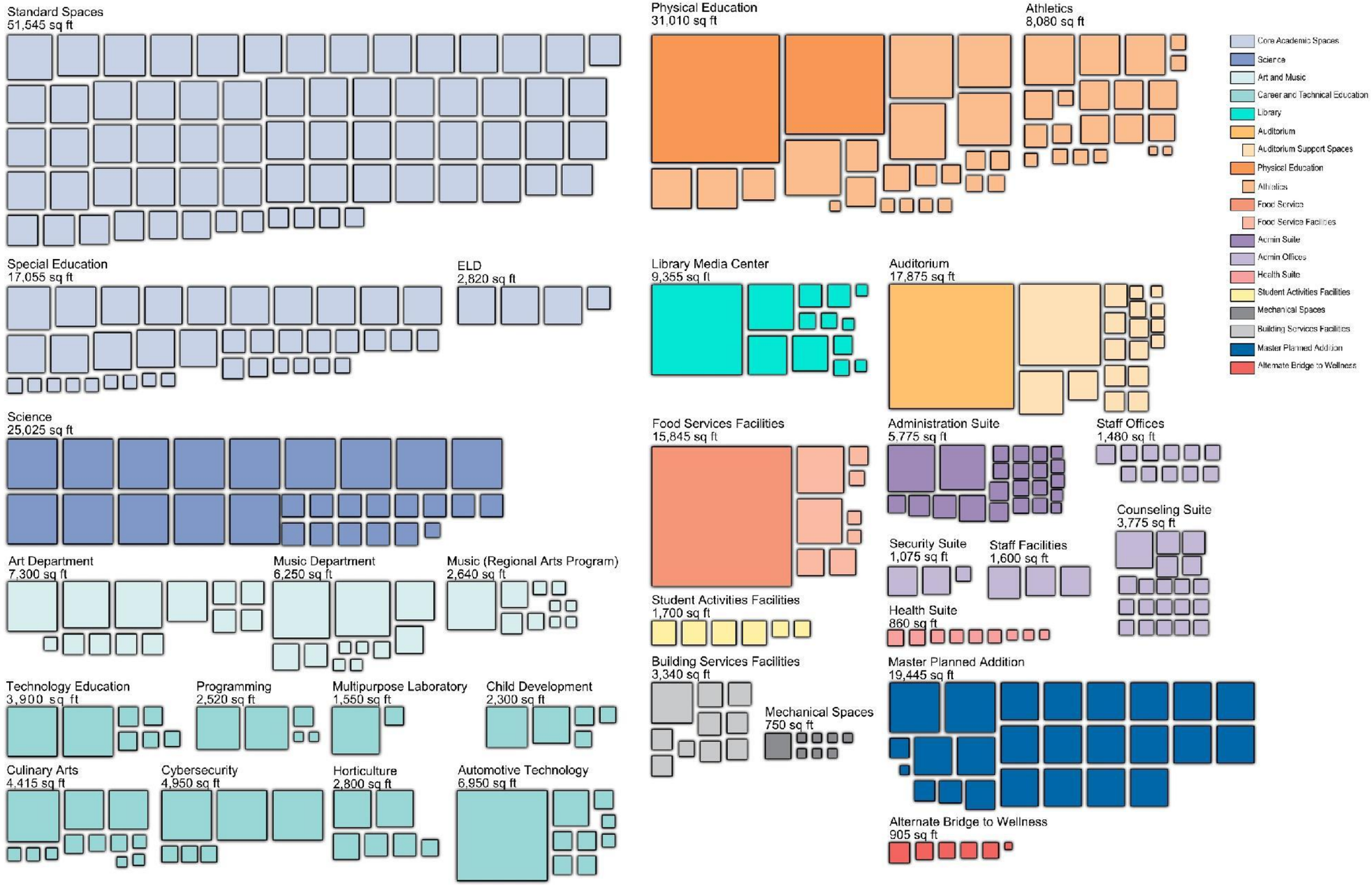

Essex Technical High School



Banneker High School

Space Program | Programa Espacial

- Increased Teaching Stations including: Additional Classrooms & Science Labs
- Enhanced Athletic Facilities
- Enhanced Performing Arts Facilities
- Modern Career & Technical Educational Facilities
- Expanded Dining & Media Center
- Master Planned Addition



PROJECT TIMELINE

From Design to Completion

Building today. Inspiring tomorrow. Ready for the future.

COMMUNITY INPUT MOST IMPORTANT HERE!

SCHEMATIC DESIGN



Establish project vision, layout, and major concepts.

October 2026 – January 2027

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



Refine building systems, spaces, and materials.

Spring – Fall 2027

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



Prepare detailed drawings and specifications for bidding and permits.

Fall 2027 – Summer 2028

CONSTRUCTION



Build the new facility while school remains operational.

July 2028 – August 2031

NEW BUILDING OCCUPIED



Students and staff move into the new building.

August 2031

DEMOLITION & SITEWORK



Remove the existing building and complete final site improvements.

August 2031 – August 2032

PROJECT COMPLETE



New building and site fully complete.

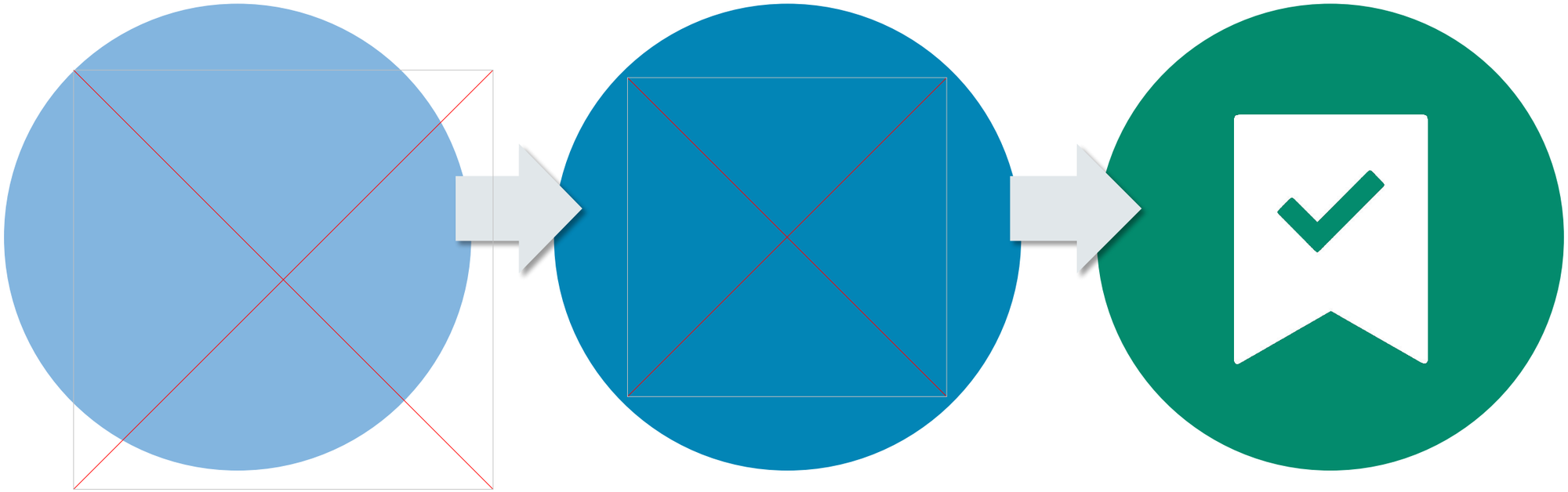
August 2032

COMMUNITY INPUT IS MOST VALUABLE DURING SCHEMATIC DESIGN when decisions about building layout, learning spaces, site circulation, and project priorities are being made.

BUILDING A NEW DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL *FOR THE NEXT GENERATION*

LEARNING · SAFETY · OPPORTUNITY · COMMUNITY

Our Consensus-Building Three Step Process



1 Creative Analysis

2 Options

3 Preferred Option

Community: When This Building Is Complete…

COMMUNITY HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE NEW DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

"A beautiful, LEED building that projects wonderful learning spaces, thoughtful parking and traffic, and nice athletic fields.

SUSTAINABLE

"A school that reflects the tradition of the town it's built in. Incorporate the beautiful things of the past while adding new modern spaces.

TRADITION & RENEWAL

"For the kids to feel like they matter enough to have a really great school that they can be proud of.

PRIDE

"That it's not a huge, looming building.

HUMAN SCALE

"Flexible space. Attractive grounds with native plants, no invasives! A good variety of programs. Lots of natural light.

LANDSCAPE & LIGHT

"Actually enhances the opportunities for the students and the community.

OPPORTUNITY

"The school will become a focal point for the town.

FOCAL POINT

"There is space for all children to thrive.

INCLUSIVITY

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Complete this: When this building is complete, I hope or dream…" (17 responses from 16 participants)

On-line Respondents: When This Building Is Complete…

SURVEYED COMMUNITY HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE NEW DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

> …modern amenities that will adapt to a fast changing educational world ahead of us while holding a traditional pride for our close knit community.

FUTURE-READY

> A place where students feel at home, where they can be a community in academics and extracurriculars. True to tradition…

BELONGING

> Students can maximize their potential and capture their spark through excellence in education, supported by excellence in school design.

POTENTIAL

> I hope all students will be welcome and have state-of-the-art technology, healthy systems and infrastructure, and tools to make their dreams come true.

OPPORTUNITY

> Not just a building but a community. Where students can learn, grow, network and build a sense of community.

COMMUNITY

> The school fits the town and feels like it belongs.

IDENTITY

> …big enough to support the growing community and can transition with student needs for the next 20+ years.

LONGEVITY

> …a production greenhouse, outdoor arboretum, native plant interpretation area and the facility to connect and work with community partners.

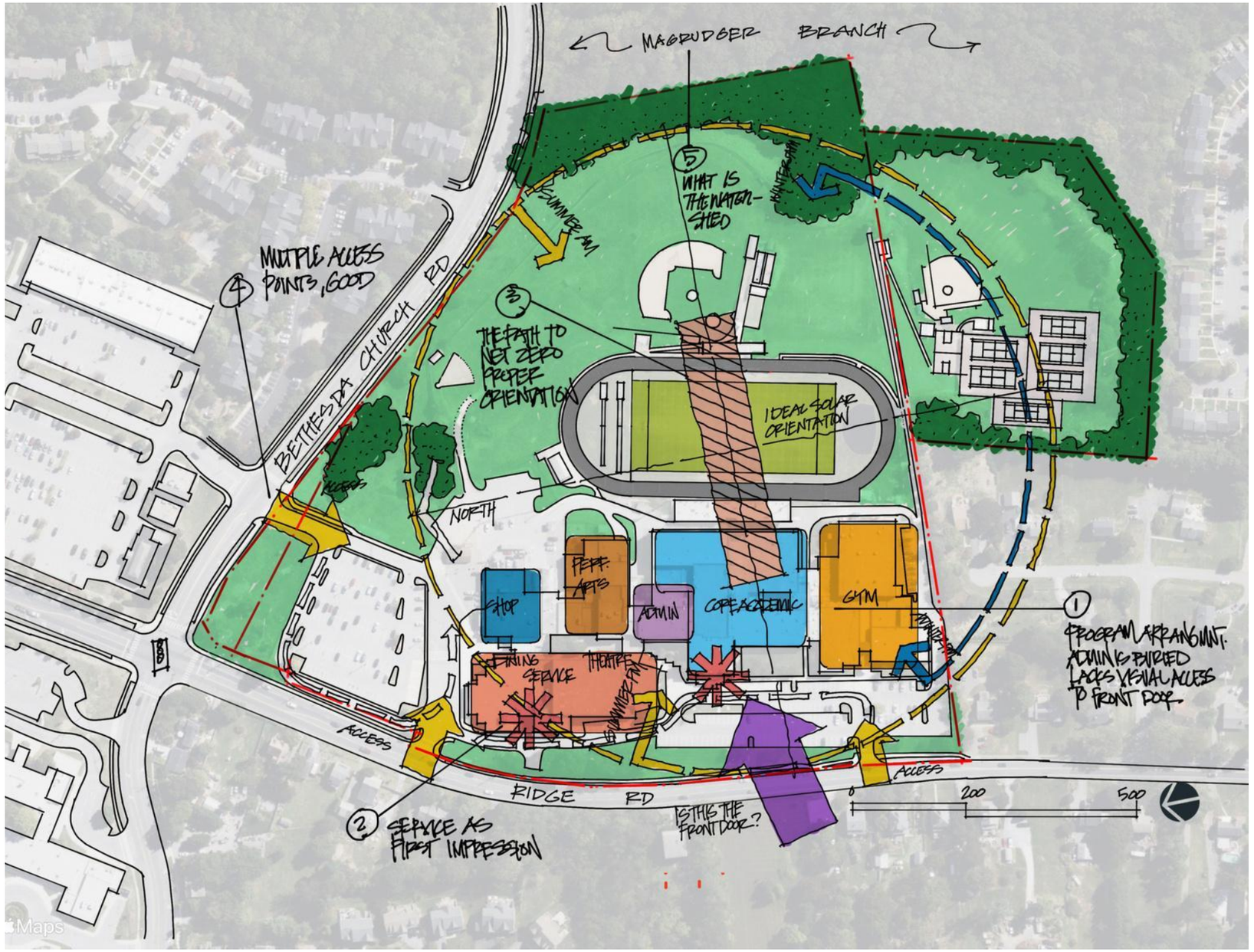
PARTNERSHIP

Source: Damascus High School community input, “Complete this: When this building is complete, I hope or dream…”

Site Analysis

Análisis del sitio





Understanding the Site
Comprender el sitio

CREATIVE ANALYSIS

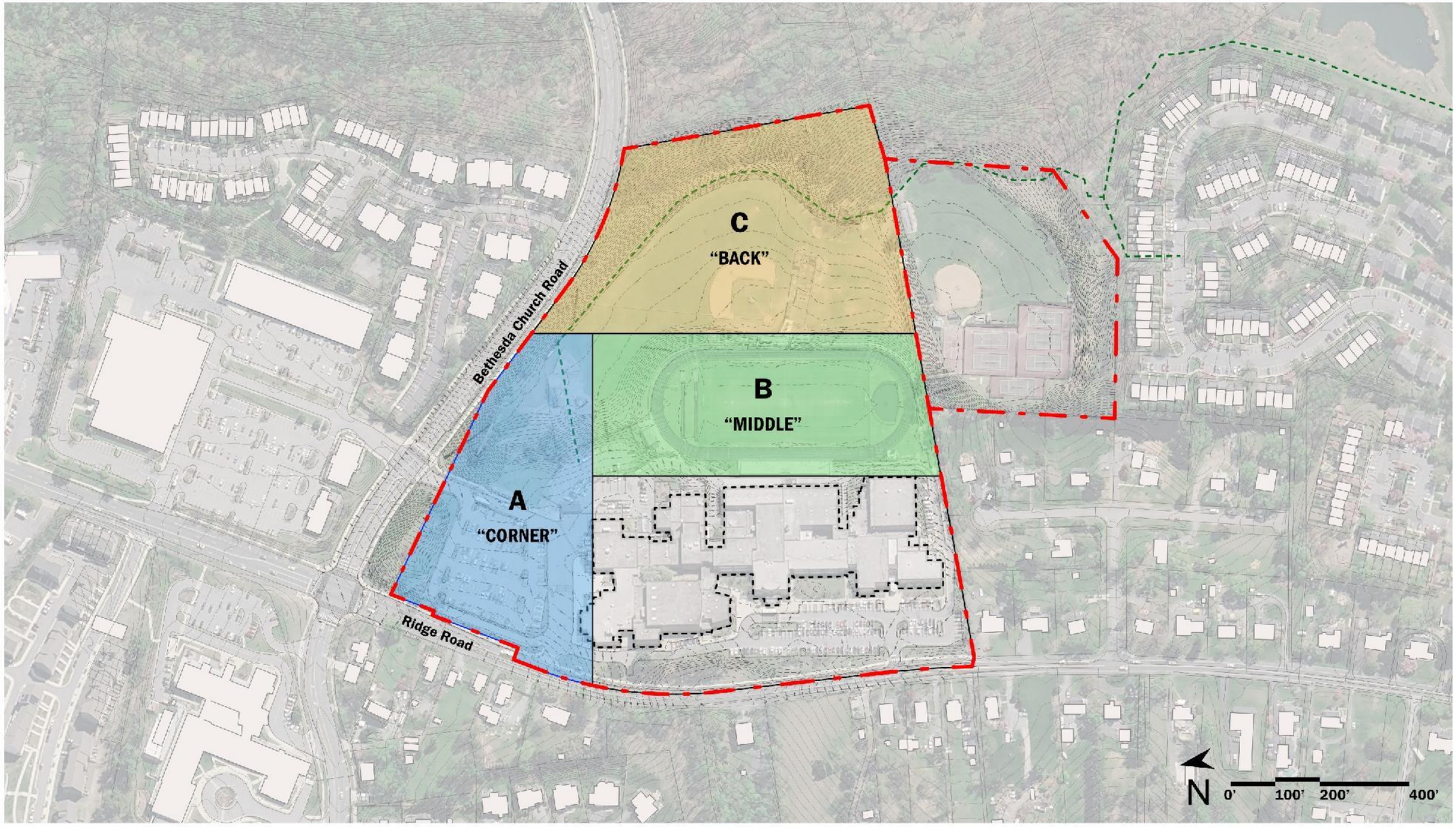
Administrative offices are far removed from school entrance

Service is facing the civic side – the dilemma of first impression

Solar orientation is ignored

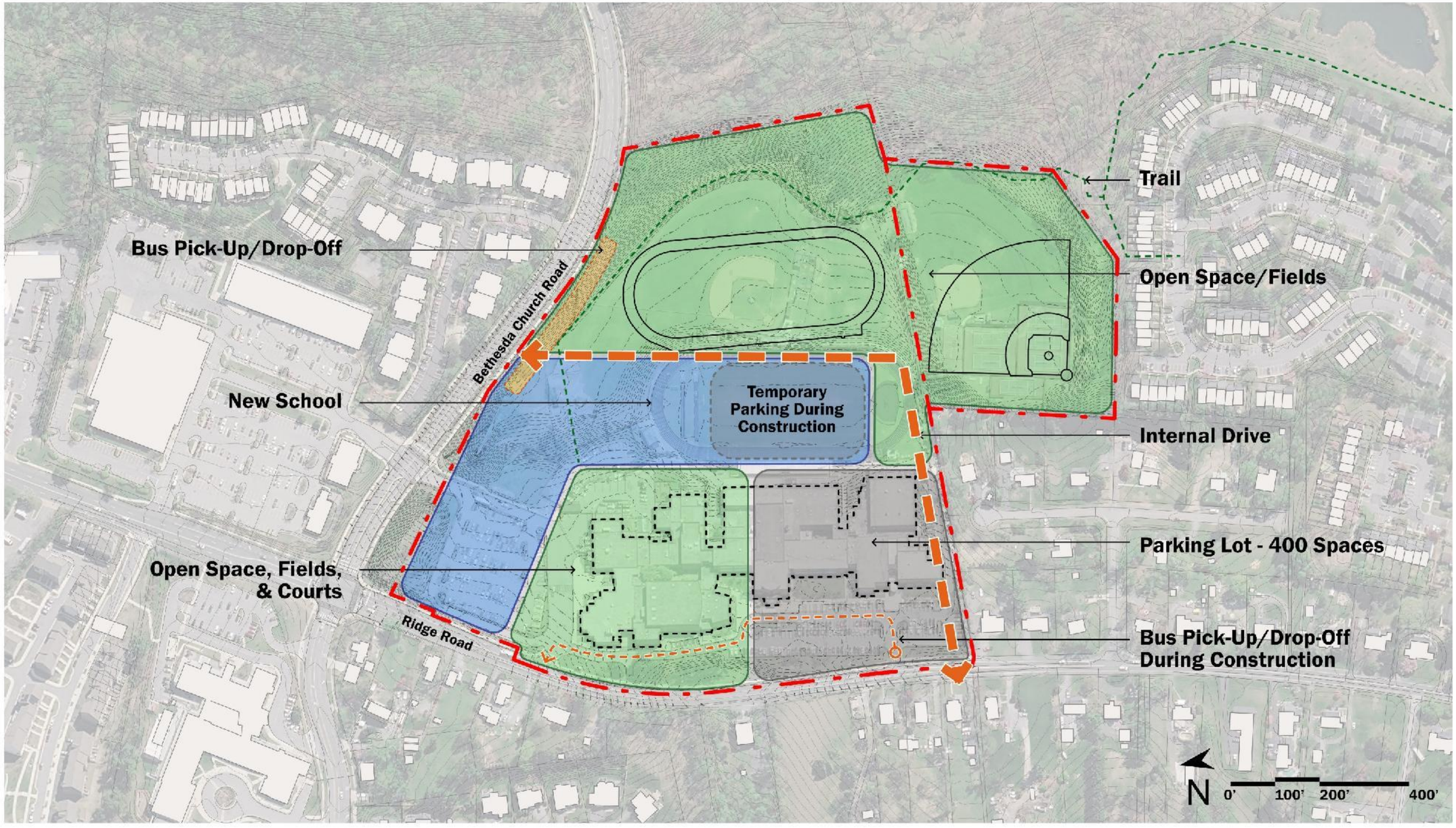
Multiple vehicular access points is a positive – flexibility

We note local hydrology and potential watershed impacts



ZONES
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.12.2026



SCHEME 1
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.06.2026



SCHEME 2
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.06.2026



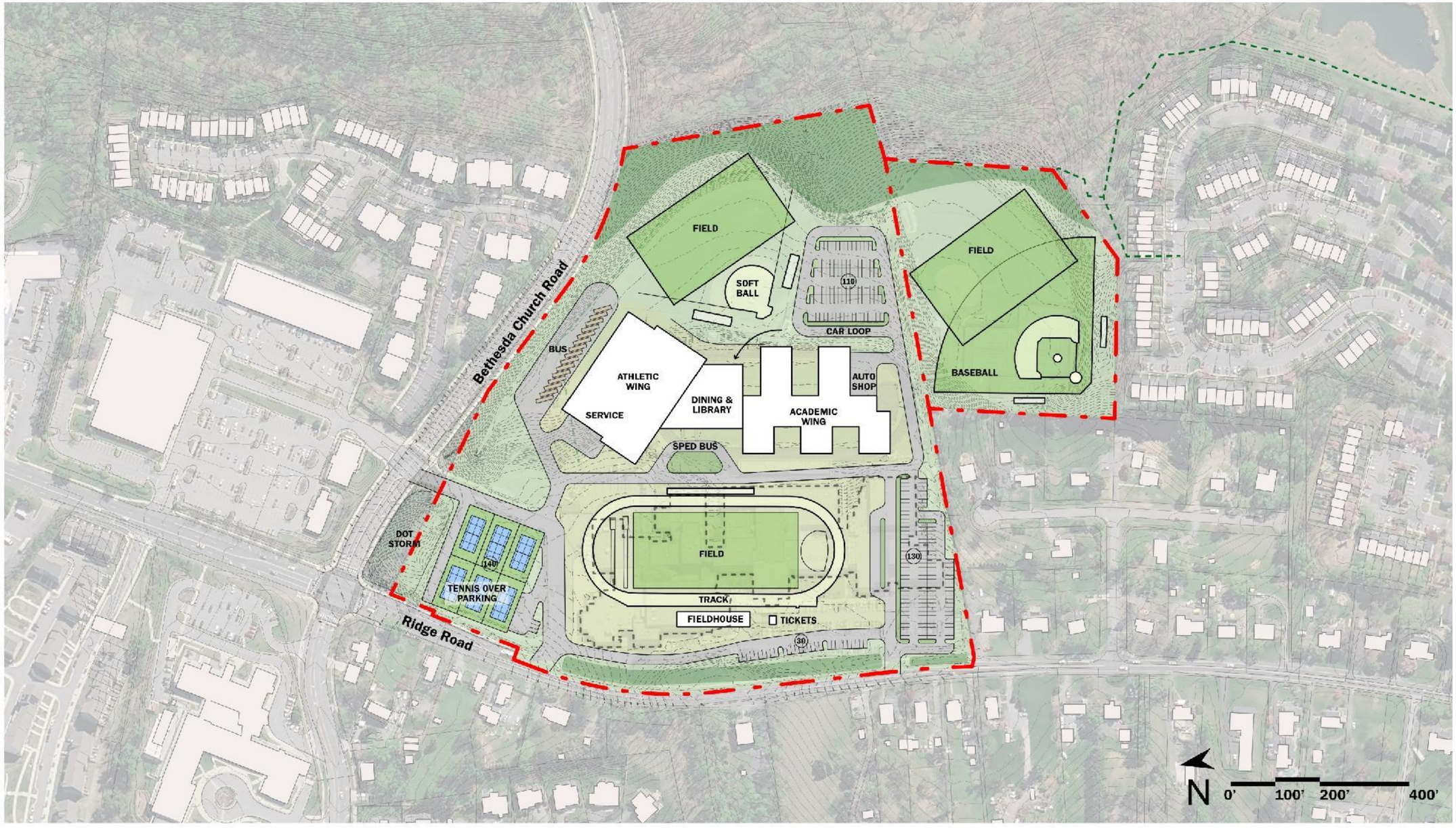
OPTION 1 - FULL BUILD
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.12.2026



OPTION 1 - INTERIM CONDITION
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.12.2026



OPTION 2 - FULL BUILD
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.12.2026



OPTION 2 - INTERIM CONDITION
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.12.2026



OPTION 3 - FULL BUILD
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.12.2026



OPTION 3 - INTERIM CONDITION
Damascus High School

PERKINS EASTMAN
OCTOBER.12.2026

On-line Respondents: Why Option 2 Resonates

COMMUNITY VOICES IN FAVOR OF OPTION 2

"Option 2 bus loop where the special education buses have their own separate loop is ideal! They currently have a separate bus loop and it is what works best.

DEDICATED SPECIAL ED LOOP

"Option 2 with the tennis courts over parking, that makes great use of the space by elevating the tennis courts on top of a parking garage.

EFFICIENT LAND USE

"I like that option one and two have the school further from the road. For safety and pedestrians when school immediately lets out…

SAFETY SETBACK

"2 seems to offer the most natural light in classrooms.

DAYLIGHT

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Share your thoughts about each option" (60 responses from 40 participants)

On-line Respondents: Option 2: Challenges to Resolve

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT THE SECOND-RANKED OPTION

> Option 2 is too separated.

FRAGMENTED CAMPUS

> …the school creates too much of a barrier between the outdoor athletic spaces.

DIVIDED FIELDS

> Option 1 and Option 2 have roads and parking lots all over the place.

DISPERSED PAVING

> …the 2 entrances are both on Ridge Road, likely leading to additional traffic congestion.

RIDGE ROAD ENTRANCES

> …the bus area looks too cramped and has no second exit.

BUS LOOP CAPACITY

> …how will that bus loop work on the hill at Bethesda Church especially in winter.

SLOPE & WINTER ACCESS

Source: Damascus High School community input, “Share your thoughts about each option” (60 responses from 40 participants)

On-line Respondents: Why Option 3 Resonates

COMMUNITY VOICES IN FAVOR OF OPTION 3

"I like the idea of option 3 because the high school is in plain view of 27 and Bethesda Church. The other options you see the field first.

VISIBILITY

"Clear academic area and clear fields area, not split by the building or a big parking lot.

CLEAR ZONING

"I think the school should be first when next to a road. Putting a field/stadium in front of the school next to the road is not ideal.

SCHOOL FIRST

"School building has its own space on one edge and athletic fields are all near each other…

COHESIVE CAMPUS

"…especially when considering the existing grade. I like that it most prominently shows the school and allows for the best traffic flow…

SITE & FLOW

"…the central main entrance that can accommodate the school/offices, gym, auditorium, etc.

CENTRAL ENTRY

"…all parking in one area away from the local street and close to Ridge Road. Access to the school building and the fields in one place.

UNIFIED PARKING

"It looks like the least disruptive of what is already there.

LEAST DISRUPTIVE

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Share your thoughts about each option" (60 responses from 40 participants)

On-line Respondents: Option 3: Challenges to Resolve

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT THE PREFERRED OPTION

"

Option #3 doesn't appear to move the drop off and pick up loop far enough into the property to get the traffic that backs up daily today off of Route 27/Ridge Road…

QUEUING ON RIDGE ROAD

"

Option 3: Same issue with the bus parking/pick up…

BUS AREA

"

I am concerned about the emphasis on space for athletic fields and less for academics.

ACADEMIC BALANCE

"

I like that option one and two have the school further from the road. For safety and pedestrians… having fewer large groups of students away from the road is better.

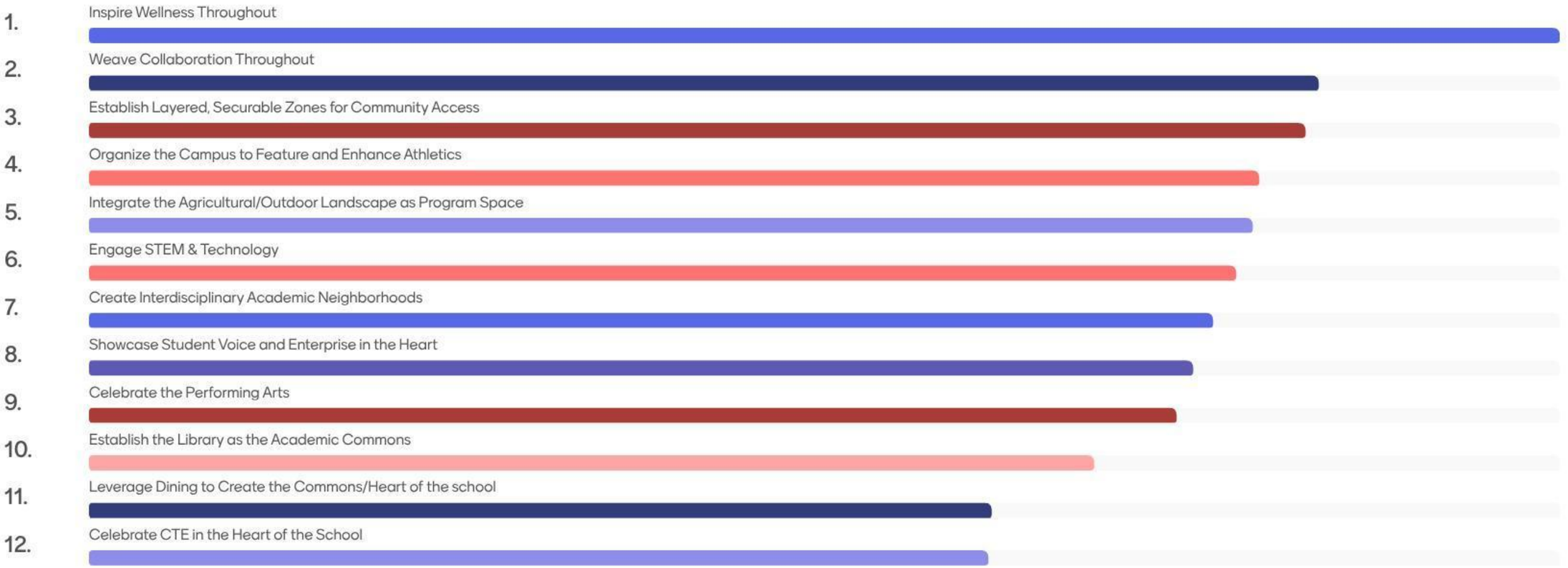
PROXIMITY TO ROAD

Source: Damascus High School community input, "Share your thoughts about each option" (60 responses from 40 participants)

Staff: In one word, describe the CULTURE of Damascus High School



Staff: Rank the Draft Organizational Principles



Staff: When This Building Is Complete, I Hope or Dream that…

STAFF HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE NEW DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

I hope that our student learning is not only not impacted by building issues anymore, but rather enhanced by new features.

ENHANCED LEARNING

Our classrooms are large and bright with lots of windows, provides flexible seating, has plenty of storage, and has working HVAC.

BRIGHT & FLEXIBLE

There are spaces where teachers can gather. Old building feel with large new gathering places.

GATHERING PLACES

…it still maintains the feeling of a school but is not so "institutional."

NOT INSTITUTIONAL

The areas for sp ed students with disabilities will have bathrooms, a vocational lab with laundry and a kitchen, a sensory calming room…

INCLUSIVE SUPPORTS

It's a space in which people want to spend time.

A PLACE TO BE

The school enables Damascus High School to be a safe environment for kids to learn for the next 50 years!

LONGEVITY

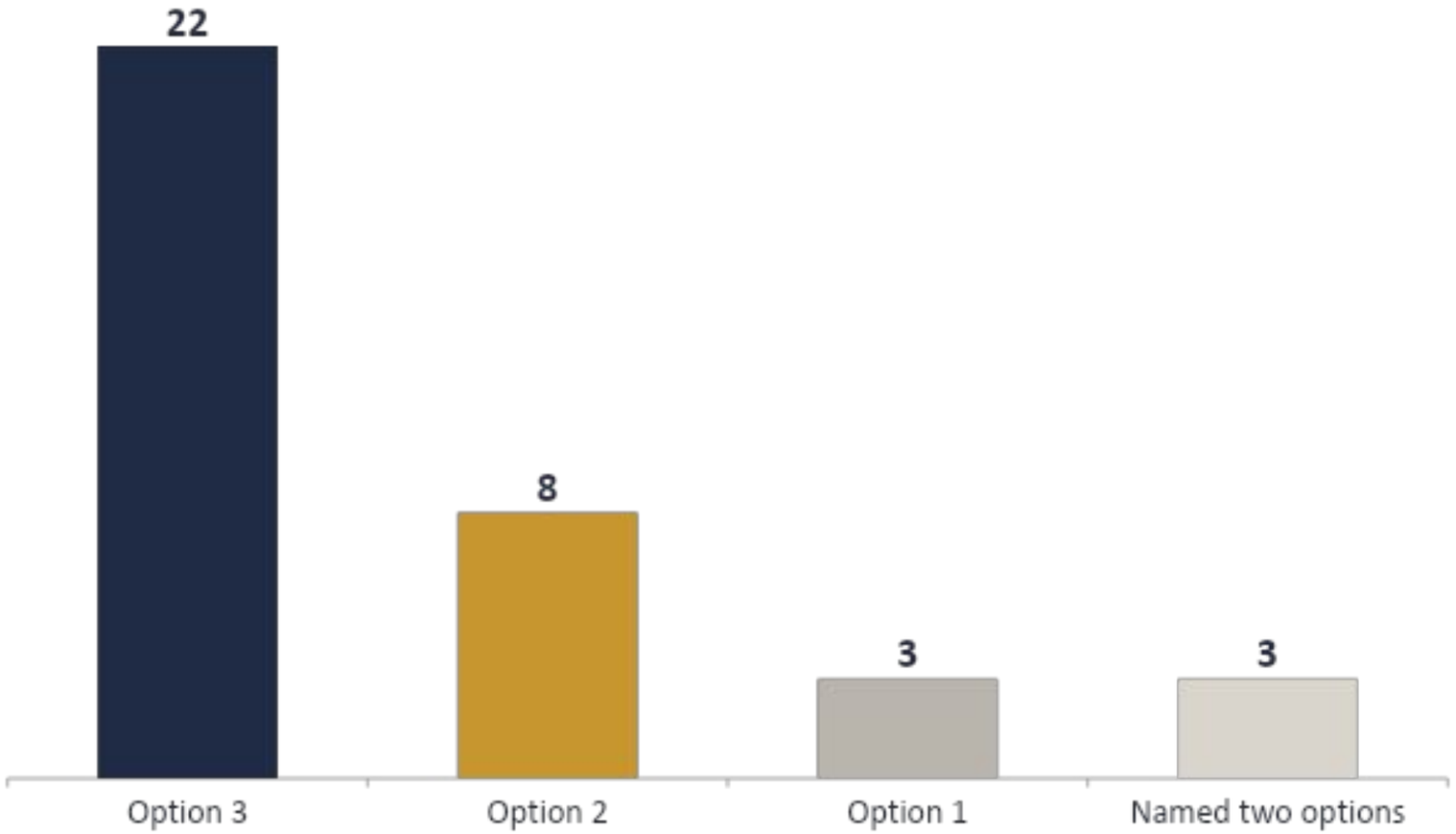
They took our opinions into consideration and this isn't just lip service.

TRULY HEARD

Source: DHS staff input, "Complete this sentence: When this building is complete, I hope or dream that…" (97 responses from 70 participants)

On-line Respondents: Option 3 Leads Community Preference

RESPONSES NAMING A PREFERRED SITE OPTION



22 of 36

responses that named a preference favored Option 3, nearly three times the support for Option 2.

Named two options: one “1 & 3,” two “1 or 2.”

Not charted: 17 comments with no stated preference and 7 unclear entries (“N/a,” “Next,” single letters).

Counts reflect responses, not unique voters; some participants commented more than once.

Source: Damascus High School community input, “Share your thoughts about each option” (60 responses from 40 participants)