

MEMORANDUM

To: Burlington Board of School Commissioners
From: Tom Flanagan, Superintendent
CC: Nate Lavery, Marty Spaulding
Date: September 8, 2021
Subject: Recommendation of Sites for Burlington High School and Burlington Technical Center

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to recommend BHS/BTC construction sites for further investigation to the Board.

Statement:

The *BHS Site Search and Evaluation - Final Report* by White + Burke indicates clearly that 52 Institute Road is the highest ranking site to meet our ambitious timeline. In addition to the rankings in the Final Report, we also asked for community feedback and have heard from many members of our community. In this feedback, 52 Institute Road is the most commonly preferred site but there is also a clear, though smaller, expression of support for a downtown location. I agree that Institute Road is the most promising option but that a downtown site has the potential to bring interesting and exciting opportunities for deeper learning. That being the case, I believe we should do our due diligence to fully explore both the possibilities of Institute Road as well as the concept of a downtown high school and technical center.

I agree with our partners, White + Burke, that the Gateway Block location is the most viable downtown site. While the Gateway Block garnered a lower score during the initial search process, it is unique among downtown sites as it is largely city-owned and offers intriguing opportunities for collaboration with the City of Burlington, such as sharing existing space or sharing in the costs of constructing shared space.

Therefore, I recommend that the board review the Gateway Block and the two sites on Institute Road in more depth and be prepared to make a final decision on a preferred site by the first school board meeting in November. This will allow us to focus subsequent work on one preferred site, rather than dividing our attention across numerous sites, beginning in November. Once the decision is made in November, we will transition into targeted site analysis and conceptual design.

Recommended Motion: *I move to advance the following sites for additional analysis: 52 Institute Road (both north and south locations) and the Gateway block. The new phase of analysis to be completed before the November 2, 2021 school board meeting in order to allow the board to determine which location should be selected for in-depth site analysis and conceptual design.*