



**Burlington High School/Burlington Technical Center PCB Updates
School Year 2021-22**

**(The majority of these updates come from
Superintendent Flanagan's Community Updates)**

Nov. 12 - This week [we developed an FAQ](#) to detail high-level information about next steps and bonding for the high school. We will treat this as a living document and update as questions come in. If there's something you'd like to see on this document, [please let us know](#).

November 5

BSD Releases RFP for Architectural and Engineering Services for BHS/BTC

Burlington School District (BSD) is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an architect-led design team to provide architectural and engineering services for development of a new Burlington High School and Technical Center. The full Request for Proposals document is available upon request via the means provided below.

Project Description:

Based on previous programming and design work, the size of the new high school and technical center is expected to be in the range of 250,000 – 300,000 square feet. The new building will include all program space required by Burlington High School, Burlington Technical Center, ONTOP and Horizons.

Scope of Work:

The Scope of Services shall include all design and analysis services to permit and construct the project including but not limited to architectural design, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) design, structural engineering, civil engineering (including geotechnical and stormwater design), traffic/transportation engineering, and landscape and lighting design.

Project Location: 52 Institute Road, Burlington VT

Target Schedule:

Pre-Bond Drawings and Cost Estimate – August 2022

Bond Vote Date –November 2022.

Occupancy Date - August 2025

Submission information: Requests to obtain the full RFP must be made no later than November 10, 2021 (10:00 AM) to Burlington School District Director of Property Services, Marty Spaulding at mbspauldi@bsdvt.org or 802-864-8453. A mandatory site visit will be held November 10, 2021 (1:00 PM). Proposals will be due by November 26, 2021 (3:00 PM).

November 3

Future BHS/BTC Campus to be Located on Institute Road



Burlington High School (BHS) and Burlington Technical Center (BTC) are one step closer to having a permanent home! On Tuesday, November 2nd, the Burlington Board of School Commissioners voted unanimously to approve [Superintendent Tom Flanagan's recommendation](#) "to select 52 Institute Road - North as the location of a newly designed Burlington High School and Burlington Technical Center and to direct the Superintendent to focus all design efforts on this location."

"This is great news for our students, staff, and Burlington community," said Superintendent Tom Flanagan. "While we are grateful for the spaces we currently have, we know they are not long-term solutions. Burlington deserves a building designed to support 21st-century learning from the ground up, and I am excited to have a clear path forward so that we can work together with the community to create a building that fosters equity, engagement, and deep learning."

52 Institute Road is the current location of the old BHS and BTC campus. The new structure would likely be built east of the current buildings, closer to North Avenue, which could mean the District may not need to demolish the existing buildings before beginning construction on the new site.

On behalf of the Board of School Commissioners, Chair Clare Wool noted, "It is our obligation as a school board to advocate for our schools and to adhere to sound fiscal stewardship and responsibility. Not having a permanent high school and technical center puts our city in a state of emergency and needs to be our top priority when making financial decisions. Following last night's decision to move forward with the site on the north side of Institute Road, our goal is to put a bond for the new high school on the ballot in November 2022. At this point in the process, we do not yet know the amount of that bond but we hope that knowledge of this plan is helpful to voters as they prioritize their options."

BSD plans to issue an RFP for architectural and engineering services this week, with the goal of presenting conceptual design and cost estimating to the school board in the Spring of 2022. The final schematic design and cost estimate is likely to be approved by August of 2022 to allow a bond to be placed on the November 2022 ballot. Superintendent Flanagan has committed to working to keep as much burden off taxpayers as possible. "We've committed \$10 million of our ESSER funds to this project, we are looking into philanthropic opportunities, and we are meeting with State and Federal representatives and pushing for school construction aid. I want to make sure we can support Burlington taxpayers as much as possible throughout this process."

October 20

On Tuesday, October 12, BSD consultants from White + Burke joined BSD's Finance and Facilities Meeting to provide a status update on their work analyzing spaces that can serve the future home of Burlington High School and Technical Center.

In September 2021, consultants were tasked with researching the Gateway Block in downtown Burlington and two plots at 52 Institute Road, which is where the high school is currently located. During the meeting, consultants explain that they believe the Gateway Block could cost significantly more and take more time to build on than either space at 52 Institute Road and that they have questions regarding soil stability at 52 Institute Road.



On November 2, the Board will reconvene and decide how to move forward on a new site for Burlington High School.

Please check out the recording of the video below, as well as these resources presented during the meeting:

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

[BHS Timeline through December 2021](#)

[BHS Preliminary Site Feasibility Assessment](#)

[BHS Gateway Block Massing Diagrams](#)

[BHS 52 Institute Road Massing Diagrams](#)

[Historic Photos of Ravine](#)

[Recording of the Meeting](#)

September 27

PCB Update - Consultants have now been able to completely identify and define the extent of development soils contamination at 52 Institute Road, but still have not completely defined the extent of PCB soil contamination. Soil sampling for PCBs will continue on November 30, as that is the next time the special drilling service needed is available. This sampling is a continuation of our effort to define the extent of PCB soil contamination around the old BHS/BTC buildings. We are hopeful this last round of testing will complete our efforts to determine the extent of PCB contamination in the soil.

September 13

BHS/BTC Site Search Update - At tomorrow night's regular board meeting (Tuesday, September 14) the Burlington Board of School Commissioners will take the next step to determine the future of our BHS/BTC campus. The meeting will be hosted at Sustainability Academy beginning at 6 PM, with both in-person and virtual options ([Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)) available; you can view the [complete agenda on BoardDocs](#).

Based on the work done by our partners at White + Burke, at this time, [Institute Road is the front runner](#) as the location for our new campus because we own the land and this will likely allow us to complete the project within our projected timeline. Also, with our athletic fields on the campus, easy access to the site, and proximity to the city, the woods, and the lake, it offers great opportunities for deep learning that is embedded in the special environment that surrounds us.

However, throughout this process, we have also heard interest from both the community [and the City](#) in the possibility of a downtown location. I agree with the community that is asking us to look more closely at a downtown site, as the opportunity for partnerships and for learning that is connected to the city could be very exciting. My primary concern is the feasibility of a downtown project from a time and cost perspective and the separation of our school and fields, but I do think it is worth further investigation to learn more about the possibilities.

With all of this in mind, on Friday I [recommended to the board](#) that we move forward investigating both the locations at 52 Institute Road as well as the Gateway Block. It is my goal that we advance these sites



for further review and that the board will be prepared to make a final decision by the first board meeting in November.

I want to thank all of you who have engaged with us in Phase I of this project and reached out to offer feedback. Your support and involvement is greatly appreciated and will continue to be important we work to get into a new building by August of 2025. I hope to see many of you Tuesday night, as a reminder if you want to participate in public comment virtually, please log into Zoom and you can always feel free to email feedback to me and/or your commissioners directly.

August 19

BHS/BTC Site Search Update - The search for a new Burlington High School (BHS) and Burlington Technical Center (BTC) campus is moving smoothly. On August 17, Burlington School District (BSD) real estate consultants White + Burke joined the BSD school board meeting to give an update on Phase I of our search for a new location. Their presentation was [recorded by Media Factory](#), and you can [view their slideshow online](#).

During the meeting, White + Burke explained that Phase I of the project focused on gathering a broad list of sites that might be considered as locations that could hold the new BHS/BTC campus. The goal was to cast a wide net, and they gathered ideas through their own knowledge as well as talking with school district employees and through a District google form sent out to the community. They noted that the process identified 16 possible sites, which they presented in alphabetical order:

- 345 Pine St (former VT Transit)
- 453 / 501 Pine Street
- Centennial Field
- Champlain Elem / BSD Facilities
- City Place Pit
- CP Smith / Shifilliti Park
- Elks Property
- Gateway Block
- Institute Rd. – North Side
- Institute Rd. – South Side
- Lakeside Ave. / Sears Ln.
- Leddy Park
- Macy's / City Place Pit
- Rock Point
- Sisters of Mercy
- Urban Reserve

It is important to note that White + Burke's task for Phase I was only to identify possible sites, and not to engage in conversations with private or public landowners at this time. The Burlington Board of School Commissioners will now review all the sites provided by White + Burke, along with rankings of the sites provided to the board separately. The goal of this process will be for the board to select fewer than five sites to advance to Phase II of the project. In Phase II, White + Burke will perform more detailed site



evaluations to help us determine which site or sites might be best, at which point we may begin reaching out to landowners for preliminary discussions.

The board will meet again on August 24th in executive session to have some of these conversations. As we work to narrow the list of possible sites, there is still time to have your voice heard. If you have comments or suggestions about any of the sites listed above, you are welcome to come speak at public comment on the 24th, or send an email to the superintendent's office (superintendent@bsdvt.org) and/or your commissioner.

With your support of this process, we can stay on track to meet the goal of getting a Bond Vote on the March or November 2022 ballot so that we can welcome all of our BHS/BTC students into a new building by August 2025. This is an aggressive timeline and we will do our best to move quickly while making student-centered decisions. We hope you will stay engaged and involved in this process so that we can move together as a community in support of this goal.

August 6

BHS/BTC Site Search - The results of Phase I of the BHS/BTC site search will be presented at the August 17 school board meeting; please save the date and plan to join us in person at Sustainability Academy or via Zoom. Following this meeting, the project will shift to Phase II, which will entail a thorough analysis of the most promising sites, with the goal of arriving at a preferred site to locate the new BTH/BTC campus. Our goal remains to place a bond question on the Town Meeting Day ballot.

July 17

BTC/BHS Timeline - Work continues on finding a new location to house our high school and technical center and we are on track to present a list of potential sites at our August board meeting. In June we presented a timeline for this work, which you can find below. Please keep in mind that although we are moving aggressively to build this new school, these dates are approximate. In addition to the building timeline below, we are now planning to place a bond question on the March 2022 ballot, rather than this coming November.

Phase 1 (May-July 2021): Site search and evaluation, identify priority sites

Phase 2 (July-Nov 2021): Preliminary due diligence/conceptual site design/high-level cost estimating, identify priority site

Phase 3 (Dec 2021-June 2023): Secure site through option agreement if needed, perform detailed due diligence, design, and permitting

Phase 4 (June 2023-Sept 2024): Construction docs, bidding, construction, occupancy