

Statement of Interest

The Cape Elizabeth School Department is excited to collaborate with an architectural firm to create innovative school building solutions to meet the learning and teaching needs of our students, staff, and community for decades to come. We encourage your analysis of input from a variety of stakeholders (students, staff, administration, School Board, parents, & community members) as you design viable options for our consideration. The following *Vision*, *Mission*, and *Values* serve as the foundation of our school system and should guide this project:

VISION: *Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors*

MISSION: *We will empower students with the academic, personal, and social knowledge and skills needed to build balanced and purposeful lives.*

VALUES:

- ***COMMUNITY:*** *We value the connections among our school, local, and global communities that foster meaningful participation in a dynamic and diverse world.*
- ***ACADEMICS:*** *We value rich and varied learning experiences that support critical thinking, perseverance, effective communication, and independent and collaborative work inside and outside of the classroom. We honor multiple pathways and alternative definitions of success.*
- ***PASSION:*** *We value personal investment in learning in an environment that nourishes joy and creativity, protects risk-taking, and cultivates individual expression.*
- ***ETHICS:*** *We value decision-making and actions guided by the principles of personal integrity, empathy, responsibility, and respect for self, others, and the environment.*

We believe, by creating state of the art future focused school facilities, our schools will be well equipped to meet the needs of current and future learners, allowing them to attain a high quality education and achieve their greatest potential. Through the design of safe, welcoming, and physically comfortable spaces that promote personalized learning, our students will be exceptionally prepared for their world upon graduation, a world that is constantly changing and evolving. In order to best support a future-forward design, the schools will demonstrate the greatest flexibility in use of space, materials, equipment and furnishings. Systems used throughout and shared between both buildings will ensure environmental aesthetics and low impact, while demonstrating high degrees of efficiency and long term sustainability. The building and campus design will instill pride in the Cape Elizabeth community for all users and serve as a beacon and hub for years to come.

Furthermore, this construction project should aspire to meet the following *District Strategic Plan Goals (2020-2025)* adopted by the School Board in 2019:

1) Health and Well-Being

Our schools will provide a supportive learning environment in which physical, social, and emotional well-being are valued and promoted.

The learning environment plays a key role in maintaining and promoting the health and wellbeing of students and the staff. Students spend 175 days a year in our schools with approximately 70% of that time either in the classroom or indoor spaces. We believe that better educational outcomes can be achieved if students are able to learn in welcoming spaces that have been flexibly designed to provide opportunities for both collaboration and quiet reflection, with access to a nature filled environment.

Welcoming Spaces

- A site plan and building main entrance that is inviting and provides a sense of place
- A building that is aesthetically pleasing, but has the latest in security technology embedded in the design
- A wellness suite that accommodates for full spectrum of student needs (physical, social, and emotional)
- Spaces that are accessible to all students, staff, and community members
- Safe and easy to access bathrooms for all students, staff, & visitors
- Access to natural light throughout the building
- Thoughtful acoustical design to promote meaningful interaction, especially in larger spaces
- Spaces designed to reflect sensory needs

Flexible Spaces Designed for Various Sized Groups

- Additional collaborative spaces beyond classrooms
- Cafeteria space that allows for small groups and circular tables
- Alcoves and window seating for breakout spaces
- Cozy spaces for quiet individual work
- Spaces that allow for movement/activity (outside of the gym)
- Developmentally appropriate spaces for varying age groups

Nature Filled Environment

- Sunlight and views of the outdoors throughout the building
- Multiple learning spaces will be created with the use of hardscape positioning and structures, allowing learning to extend beyond the walls of the classroom and schools
- The school campus will provide ample outdoor areas that can be safely used in all (or most) seasons, including seating and sun/rain/wind protection.
- Outdoor learning areas will be easily accessible and separate from busy playground spaces to enable classes to quickly transition outdoors and have minimal distractions
- School garden and playground will continue to be accessible to all grade levels to regularly complement the curriculum

2) Global Competency

Our students will be personally responsible, aware, empathetic, and engaged local and global citizens.

The demands on our current and future students for global competency are fluid and unparalleled in history. The design and building process will encourage student stewardship of the building, the local community and wider world. Since authentic, productive, and diverse in-person relationships and access to the wider world via technology are cornerstones of developing global competency, the new design will reflect this priority in every detail, addressing myriad challenges that exist in the current buildings for collaboration, gathering, and connection.

Stewardship opportunities and connection to place

- Accessible opportunities for students to care for and understand their school building and greater environment (e.g., energy-use monitoring tools)
- Displays and design features help students to understand sustainable design decisions and impact on school functions
- Architecture inspired by the building's place in the community landscape and wider world (e.g., design details celebrate local materials, ocean, forest, salt marsh, farmland)

Encouragement of diverse relationships

- A variety of spaces and furniture allow different combinations of adults and peers to work together effectively
- Options for special services to be delivered in integrated or separate settings
- Viable options for gatherings and performances of various sizes both during and outside of school hours

Hassle-free, effective technology capacity for global connection

- Connectivity and appropriate technology and A/V capacity in gathering spaces for

- large group virtual presentations
- Access to tech tools in breakout spaces for small group and individual learning
- Connectivity outdoors for students to use technology in connection with nature-based curricula

3) Multiple Pathways and Definitions of Success

Our schools will value, promote, and celebrate multiple pathways and definitions of success.

As we plan for educating Cape Elizabeth students over the next half-century it is important to think beyond our current educational model. The physical building will need evolve to accommodate the needs of our future scholars and educators.

Student centered design

- Appealing flexible spaces that can meet the needs and interests of all learners
- Provide many ways for students to engage with the space
- Breakout spaces that allow teachers to monitor and engage with students
- Provide multiple outlets for students to demonstrate and develop their talents (large performance to small intimate group spaces/bulletin board to gallery range)
- Spaces for students to explore high level technical and scientific concepts before they arrive at the High School

Multiple outdoor spaces- so there is access for everyone who needs to use it

- Multiple easy access to outdoor spaces for recess and distraction-free learning
- Covered outdoor space for recess choices (cards, board games, etc.)
- Appropriate outdoor learning furniture, equipment and storage

4) Safe, Sustainable, and Effective Facilities

Our schools will be safe and effective facilities. They will be updated and maintained to meet the needs of students and staff in accordance with long-term financial planning.

Ensuring CESD schools are safe places for students to thrive and grow is of the highest priority in the design of our new and updated facilities. Because of this, the building design should incorporate state of the art school safety and security systems, ensuring the highest levels of safety and wellbeing, while maintaining a welcoming environment for those accessing our schools.

Safe and Secure Schools

- Site plan is designed with safety and security as the top priority
- State of the art security measures while maintaining a warm and welcoming environment
- Pond Cove and CEMS will have uniquely identifiable and distinct main entries that are

inviting while providing safe, efficient and easy access to the schools. The main office for each school will be the first point of contact for any visitor.

- Entry points around the schools will account for security, emergency access and ADA compliance
- Safe outdoor spaces (learning, eating, etc.) are easily accessed and allow for effective supervision

Sustainability and Efficiency

- Building systems and common use spaces will be shared to increase cost effectiveness and efficiency
- Classrooms are designed for content learning needs with ease of access to necessary utilities - electricity, water, wi-fi, lighting - customized to the needs of the content delivery within the space
- Faculty work stations clustered in a common space promotes collaboration and efficiency
- Layout allows for community usage and access of spaces after-school, evening, and weekends while maintaining security of the schools and “school-only” areas
- Building materials and design reflect the community and highlight use of local materials and reflect iconic town landmarks when possible

5) Environmental Responsibility

The school department will prioritize environmental responsibility, including stewardship and sustainability.

It is important that this project promotes, incorporates and prioritizes the importance of being environmentally responsible. This belief exists both in the removal of the existing buildings and the construction of new buildings.

Cape Elizabeth values the environment; any new construction must prioritize local and global awareness

- Limit environmental impacts during any demolish process, focus on recycling and reusing over landfills.
- Energy efficient mechanical systems that allow for regulated heating and cooling
- Functional, student-facing compost and recycling facilities
- Materials and finishes will allow for sustainable and environmentally responsible maintenance
- The design will predict and allow for future sustainability goals to be realized (e.g., conduits for future electric vehicle charging stations, roof support to allow for future

additions of photovoltaics or green roof areas)

Maximize the physical location of the school

- Any new construction will have a southern orientation to optimize light and energy efficiency
- The design will use renewable energy sources as is beneficial
- Energy efficient windows and blinds to maximize the solar benefits while limiting heat loss