



Board of Education Meeting

MARCH 18, 2025



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



ZB Pride Awards

**From Zion-Benton High School, ZAP, and
Transitions and Zion-Benton East**

Students: NJROTC Drill Team. NJROTC Rifle Team and
Brianna Benedetto

Staff: Chief Nelson and Master Chief Dan Hackstein



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Board President Statement

District 126 is committed to an equitable, respectful learning environment where bullying, harassment, racism, sexism, and hate speech have no place; please partner with us in fostering a positive community.



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Public Comment



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





Consent



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





Superintendent Report



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





EMPOWERMENT - EQUITY - EXCELLENCE

**COMMITTED TO
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

LEADERSHIP - LEARNING - RESEARCH - SERVICE

ZBTHS STUDENTS SHARING THEIR ORNAMENTS FOR KIWANIS'S ORNAMENT CHALLENGE.

MARCH 4, 2025



ATHLETICS GOOD LUCK AT STATE!

GIRLS WRESTLING - NSC ALL CONFERENCE



NAOMI FOOTE

**ALL CONFERENCE
LAKE COUNTY CHAMPION
IHSA REGIONAL & SECTIONAL CHAMP
STATE QUALIFIER**



EMILY ORTIZ

**ALL CONFERENCE
LAKE COUNTY CHAMPION
IHSA REGIONAL CHAMP
STATE QUALIFIER**



2024-25 ZION BENTON WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

MARCH 13, 2025

BOYS SWIMMING - COACH COURTNEY MCNEAL



ALL CONFERENCE
CORBIN CLAUSON



ALL CONFERENCE HM
COREY TAYLOR

BOYS BASKETBALL - COACH ROD HENRY



MVP/ALL CONFERENCE HM
RMONI BEALS



TOP DEFENDER
RASHAD LOVE



MOST IMPROVED
MAURICE THOMPSON

GIRLS WRESTLING - NSC ALL CONFERENCE



GRACE JOHNSON
ALL CONFERENCE
LAKE COUNTY CHAMPION



JAZMINE MEDINA
ALL CONFERENCE

WRESTLING - COACH HAL LUNSFORD



MVP/ALL CONFERENCE
TYSON POYER



ALL CONFERENCE
LUIS MEDINA



ALL CONFERENCE
DYLAN SOLESKY

WRESTLING - COACH HAL LUNSFORD



ALL CONFERENCE/HONORABLE MENTION
DEMAR DIXON



ALL CONFERENCE/HONORABLE MENTION
BRAYDEN SROKA

BOWLING - COACH MATT HUTCHISON



MVP & ALL CONFERENCE
RYAN HALLGREN



ALL CONFERENCE
FRANK ROJAS

MAJORETTES NBTA STATE CHAMPIONS



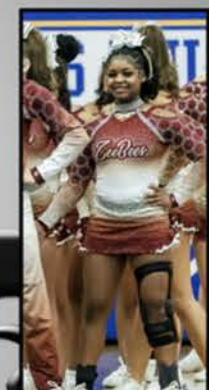
2024 NSC CHEERLEADING ALL CONFERENCE



JESSA CASSANOVA



DEREK ROMERO

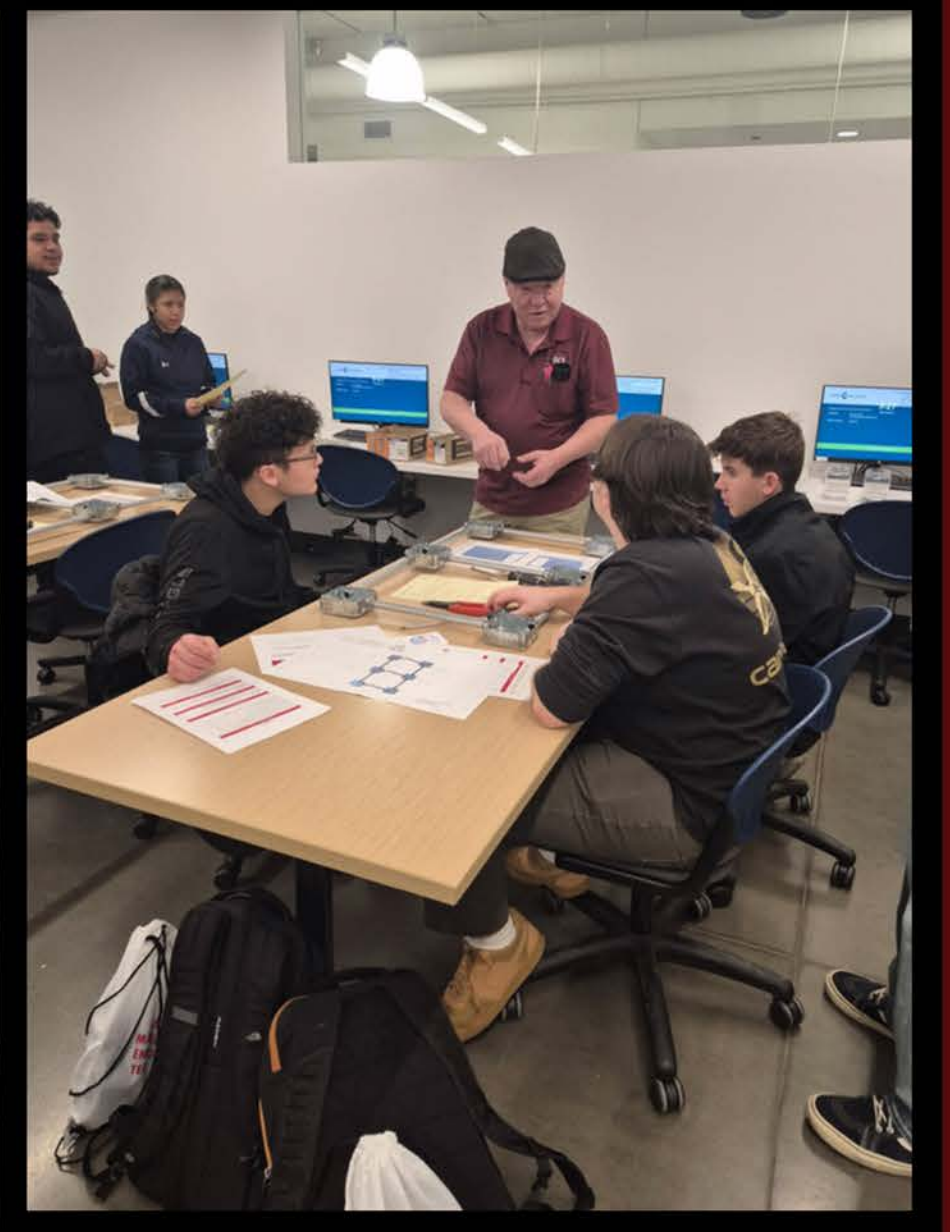


KA'LEAH PITTS



MARCH 14, 2025

ZBTHS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE LAKE COUNTY MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING, TRADES, AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM-BASED CHALLENGE EVENT.



STUDENT VISITORS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE



4TH ANNUAL LAKE COUNTY EDUCATOR JOB FAIR

MARCH 15, 2025



TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT STAFF GOING ABOVE & BEYOND TO LEARN NEW SKILLS

MARCH 7, 2025

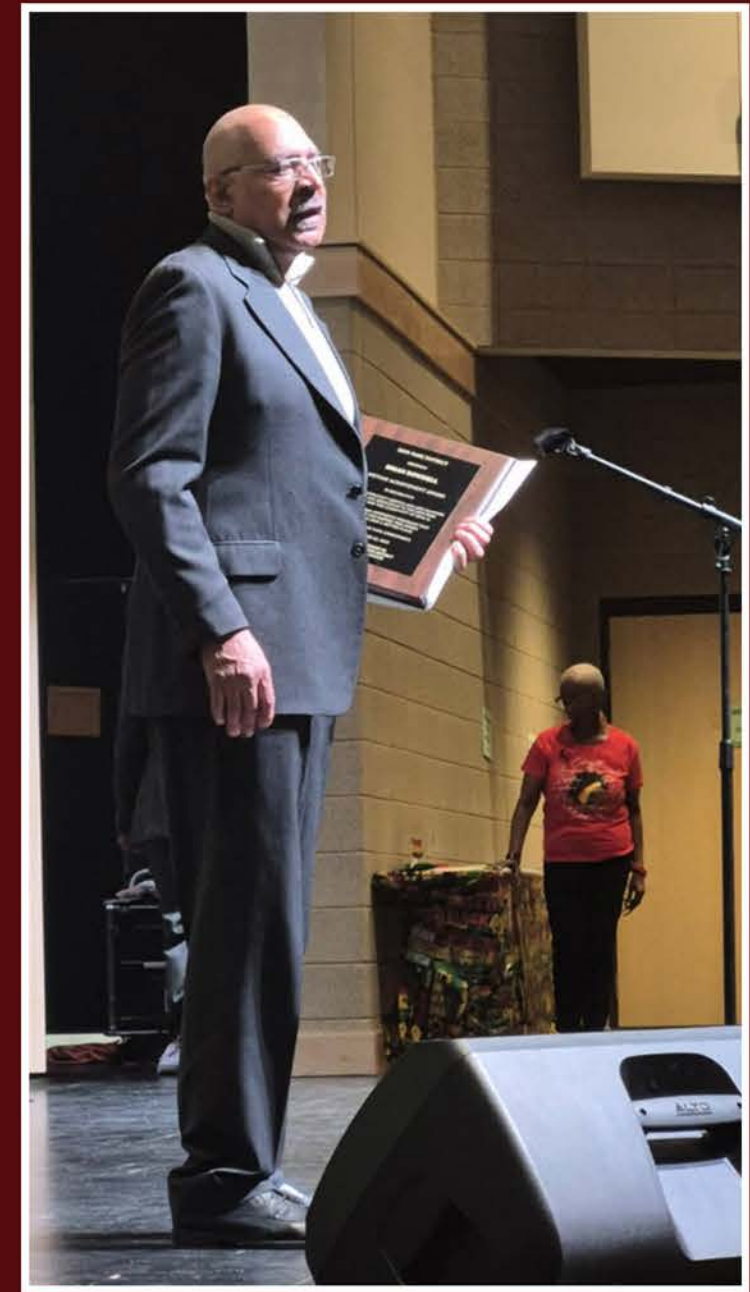
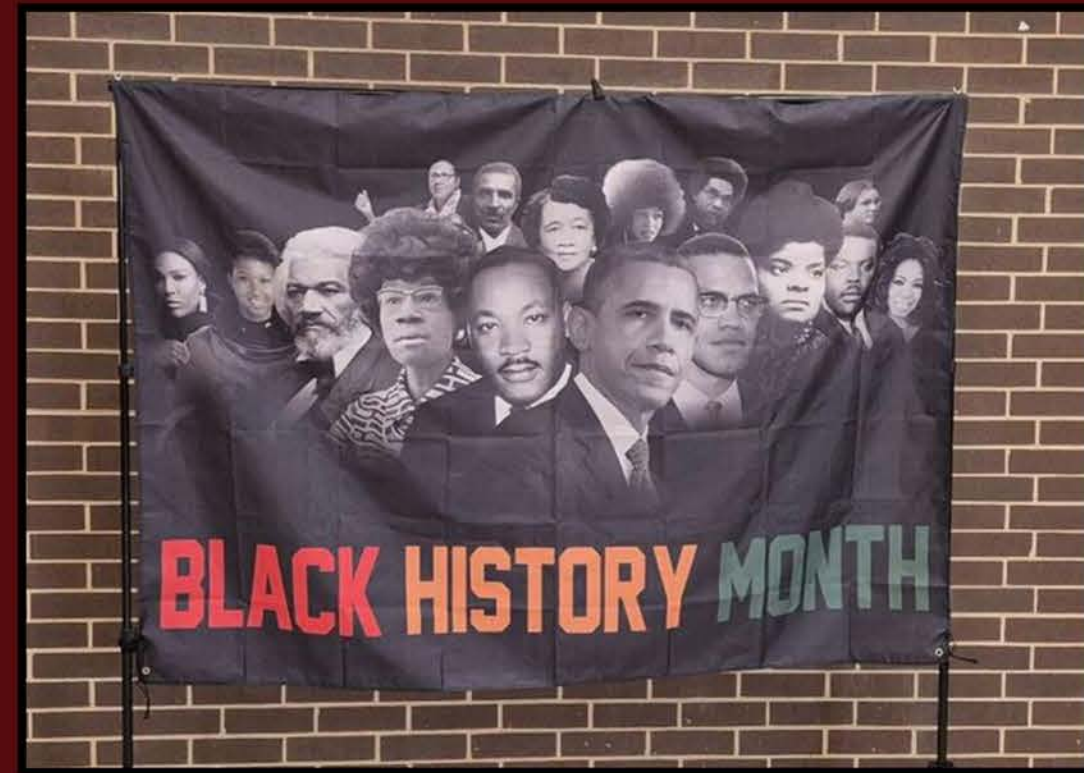


ENGLISH OFFICE



BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM


FEBRUARY 22 2025



ZION LEADERS FEBRUARY 2025



COMMUNITY BUSINESS PUBLIC RELATIONS



Boy Scout Troop 16
Cord wood program
(224) 303 - 4116

Get peace of mind with Renters & Homeowners Insurance.

TRAVELERS | PROGRESSIVE | Berkley One | acuity INSURANCE | STATE AU | WEST B | SOCIETY INSURANCE | Openly | FOREMOST | KEMPER | Auto-Owners INSURANCE

Government Departments Business Resident Resources History Useful Links

Next Regular City Council Meeting July 2, 2024 DETAILS

Citizens Online Police Reporting System Click Here For Info

VEHICLE STICKERS DETAILS

GARBAGE / RECYCLING SERVICE CHANGES - Effective Sept 6th DETAILS

LEAD INSPECTION DETAILS

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Find us on 

You're invited **TOWN HALL**

Scan to share your ideas. Join us to help shape the future of our school facilities at our Facilities Master Plan Community Town Hall!

Feb 3 @ Zion-Benton Twp High School
 Feb 4 @ Zion-Benton East High School
 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Visit us online at zb126.org or follow us on Facebook @zb126

We are ZB Proud! Tradition-Legacy-Culture CTE Program

CTE PROGRAMS	
Business Administration	Engineering/Architecture
Culinary Arts	Electricity
Carpentry	Printing
Digital Media	Small Engine Mechanics
Drone Technology	Welding

District 126's Career & Technical Education programs offer hands-on experience in Business Education, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Industry & Technology.

Skills students gain include carpentry, digital media, drone technology, culinary arts, engineering/architecture, welding, and more.

Equipping Students for Success!

We are ZB Proud! Tradition-Legacy-Culture CTE Program

INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS

Adobe Photoshop | Adobe Premiere Pro | Adobe After Effects
 Adobe Illustrator | Part 107 (Drone Pilot) | ASPA Screen Printer
 OSHA - Construction | OSHA - General Industry
 Engine Technician | IL Food Handler Safety | Food Allergen
 Entrepreneurship & Small Business (ESB) |

Over 13 certifications currently offered at ZBTHS and 10 more at ZDE!

565 industry certifications earned last year!

We are ZB Proud! Tradition-Legacy-Culture CTE Program

CTE PROGRAMS	
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Equipping Students for Success!

We are ZB Proud! Tradition-Legacy-Culture CTE Program

Zee-Bee CTE Experience

Together, we cultivate tomorrow's workforce with hands-on learning opportunities and community collaboration.

Partnerships include:

- City of Zion
- Kiwanis
- Great Lakes Credit Union
- Coalition of Healthy Communities
- The Community Works

Rooted in Partnerships, Growing Through Opportunity!

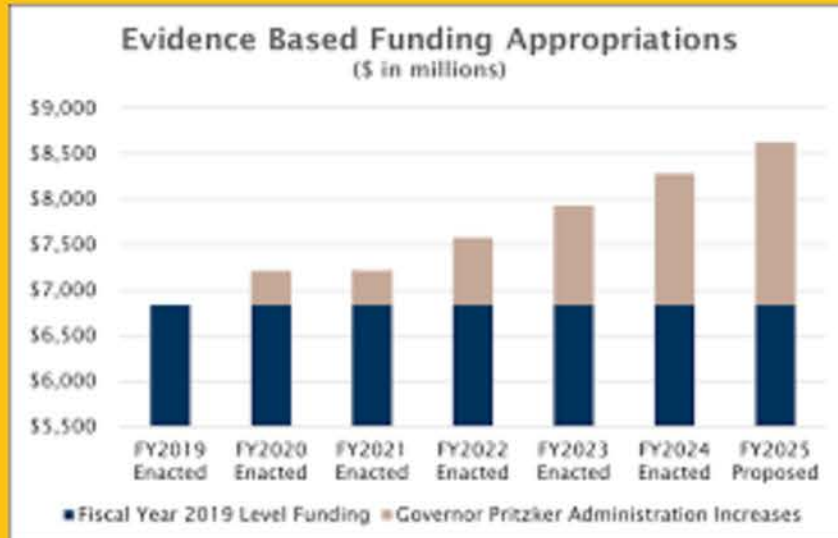
The Magic of Detailing
HAND CAR WASH & DETAIL
 2161 Sheridan Rd • Zion, IL • 224-730-2890

- Upholstery & Carpet Cleaning
- Hand Wash / Hand Wax
- Engine Cleaning
- Machine Polish
- Paint Sealant

LAKE COUNTY DIVISION MEETING

MARCH 12, 2025

FY26 BUDGET OUTLOOK



TIER 2

TIER 2
HB 5909 / SB 3988 --> SB2

- Lifts the wage cap to match the Social Security Wage Base.
- Returns the Final Average Salary calculation to match the Tier 1 calculations.
- Returns the retirement age calculations to match the Tier 1 calculations.
- Changes the Cost-of-Living Adjustment to a 3% simple increase.

Illinois Association of School Business Officials

509+ DISTRICTS



VISION 2030 KEY GOALS

Keeping students safe	Keeping high-quality educators in front of students
Enhancing post-secondary success	Improving measurement of what is working

MCATS

MCATS
HISTORICAL PRORATION LEVELS

- Regular Transportation allocation has increased \$60.6M since FY22
- Special Ed Transportation allocation has increased \$79.6M since FY22
- Private Facility allocation has increased \$50.4M since FY22

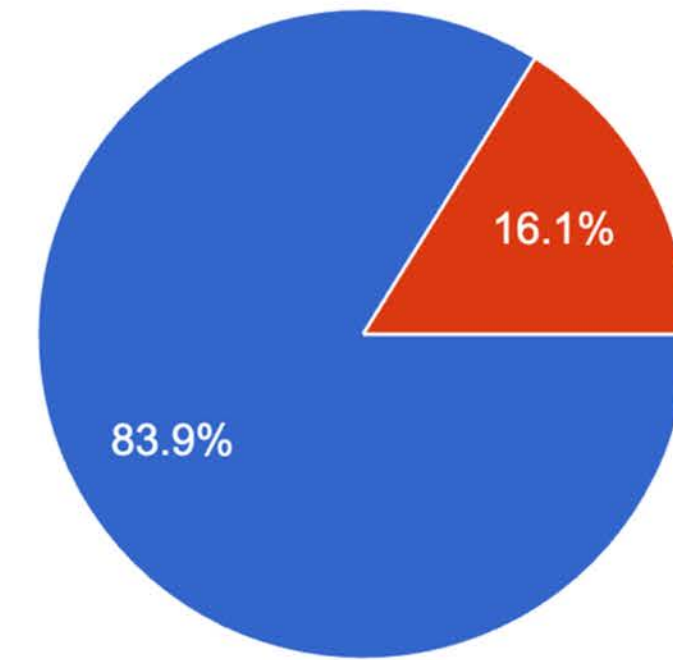
LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Live-Stream Survey



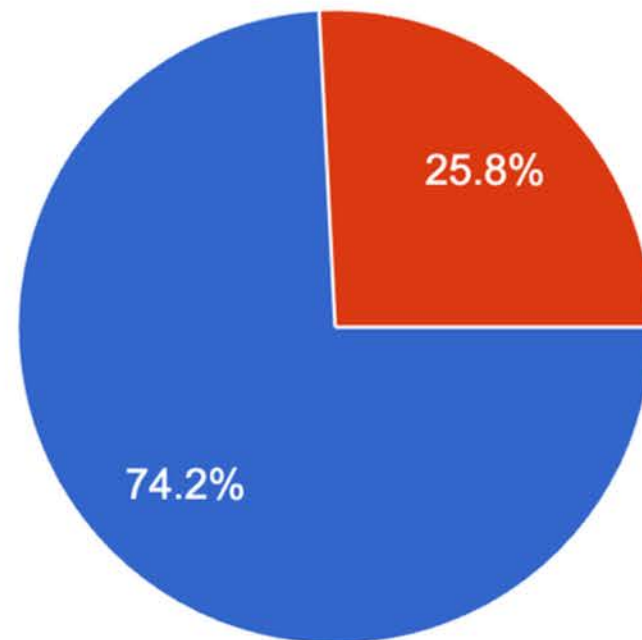
Do you hold Board of Education Committee Meetings?

31 responses



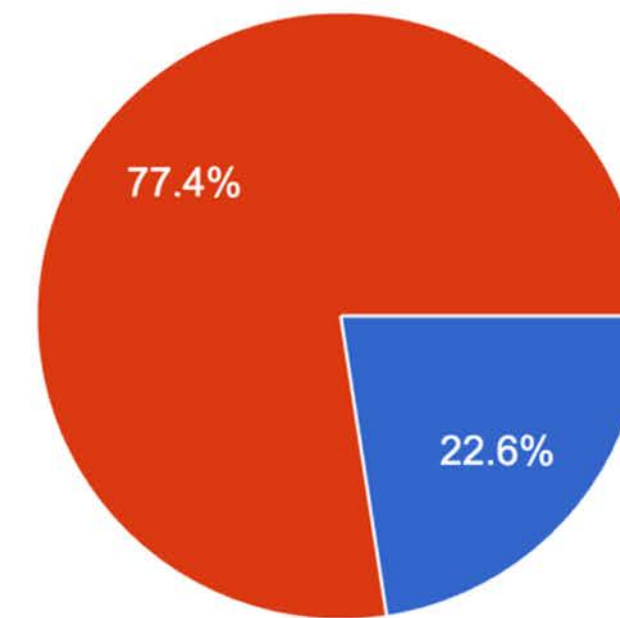
Do you live stream Board of Education meetings?

31 responses



Do you live stream Board of Education Committee Meetings?

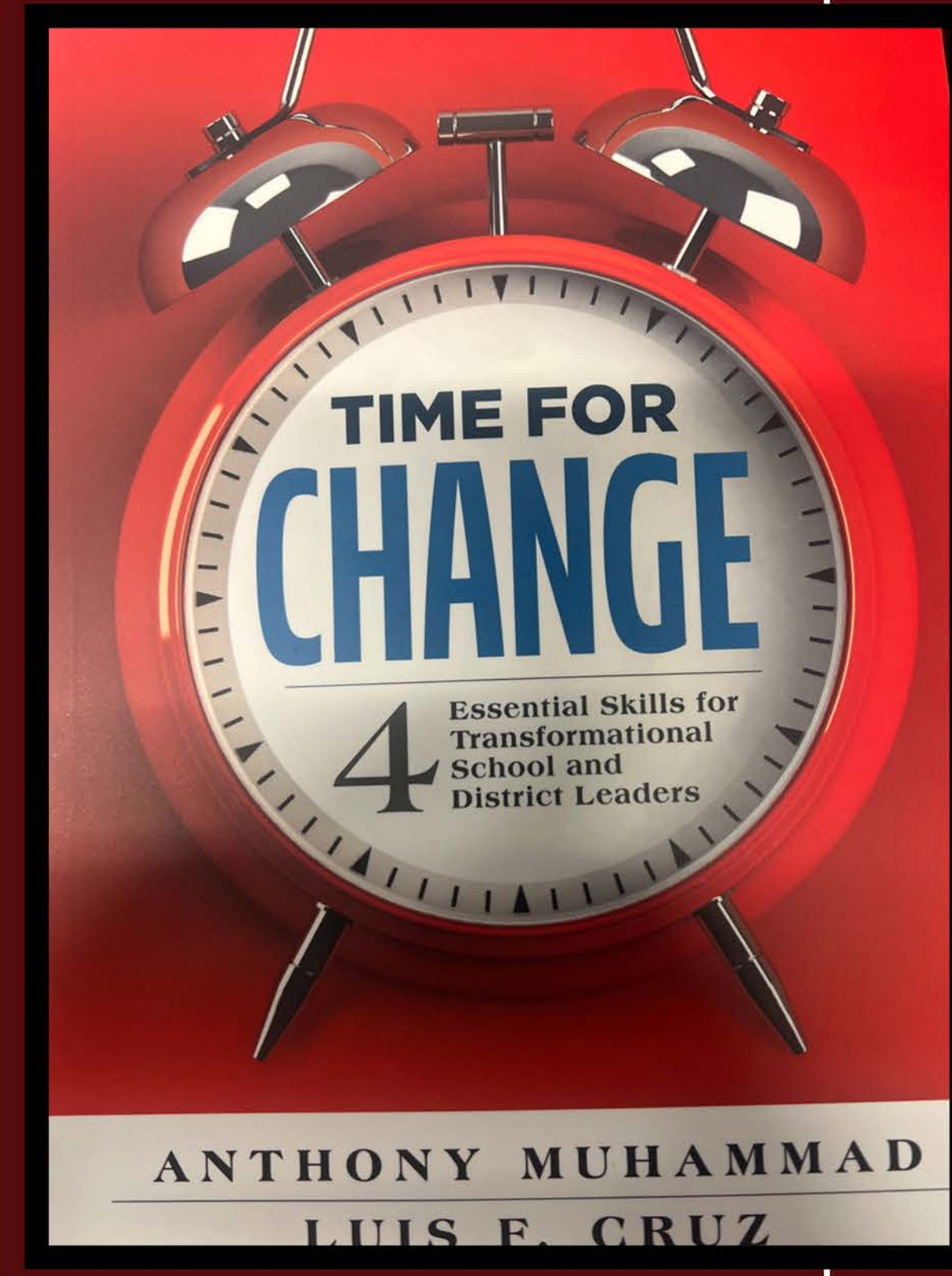
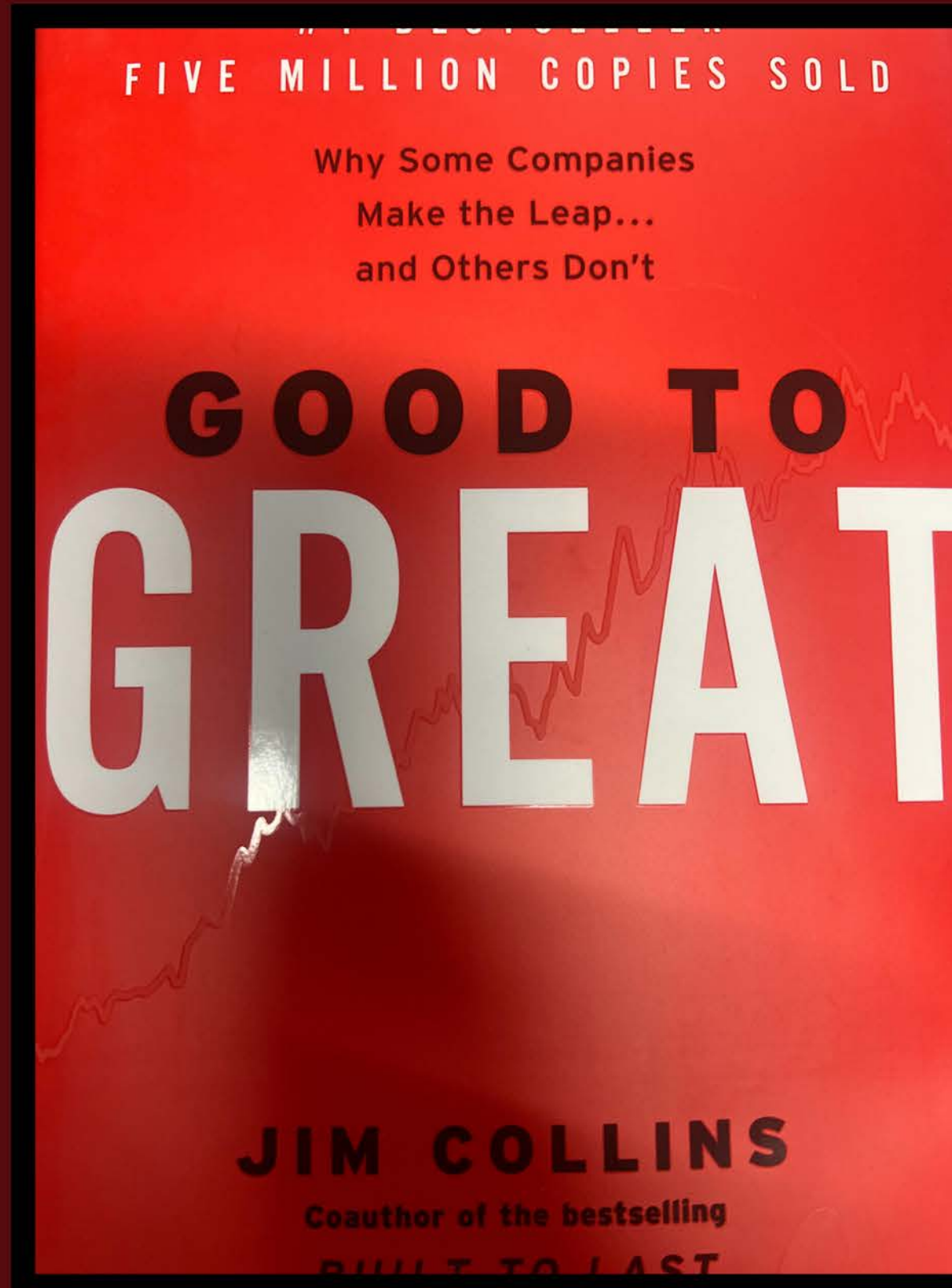
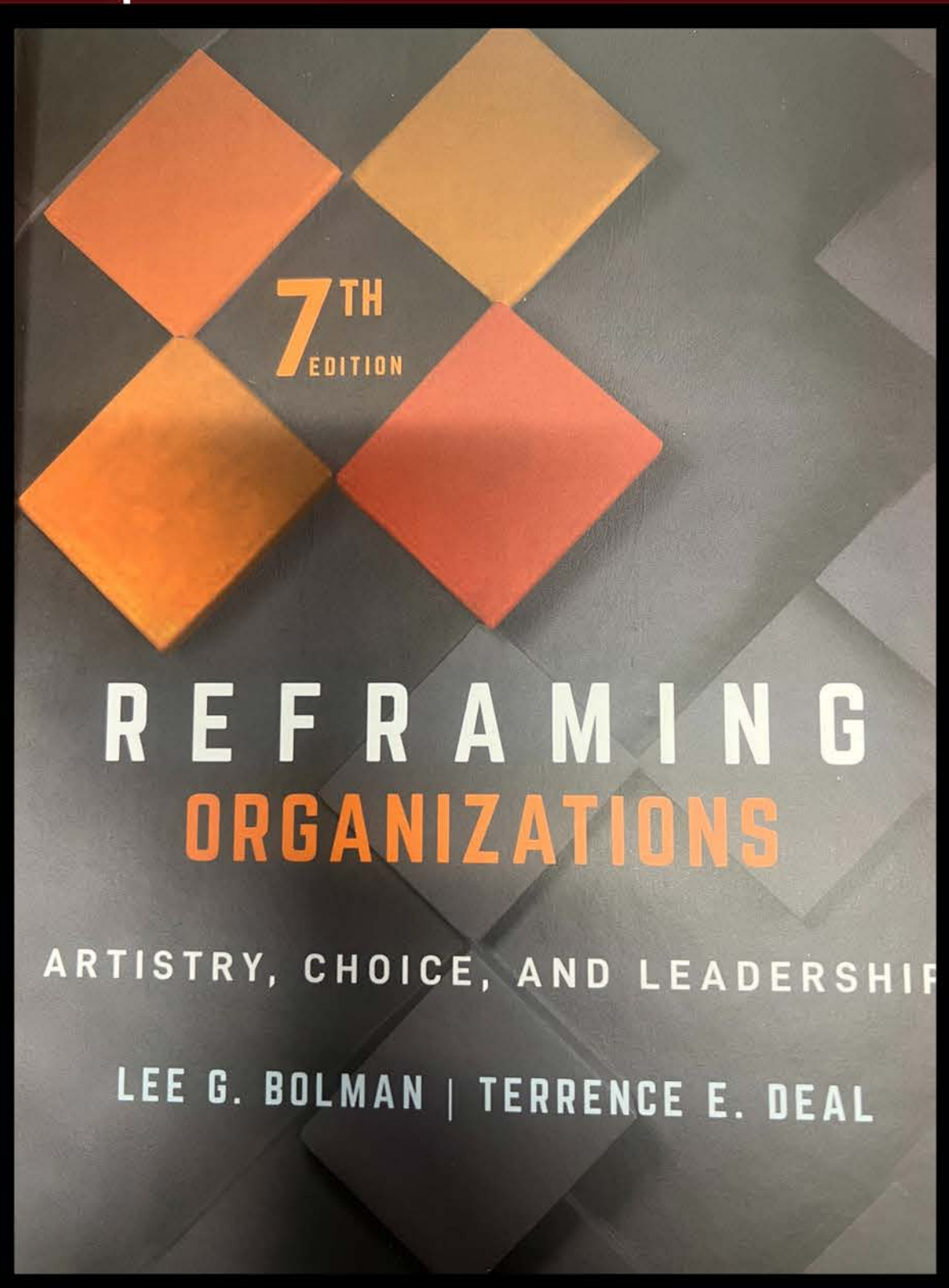
31 responses



UPCOMING EVENTS

4/24 4/25	Spring Musical	7:00 PM	ZBTHS PAC
4/26	Spring Musical	3:00 PM	ZBTHS PAC
4/30	D126 Senior Academic Honors Banquet	6:00 PM	ZBTHS PAC/South Commons
5/6	D126 Community Scholarship Program	7:00 PM	ZBTHS PAC
5/8	Spring Choral Concert	7:00 PM	ZBTHS PAC
5/13	CTE-Kiwanis Awards	7:00	ZBTHS PAC
5/14	Jazz Night	7:00 PM	ZBTHS PAC
5/18	NT Graduation	12:00 PM	Field or Café
5/18	ZB Graduation	3:00 PM	FB Field or Main Gym

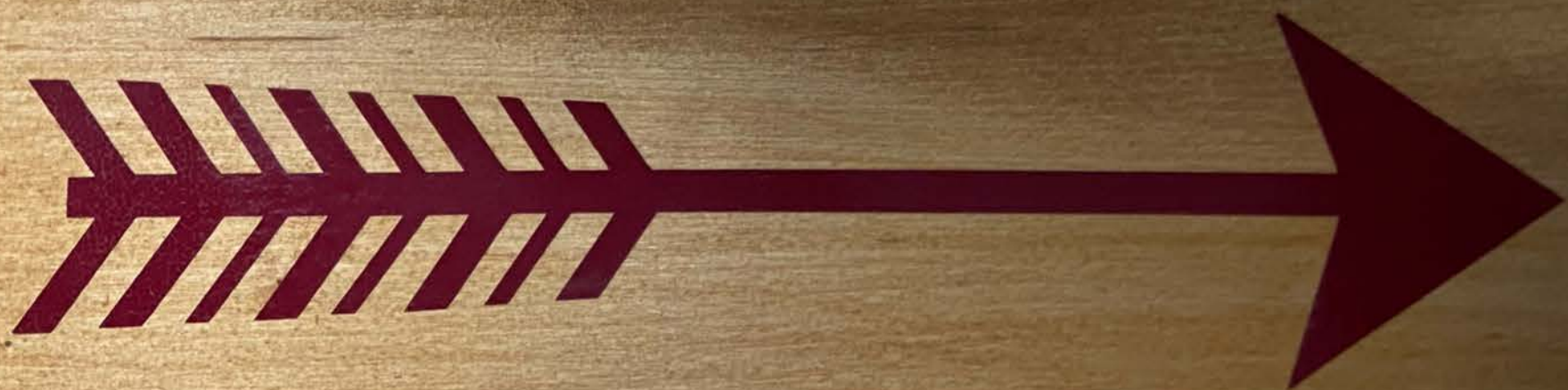
FY 26 LEADERSHIP FOCUS





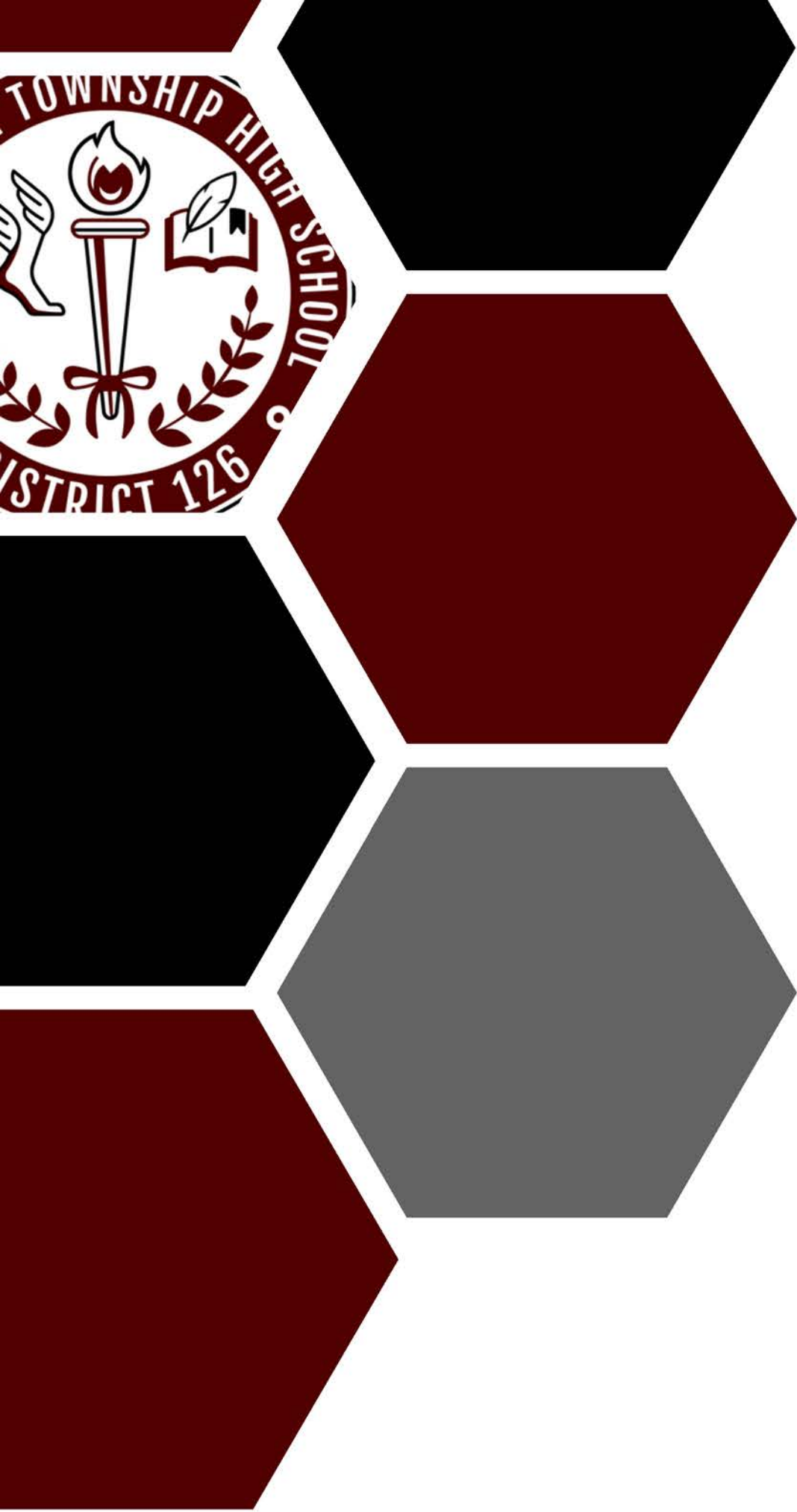
Hold The Vision

Trust the Process



Commit to progress and
stay focused on the
goals ahead.

Meaningful change
takes time, and each step
forward brings us closer
to lasting success.



Reports & Discussion



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



ZBTHS Principal's Report

ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



HOME OF THE ZEE BEES

PRINCIPAL REPORT - MARCH 2025

BONNIE FELSKE
ZBTHS Principal
bonnie.felske@zb126.org



Instructional Updates

ZBTHS staff create impactful lessons for their classrooms, however, meaningful learning experiences are also being planned outside the classroom. For example the CTE department organized a presentation from a technical institute to help students see the post-secondary trade school options and careers in CTE. The presentation included information on opportunities and salaries connected to the skills they are learning which they can continue to pursue after high school.



With the ACT coming up on April 15, staff are busy preparing our students focusing on increased student awareness, participation, and performance. Activities include one-on-one coaching sessions, student goal setting using test score data, and structured classroom prep.

Operational Updates



Operations continue to run smooth at ZBTHS as the Principals, Deans and Safety Department work collaboratively to ensure a safe, efficient and effective learning environment. The ZB SIP team met this month to finalize their work on the development and implementation of a school-wide electronic device policy. The ZB Handbook Committee also met to conduct the annual review of school policies and procedures related to student conduct. Several recommendations will be offered for board consideration to be implemented in the 2025-26 school year. All required safety drills have now been conducted for the school year. Staff and students were excellent as they executed our Severe Weather Drill this past week!



Celebrations

NJROTC Drill Team

The ZB NJROTC Drill Team dominated the Area 15 Drill Championships at Great Lakes Naval Base, winning 1st place overall and securing a spot at Navy Nationals this April in Pensacola, FL!



1st Place - Inspection, Unarmed Basic, Colorguard, Armed Exhibition, Unarmed Exhibition
4th Place - Armed Basic Drill | 5th Place - Physical Training

Congrats to our Cadets— next stop, Nationals!

NJROTC Rifle Team

Zion Benton's 2024/2025 Rifle Team is once again the Navy National Champion, claiming their 9th title in 22 years. Competing against 492 teams, ZB dominated, with Team 1 finishing 1st in qualifiers and securing victory after a hard-fought two-day competition in Anniston, Alabama.

The only school to qualify three teams, ZB's depth and determination proved unmatched. Holding an 11-point lead after day one, they sealed the championship with a five-point victory.



Next, they aim for another title at the All-Service Championship, March 20-22, in Port Clinton, Ohio



ZBE

Principal's Report

Z·B·E PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



MR. KEVIN WILAND ZION-BENTON EAST PRINCIPAL kevin.wiland@zb126.org

March 18, 2025

Instructional Updates

The countdown to the April 15th ACT is officially underway! Teachers across all disciplines are integrating ACT-style questions into their coursework to help students practice and master essential skills. Students are also being equipped with strategies in reading, science, and math to demonstrate their proficiency on test day. Each student is setting individualized goals and reviewing them with their advisory teacher. We encourage parents to actively support their students in achieving these goals. Zion-Benton East offers various resources to help students prepare effectively and reach their ACT target scores.

On February 26, our math teachers participated in professional development focused on deepening students' understanding of mathematical concepts. Key topics discussed included the importance of regular cumulative review, the integration of ACT-style questions throughout the curriculum, and emphasizing depth of understanding over breadth of topics. Additionally, teachers explored strategies to engage students in meaningful discourse and use relevant, motivating examples. The insights gained from this session were immediately implemented in classrooms.

Celebrations

At Zion-Benton East, we believe in the power of celebrating student success. We recognize students who demonstrate exceptional achievement or growth in academics, attendance, or proficiency. These celebrations are highlighted through videos displayed during advisory periods and are also available for families to view on our website. We are proud to showcase the accomplishments of our students and remain committed to celebrating their hard work and dedication.

Operational Updates

At Zion-Benton East, we continue to prioritize student attendance and provide interventions for students with frequent absences. Our current attendance rate stands at 92.4%, with a chronic truancy rate of 11.8%. Encouragingly, our Class of 2028 (freshmen) is leading the way with an impressively low chronic truancy rate of 2.9%. It's inspiring to see our youngest students embracing the importance of regular school attendance. Great job, freshmen!

Zion-Benton East also values the feedback from all our stakeholders, which is why we are encouraging students, staff, and parents to participate in the 5Essentials Survey. This feedback is essential for our ongoing efforts to improve the school and ensure we provide an exceptional education for every student.

After collecting feedback from the Electronic Device Stakeholder Survey, the Zion-Benton East School Improvement Team and administration reviewed the results and implemented a new policy, effective for the 2025-2026 school year. The updated student handbook states, "During instructional time, students are not permitted to use cell phones. Instructional time is defined as any time designated for teaching, learning, assessment, or enrichment activities. All cell phones must be silenced and stored out of sight for the entire duration of each instructional period." In the coming weeks, Zion-Benton East will communicate with students and parents to ensure everyone understands the new policy, its importance in minimizing distractions, and the support systems in place to help implement it effectively.

Click link 

ZION-BENTON EAST
Episode 1

2024-2025 5th HONOR ROLL RECOGNITIONS
HONOR ROLL (GPA of 3.50 to 3.74)

PERFECT ATTENDANCE
NO ABSENCES OR TARDIES (Previous 5 School Days)



Committee Report

Business, Bid, Finance

Committee



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





Committee Report

Curriculum Committee



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



New Business



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





Approval InterFund Loans



Each year the Board of Education approves resolutions allowing interfund loan transfers between the Working Cash Fund and the Ed fund, O and M fund and Transportation fund as needed in the spring of each year.

This precautionary practice has been followed in case early taxes are delayed and a cash flow shortage occurs in June when we meet our year-end payrolls. These interfund loans, if needed, are repaid upon the receipt of our first installment of taxes.



Approval

Lake County Indemnification Agreement



On an annual basis, as part of Lake County's Unified Development Ordinance, developers are required to make contributions to government bodies affected by subdivision improvements.

In the event of a private agreement, the District is preparing this indemnification agreement in accordance with the County's requirements that it be executed by June of each calendar year.



Approval

Hazardous Walkway Recertification



Section 29-3 of the Illinois School Code requires school districts to annually review the conditions of hazardous walkways, and then certify to the State Superintendent of Education whether or not the hazardous conditions remain unchanged.

To our knowledge, there have not been any changes to the current hazardous walkways which would require a status change.

Therefore, it is the Administration's recommendation to re-certify to the State Superintendent of Education that all of District #126's hazardous walkways should remain in effect.



Approval

School Fees
2025- 2026



Since FY18, school fees in the District have remained largely unchanged.

Many have been eliminated and it is recommended that there be no changes to fee structure approved for FY 25 for the FY26 year.



Approval

Ratify Publication of Public Hearing Notice



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

The 2024-2025 amended budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 will be on on file and available for public on the 23rd day of May 2025.

Notice is given that a public hearing on the amended budget will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on the 24th day of June 2025.



Approval

Facilities Master Plan



The Facilities Master Plan serves as a strategic roadmap to guide future district decisions based on stakeholder input and evolving needs.

It is not a final directive but rather a framework for prioritizing projects as funding becomes available.

By incorporating community feedback, Health Life Safety assessments, and financial considerations, the plan ensures that investments align with both immediate and long-term goals.

This structured approach allows the district to make informed, responsible decisions that balance facility improvements with fiscal sustainability, ultimately supporting a safe, modern, and effective learning environment for all students.

Wold



ZION-BENTON THSD 126

Business, Bid, Finance Committee Meeting
Facility Master Planning | March 10, 2025

Agenda

- **FMP Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles**
- **Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Need Statements and Prioritization**
- **Priority I Investment Strategies**
- **FMP Recommendation and Next Steps**

Wold

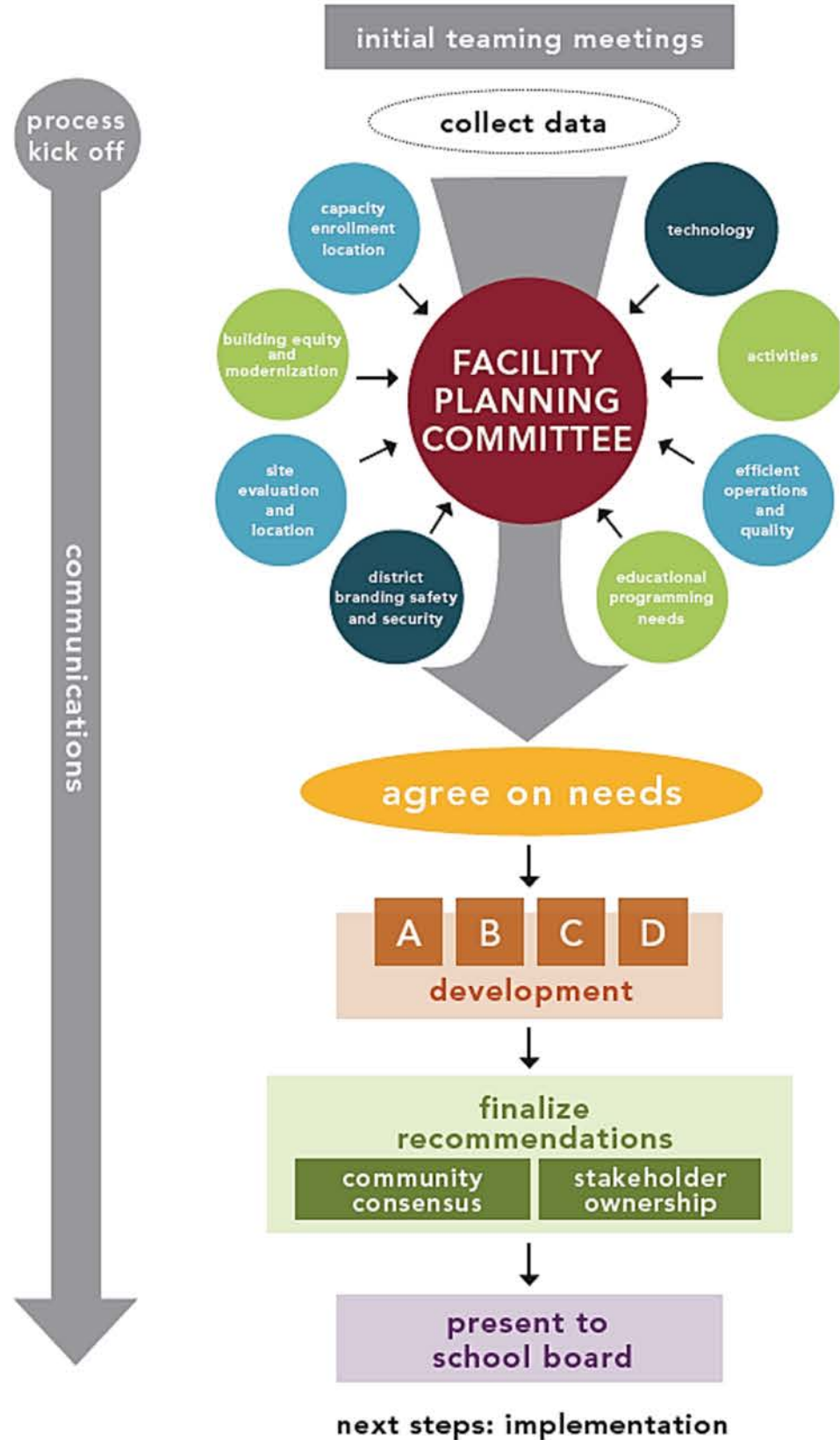


CAMOSY
CONSTRUCTION



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Facility Master Planning Process



FMP MISSION:

Develop a comprehensive long-range Facilities Master Plan with one “best” scenario for recommendation to the School Board

FMP VISION:

Zion-Benton Township High School District 126 will have a comprehensive long-range Facilities Master Plan to invest in facilities that accommodates enrollment, instruction, programs and supports over the next 10 years, and reflects efficient and sustainable fiscal practices.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN **Facility Master Planning Process**

FMP GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Provide a **safe and supportive learning** environment that promotes a positive climate and culture for **all students and staff**.
- Invest in District facilities to **empower** creativity, adaptability and innovation, foster **equity** and support pursuit of the highest standards of **excellence for all learners**.
- Provide **future-forward learning environments** that incorporate the key elements of 21st century learning design, include meaningful **hands-on learning** opportunities, and support **personalized learning for all students**.
- District buildings and learning environments will be a **place of pride and opportunity for all students and staff**.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN Identifying the Needs



ZBTHS and ZBE Administrator Meetings

District Facility Team Meeting

ZBE Staff Meetings

ZBTHS Faculty Meetings

ZBTHS Community Town Hall

ZBE Community Town Hall

Faculty/Staff Electronic Survey

Community Electronic Survey

Student Focus Groups & Electronic Survey

FMP Recommendation



Wold



CAMOSY 
CONSTRUCTION



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN **Facility Master Plan Recommendation**

ALIGNMENT WITH VISION 2030



FUTURE FOCUSED
LEARNING



SHARED
ACCOUNTABILITY



PREDICTABLE FUNDING



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN **Consensus on Need Statements**

Need Statement A: Improve District learning environments.

Need Statement B: Improve and maintain site and building infrastructure for facility longevity.

Need Statement C: Improve building flow and wayfinding to optimize layout and reduce congestion.

Need Statement D: Incorporate safety and security enhancements to align with District policies.

Need Statement E: Reorganize student and staff management spaces to optimize layout and improve operational efficiencies.

Need Statement F: Provide interior building environments and exterior facility appearances that promote school pride.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN **Consensus on Need Statements**

Need Statement G: Identify opportunities to enhance student and staff well-being and increase space for student support.

Need Statement H: Identify opportunities to accommodate Community use of facilities.

Need Statement I: Provide multi-functional large group spaces to support varied programming and building flexibility.

Need Statement J: Improve physical education environments and support spaces.

Need Statement K: Identify opportunities to expanded programming now and in the future.

Need Statement L: Provide outdoor space and learning opportunities.

Need Statement M: Improve and maintain building site circulation and parking.

Priority I Investment Strategies



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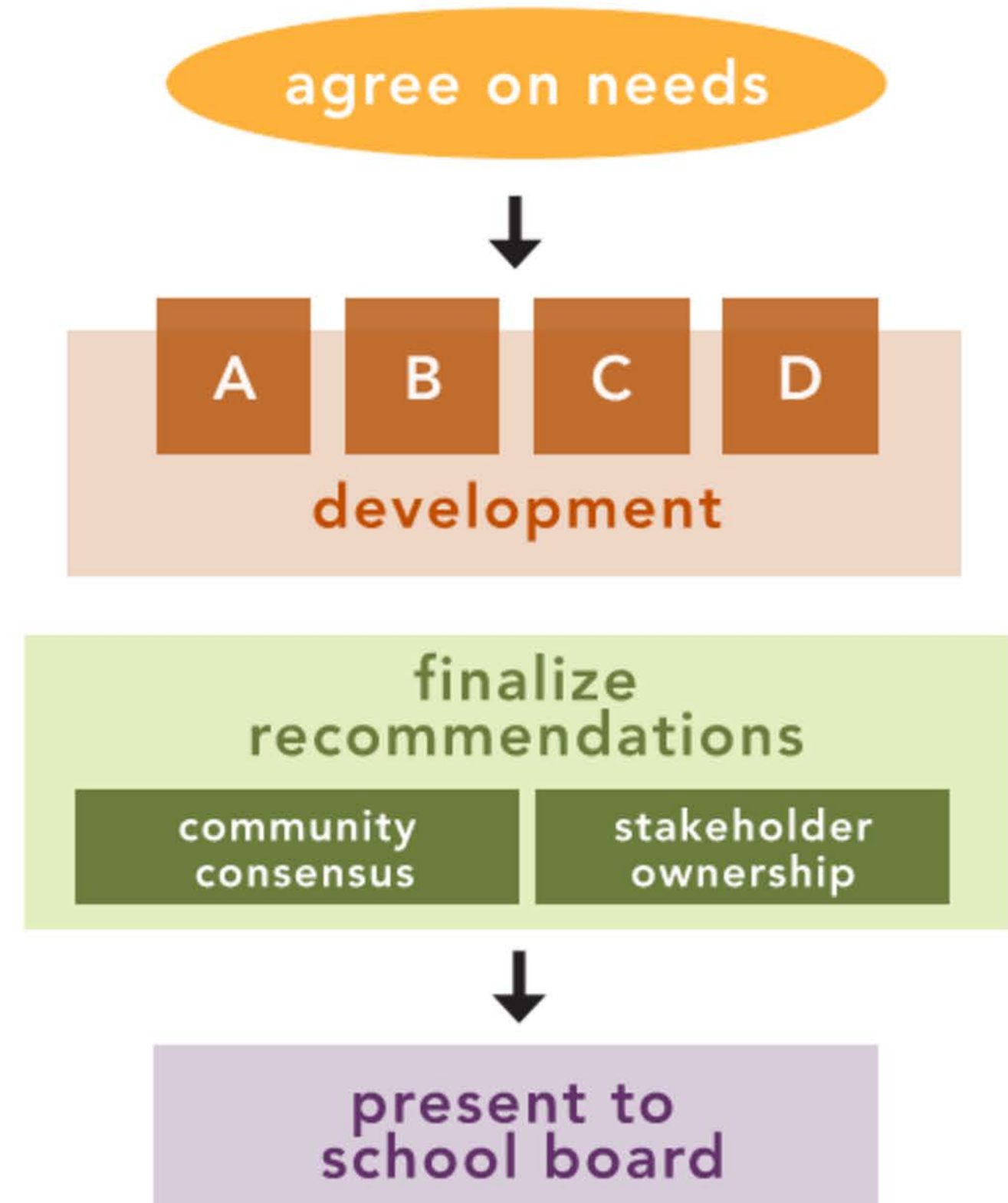
CAMOSY
CONSTRUCTION



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy

- Strategy 1:** Update finishes at all classrooms to align with the District standard for learning environments.
- Strategy 6:** Upgrade restrooms to align with the District standard and meet accessibility requirements.
- Strategy 7:** Utilize comprehensive, long-range planning to continue restoration and repair of facility exterior envelope, infrastructure, and site (includes Health & Life Safety Survey).
- Strategy 8:** Provide air-conditioning at physical education and athletic spaces.
- Strategy 39:** Update locker room environments to align with District expectations.
- Strategy 47:** Perform a traffic study at ZBTHS.





DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

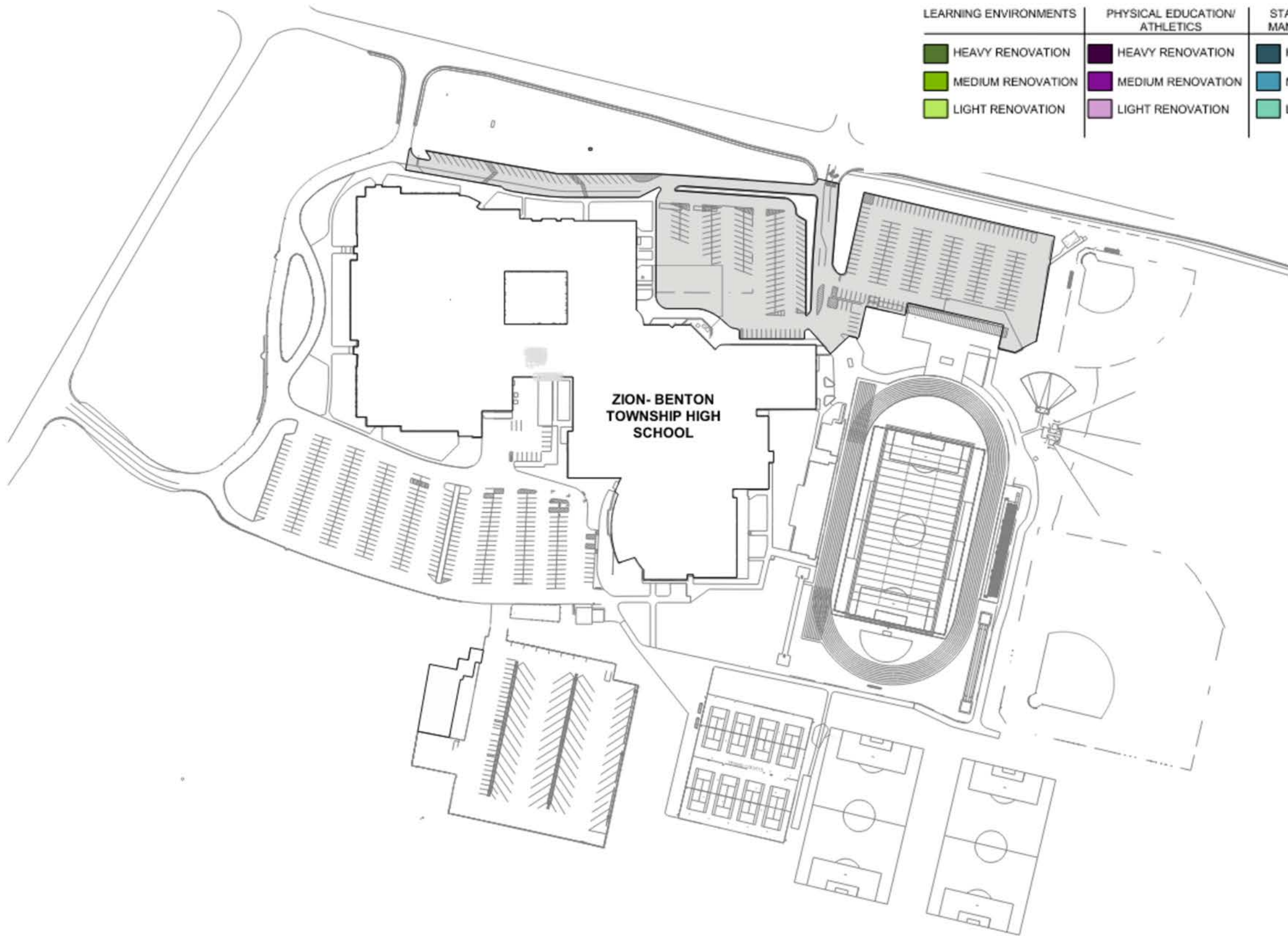
Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY
					SPACE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAMING



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy



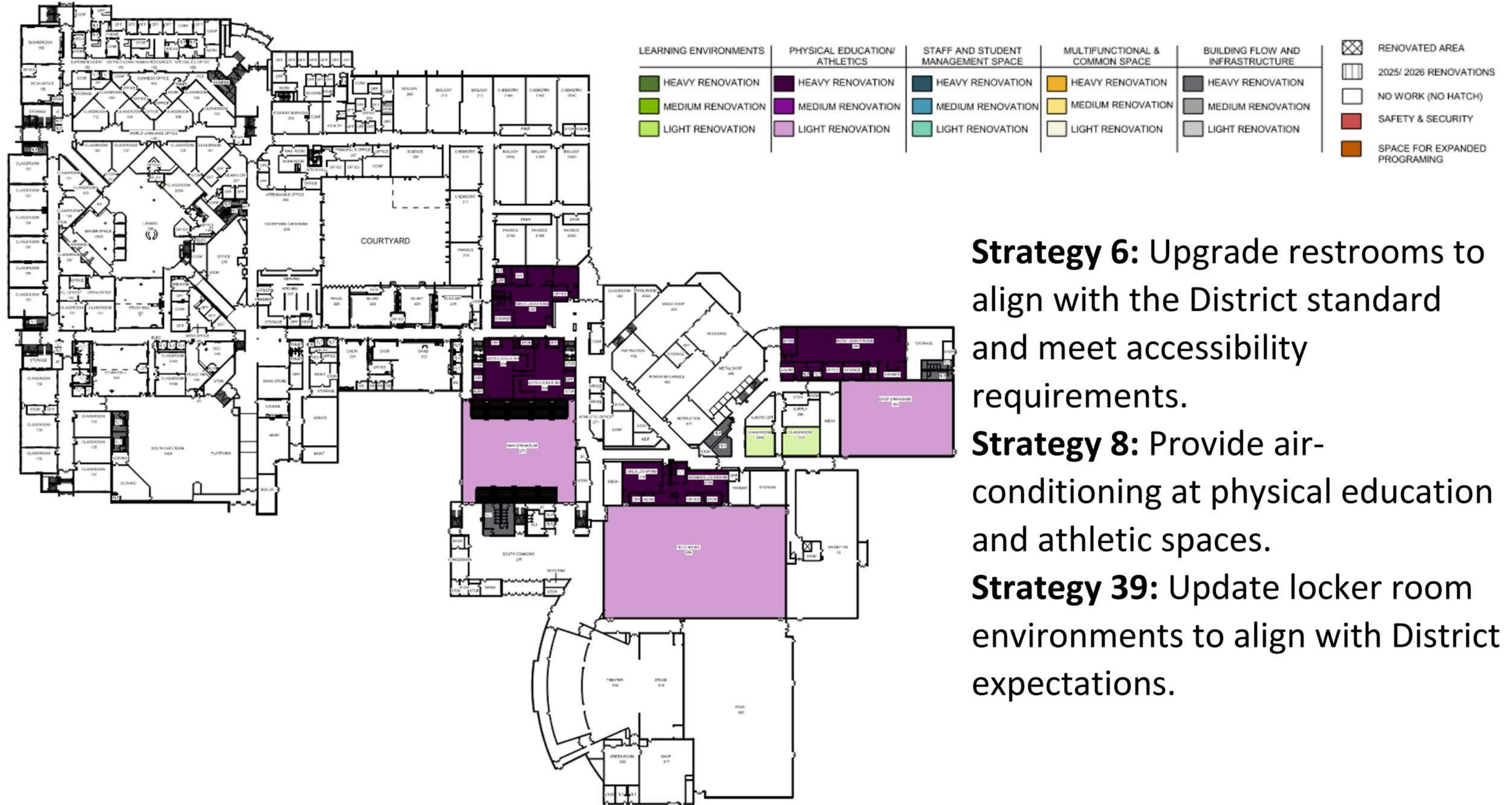
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HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY
					SPACE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAMING

Strategy 47: Perform a traffic study at ZBTHS.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy



Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with the District standard and meet accessibility requirements.

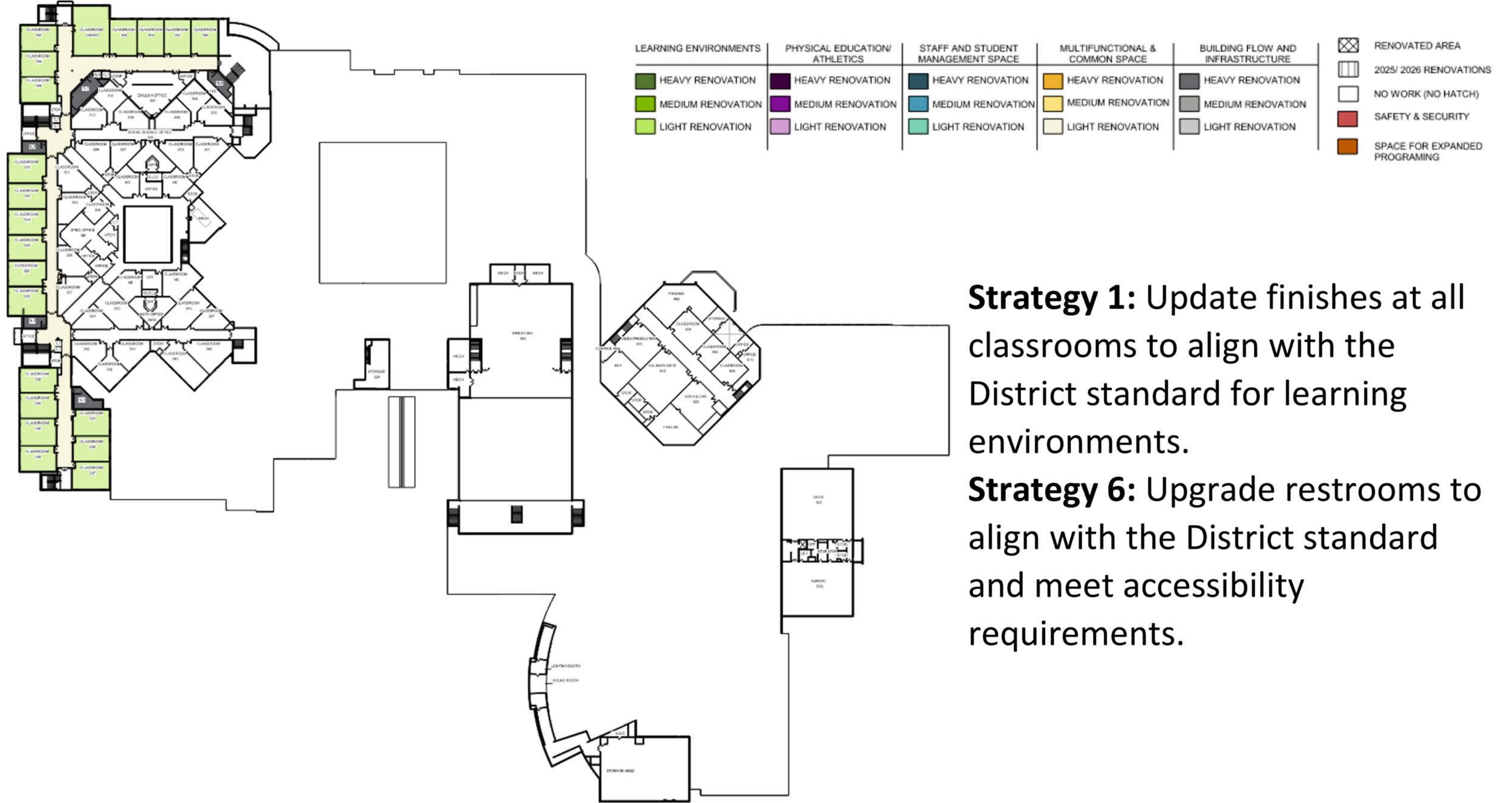
Strategy 8: Provide air-conditioning at physical education and athletic spaces.

Strategy 39: Update locker room environments to align with District expectations.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy



Strategy 1: Update finishes at all classrooms to align with the District standard for learning environments.

Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with the District standard and meet accessibility requirements.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY
					SPACE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAMING



Strategy 1: Update finishes at all classrooms to align with the District standard for learning environments.

Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with the District standard and meet accessibility requirements.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY
					SPACE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAMING



Strategy 8: Provide air-conditioning at physical education and athletic spaces.

Strategy 39: Update locker room environments to align with District expectations.

Strategy 1: Update finishes at all classrooms to align with the District standard for learning environments.

Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with the District standard and meet accessibility requirements.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ ATHLETICS	STAFF AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPACE	MULTIFUNCTIONAL & COMMON SPACE	BUILDING FLOW AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	HEAVY RENOVATION	RENOVATED AREA
MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	MEDIUM RENOVATION	2025/ 2026 RENOVATIONS
LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	LIGHT RENOVATION	NO WORK (NO HATCH)
					SAFETY & SECURITY
					SPACE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAMING



Strategy 1: Update finishes at all classrooms to align with the District standard for learning environments.

Strategy 6: Upgrade restrooms to align with the District standard and meet accessibility requirements.



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN
Recommended Priority I Investment Strategy

- **Specific Planning Criteria considered (layered) into broad ‘Priority 1’ Investment Strategies, where applicable.**
- **Continued annual investments in life-cycle and systems upgrades to maintain a sound foundation for facility infrastructure and support.**
- **Implementation phased to start after completion of 2026 summer projects**



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN
Partnership with Camosy Construction

- **Master Planning started all along with each phase of work we've done since 2017**
- **South parking lot example**
 - Should have been replaced during Auditorium project
 - Held off until it made sense, so money wasn't being spent more than once (2026 project)



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN **Partnership with Camosy Construction**

- **10 Year Facilities Master Planning:**
 - 1–5-year costs reflect current rates
 - Understand that market/economic volatility will affect future costs
 - Scope beyond year 5 will be addressed as those priorities come into focus.
- **Ongoing attention to Life Safety, Security, and ADA Compliance**
- **Mindful scheduling to avoid disruption of school ops as much as possible**



DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN
Dr. Rodriguez & Dr. Woell: Next Steps

- **Adoption of Facilities Master Plan**
 - **March 2025**
- **Establish District Funding Strategy**
 - **by June 30, 2025**
- **Board of Education Prioritization**
 - **Fall 2025**
- **Development of Timeline and Phasing**
 - **by December 31, 2025**



Q & A





Approval

Student ZBTHS Handbook Update



- **Revised - “Forms Of Discipline” Section (Page 45)**
 - Remove all verbiage pertaining to “Peace Room.”
 - Remove all verbiage pertaining to “SSX” and replace with “SSC.”
 - Add “Teen Court” Verbiage
- **Revised - “Chronic Truancy” Section (Page 52)**
 - Remove all verbiage pertaining to “Hall Gatherings”
- **Revised - “Tardy/Late To Class, Study Hall Or Advisory” Section (Page 53)**
 - The total or cumulative number of tardies for all classes will reset after each semester
 - The number of tardies for when students will see Deans has been revised
- **Revised - “ID Cards” Section (Page 66)**
 - #1 - ID requirement verbiage will be revised
- **Revised – “Guidelines For Use Of Electronic Devices” Section (Page 70)**
 - Added District “Electronic Device Policy”
 - Also, update language on page 64 - #7
- **Revised - “Dress Code Policy” Section (Page 74)**
 - Update Dress Code policy regarding head coverings



Approval

Student ZBE Handbook Update

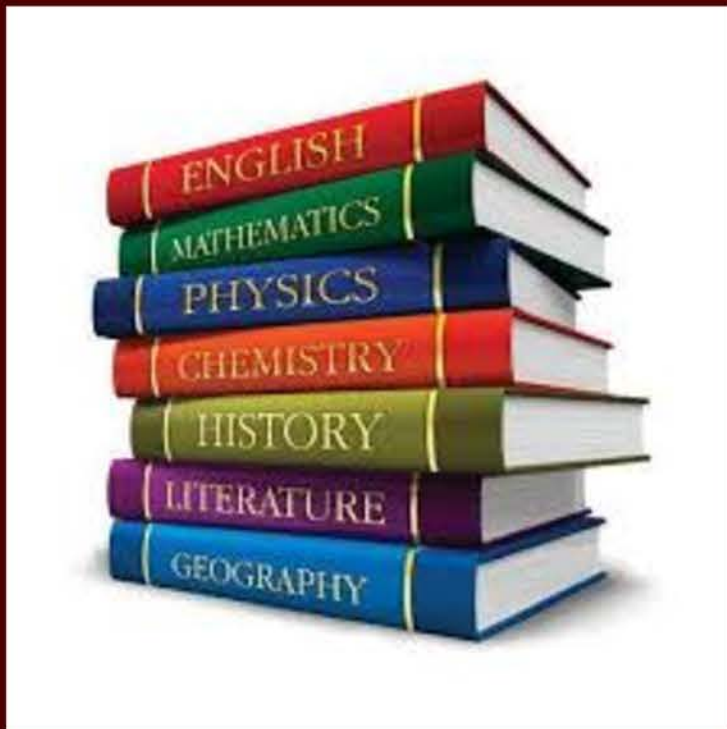


- **Revised - “Collections” Section (Page 9)**
 - Remove all verbiage indicating official transcripts will be withheld until all fees have been paid
- **Revised - “Academic Dishonesty” Section (Page 17-18)**
 - Added the misuse of Artificial Intelligence
- **Revised - “ID Cards” Section (Page 60)**
 - #1 - ID requirement verbiage will be revised
- **Revised – “Guidelines For Use Of Electronic Devices” Section (Page 65)**
 - Changed title to “Personal Electronic Device Use Policy” Revised section
- **Revised - “Dress Code Policy” Section (Page 70)**
 - Update Dress Code policy regarding head coverings



Approval

2025-2026 Textbook Adoption



Key Updates:

- **Summer Reading:** New and replacement titles added, ensuring accessibility and engagement.
- **English Courses:** American Born Chinese added to Myths and Composition; AP English adds The Kite Runner and Pride and Prejudice; expanded student choice in Contemporary Texts.
- **EL English:** Updated curriculum with WIDA-aligned texts, including First Crossing and Spare Parts.
- **World Languages:** E-texts and classroom sets for French, German, and Spanish courses.
- **Dual Credit & Digital Media:** Updated materials, including Graphic Design Portfolio 2025 for current software alignment.



Approval

Title 1 School Plans



The Title 1 District Plan is developed every spring and must be approved before the next fiscal year's budget is submitted.

The plan is designed to reflect the specific needs of the schools and is aligned with the individual school plans, which are updated after gathering feedback from stakeholders.

Parent and community meetings are held in March to gather input, while staff feedback is collected throughout the year by supervisors.

After reviewing this feedback, the refreshed plans are submitted for approval by the Board in March or April, ensuring they are in place before the new fiscal year begins.



Approval

Athletic Recognition Criteria



Committee Charge:

Review the current alumni recognition program to assess its effectiveness and explore innovative opportunities for enhancing the recognition of alumni achievements.

Committee Outcome:

Develop comprehensive procedures for recognizing outstanding ZB alumni athletes, including well-defined criteria and a formal recognition method. These procedures will be presented to and approved by the Board of Education.

PROPOSALS - SUMMER OF 2024

- **May - Jersey Retirement Committee meets with administration**
- **June - Dr. Colbert, Mayor Mckinney, Dr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Niemi meet to discuss recognition ideas. The District's understanding at the conclusion of that meeting was that a display outside of the gym celebrating the "Dynamic Duo" would accomplish the goals of the committee.**
- **November - D126 was informed that the committee did not approve of a recognition outside of the gym and insisted that a recognition be located inside the gym.**
- **December- next slide**

Timeline



December 4, 2024 Committee Meeting #1
Review goals & engage in an initial discussion



December 11, 2024 Committee Meeting #2
Discuss ideas, ask questions, begin creating a new level of recognition



January 22, 2025 Committee Meeting #3
Further discussion and work toward finalizing ideas



February 14, 2025 Collect Committee Feedback on Draft Criteria



February 19, 2025 Committee Meeting #4
Finalize Athletic Alumni Recognition Recommendation



February 25, 2025: Present the committee's ideas at the BOE Meeting

THREE TIERS OF DISTRICT 126 STUDENT-ATHLETE RECOGNITION:

TIER 1: JERSEY RETIREMENT/WALL MURAL (EXISTING)

TIER 2: ALUMNI ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (NEW INITIATIVE)

TIER 3: ZEE-BEE ATHLETICS WALL OF ACHIEVEMENT (EXISTING)

DISTRICT 126 COACHES CORNER:

Criteria :

- 20 years of service as a teacher, support staff, and/or coach
- Retired or deceased for five years
- Served as a head varsity coach
- Met the requirements and inducted into the District 126 Athletic Wall of Achievement

Other:

- Will be listed according to the year they met the qualifications
- Sculpture and plaque memorialize the recipients near the athletic field



Current Inductees

Dick McGrew 2010

Leroy Cliff 2010

Phil Judson 2010

Gene Borop 2010

Don Kloth 2010

Ed Myers 2012

Leon Muff 2012

Gary Arnold 2014

Gary Bereiter 2014

John Kaddatz 2014

Other D126 Athletic Recognition

ZION-BENTON SWIMMING & DIVING

BOYS			GIRLS		
J. PALMER, R. MCHABB,			S. COOK, E. VARGAS,		
L. LONDONO, T. BELANGER	1999	1:41.22	A. KINSELLA, A. CODAMON	2013	1:57.55
T. BELANGER			K. CEPON		
T. BELANGER	2000	1:47.86	J. KONCHAN	2018	2:03.44
T. BELANGER	2000	2:01.81	A. CODAMON	1985	24.83
B. FLAMMINI	2000	21.12	A. CODAMON	2013	235.28
B. FLAMMINI	2004	212.00	K. CEPON	2013	448.55
L. LONDONO	2004	383.50	M. TIPPETT	2018	1:02.20
T. BELANGER	2000	52.96	K. CEPON	1998	54.79
S. ARTHUR	2000	46.16	S. COOK, O. CLEVELAND,	2017	5:31.44
L. LONDONO, N. TEWS,	2007	5:03.84	A. CODAMON, E. VARGAS	2012	1:44.58
J. HAEDT, T. BELANGER	2000	1:29.91	S. COOK	2013	1:01.83
T. BELANGER	2000	56.52	K. CEPON	2018	1:06.14
M. KINSELLA	2019	1:00.40	S. COOK, O. CLEVELAND,	2010	3:53.77
E. POCKLINGTON, W. MANZOR,	2013	3:24.65	A. CODAMON, A. MILLER		
S. JOHNSON, B. JOHNSON					

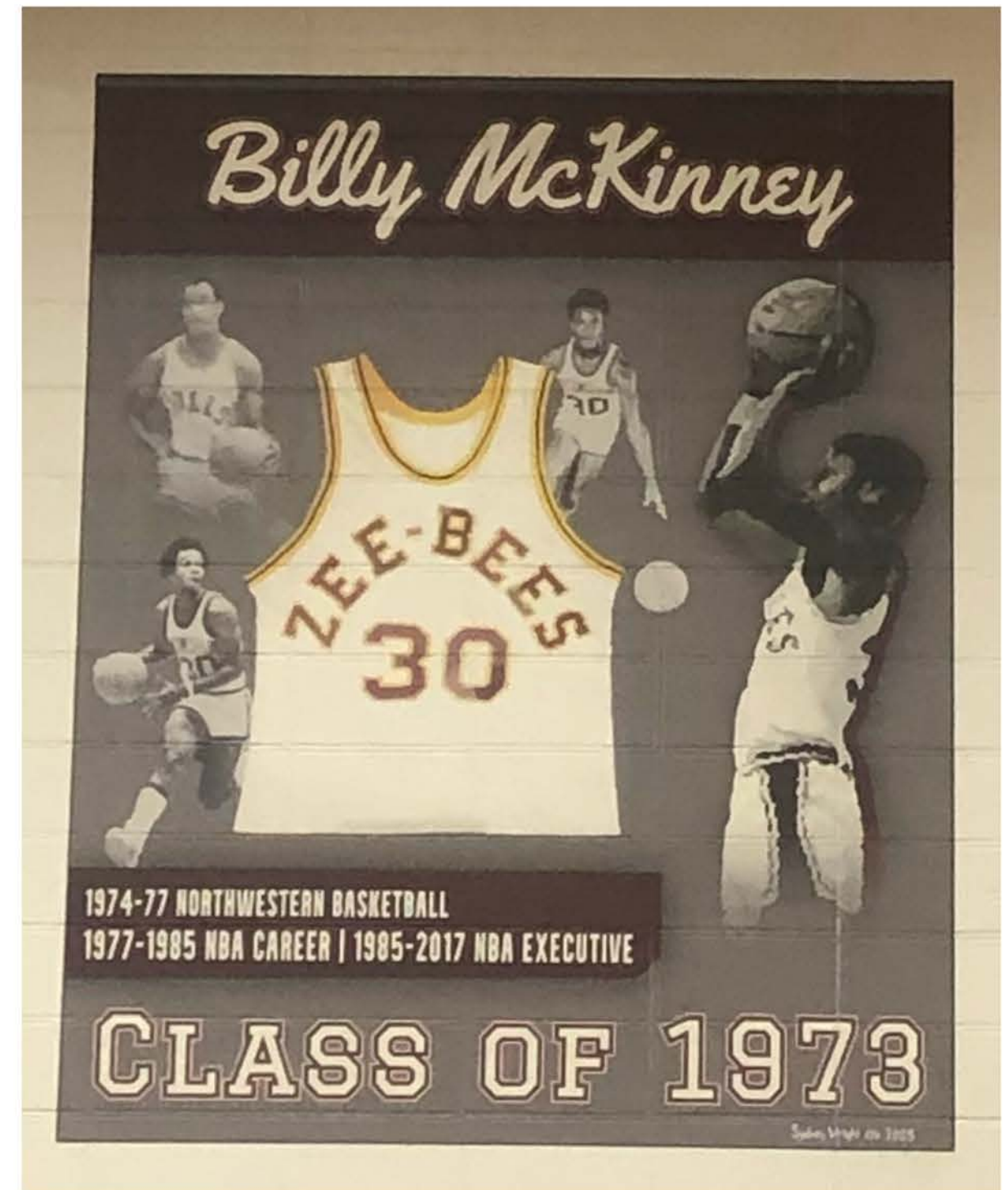


THREE TIERS OF DISTRICT 126 STUDENT-ATHLETE RECOGNITION: TIER 1: JERSEY RETIREMENT/WALL MURAL (EXISTING)

- District 126 is one of the few schools in Northern Illinois that recognizes individual alumni through jersey retirement or facility murals.
- This honor is reserved for alumni who achieve the highest level of success in their sport and pursue a professional career in athletics.
- **Academic excellence**
- **Character and Sportsmanship**
- **Community or School Contributions**
- Current Example: Billy McKinney's professional career spanned seven years, during which he played 476 games, averaged 8 points and 3.5 assists per game, and later became an NBA executive.
- Placement of recognition will be sport-specific (e.g., a professional softball player's mural would be near the softball field, while an Olympic swimmer's recognition would be in the natatorium).
- Gym banners for alumni athletes who found exemplary success
- Approval process: Requires Superintendent and BOE approval following a recommendation from the committee.

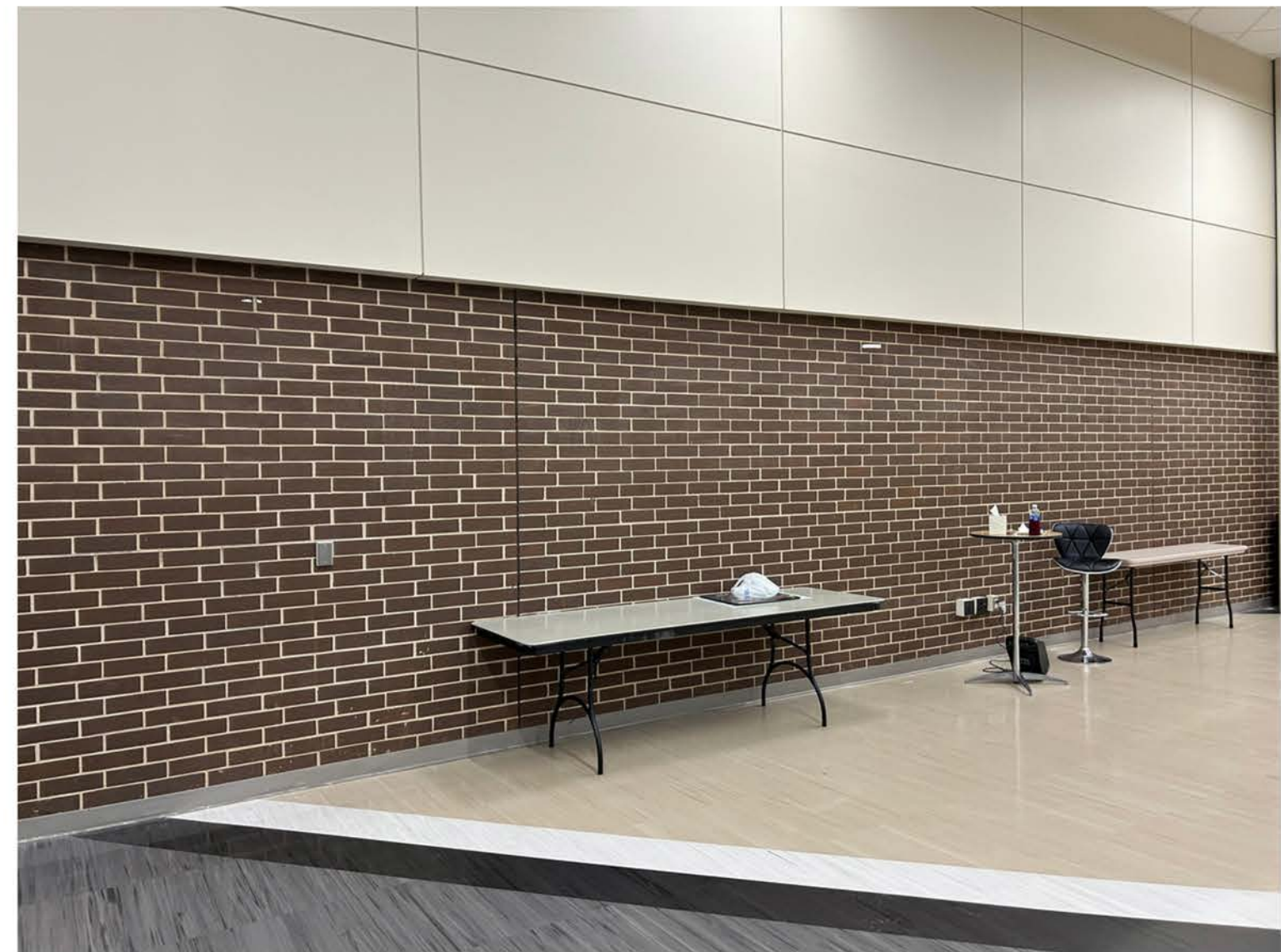
OTHER:

- Gym banners for alumni athletes who found exemplary success
- Student-Athlete success, post-high school success, and accomplishments educationally and professional outside of sports.
- Remove Tier 1 all together, remove the mural. Recognize post-high school athletic/other professional success in Tier 2
- Suggested a recognition display in the hallway honoring both Billy and Brian



THREE TIERS OF DISTRICT 126 STUDENT-ATHLETE RECOGNITION: TIER 3: ZEE-BEE ATHLETICS WALL OF ACHIEVEMENT (EXISTING)

- The committee acknowledges that District 126 already recognizes high school athletic accomplishments at a level exceeding that of surrounding districts.
 - To enhance this recognition, two key recommendations were made:
 - Reinstall past athlete photos in the South Commons as they were prior to construction.
 - Invest in an updated, user-friendly electronic kiosk to digitally display the Wall of Achievement.



THREE TIERS OF DISTRICT 126 STUDENT-ATHLETE RECOGNITION: TIER 2: ALUMNI ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (NEW INITIATIVE)

Currently, there is no formal process for celebrating alumni athletic success beyond high school. This new initiative will formally honor alumni who continue to achieve excellence in their sport post-graduation. (College, Professional (both domestic and international, Olympics)

- Proposed Criteria (Must meet at least one of the criteria below):
 - Win or place in a National Championship (Team or Individual)
 - Academic excellence
 - Character and Sportsmanship
 - Community or School Contributions
 - Set a school, national, or international record
 - Achieve a national ranking, All-Conference, All-American, or similar accolades at the collegiate or professional level
 - Earn Team MVP or similar accolade
 - Induction into a college or team Hall of Fame
 - Olympian
 - Played professionally or was drafted
 - All-American
 - Other ideas
 - Eliminate all murals in the gym
 - Gym banners for alumni athletes who found exemplary success
 - The Superintendent and/or Athletic Director can make a Special nomination/ recommendation for an athlete who did not play professionally but did attain high level status above and beyond in their sport Athletically, Academically and public accomplishments that impacted the community in a positive manner.
 - That a deserving Alumni athlete be recognized with a Banner placed in the Basketball gym as a tier 1 recognition.
 - Obtain academic excellence such as a doctorate in education
 - Return to the community to mentor youth
-

THREE TIERS OF DISTRICT 126 STUDENT-ATHLETE RECOGNITION: TIER 2: ALUMNI ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (NEW INITIATIVE)

Recognition and Celebration Events:

Recognition Placement:

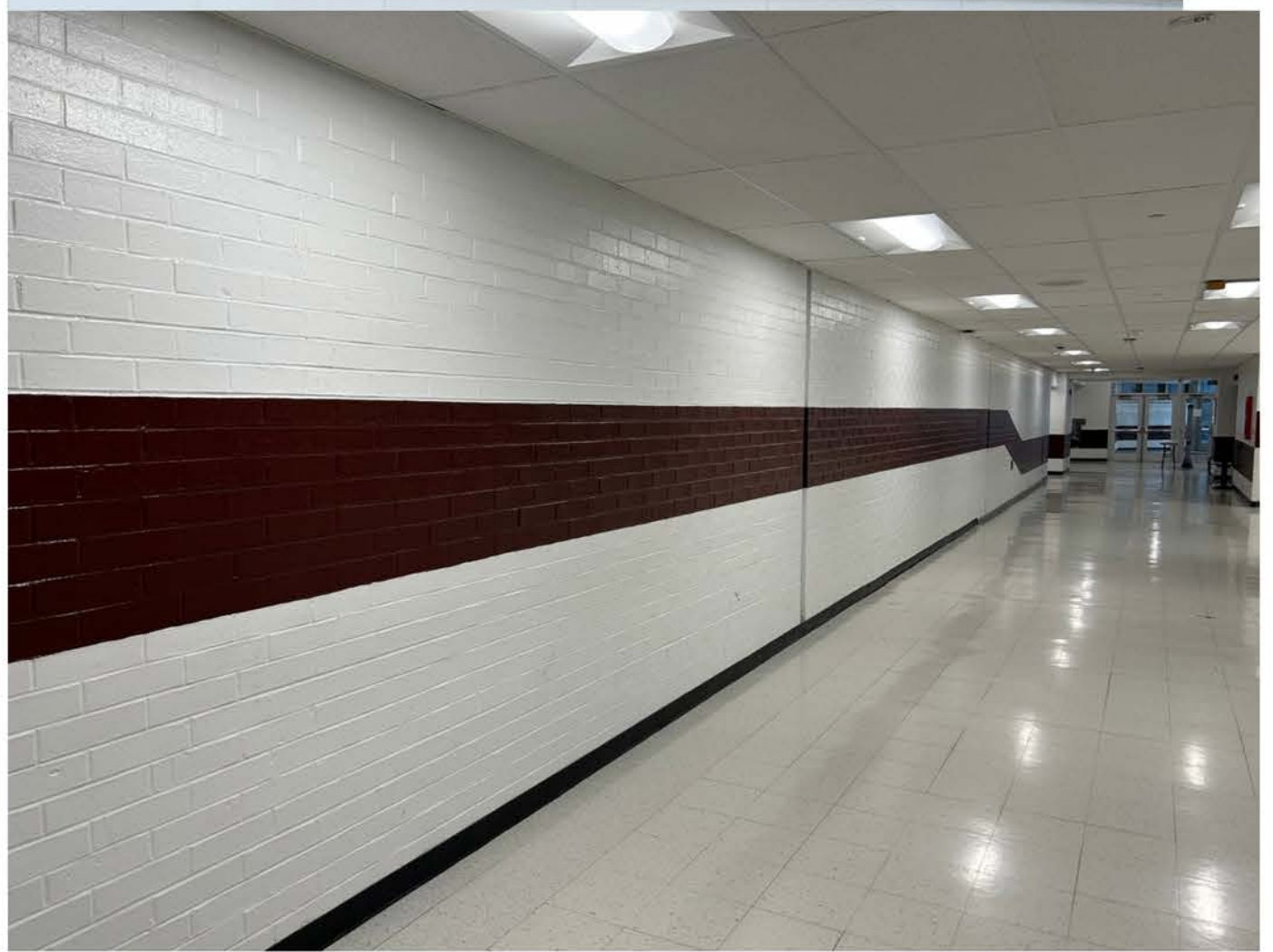
- The Alumni Athletic Excellence Award would be located in the hallway near the Athletic Office, featuring a photo of the athlete and a brief description of their post-high school accomplishments.
- Approval process: The committee and Athletic Director will oversee nominations and approvals. No BOE action required.

Special Induction Ceremony

- ZBTHS D126 will host a formal Alumni Athletic Excellence Award induction ceremony for family, friends, coaches, and the community.
- The banquet or dinner event may include:
 - Keynote speakers (former coaches, teammates, or notable alumni)
 - Presentation of plaques or certificates to inductees

Halftime Recognition at a Major Game

- Inductees will be honored during halftime at a significant sporting event (e.g., homecoming football or basketball game).
 - Recognition elements:
 - Introduction of inductees on the field or court
 - Highlight reel displayed on the scoreboard
-





Other Business



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





Update

Capital Improvements



Other than the storefront doors, which are slated for a Spring Break install, I do not have much to report. We are shifting our construction and furniture planning meetings for the Phase 3 May-December 2025 projects to the logistical side of packing, moving, and program relocation.

We are also moving into the design and development process for the Summer 2026 projects.



Update

Vision 2030

WE SUPPORT



**Vision
2030**

Fulfilling the
Promise
of Public
Education

A foundation for accelerating
District 126 progress toward our
preferred state in 2030

2025 Board of
Education Update

Tuesday, 3/18/25

School District Strategic Planning 101

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT



It will be the guide the board and superintendent use to align leadership and improvement efforts.

It involves creating a vision, setting goals, deciding on actions, mobilizing resources, regular measurement and allows for adjustment as needed.

Our District 126 strategic plan must be a living, breathing entity—a force of accountability that guides us through a clear roadmap of purposeful, continuous improvement.

Where do we want to be as a public school district by 2030?



Vision 2030



Scan to learn more, or visit
IllinoisVision2030.com

Vision 2030 Pillars

38 Initiatives

Future-Focused Learning

- College & Career Exploration
- Enhance Student Safety
- Educator Pipeline
- Curriculum & Instructional Flexibility

Shared Accountability

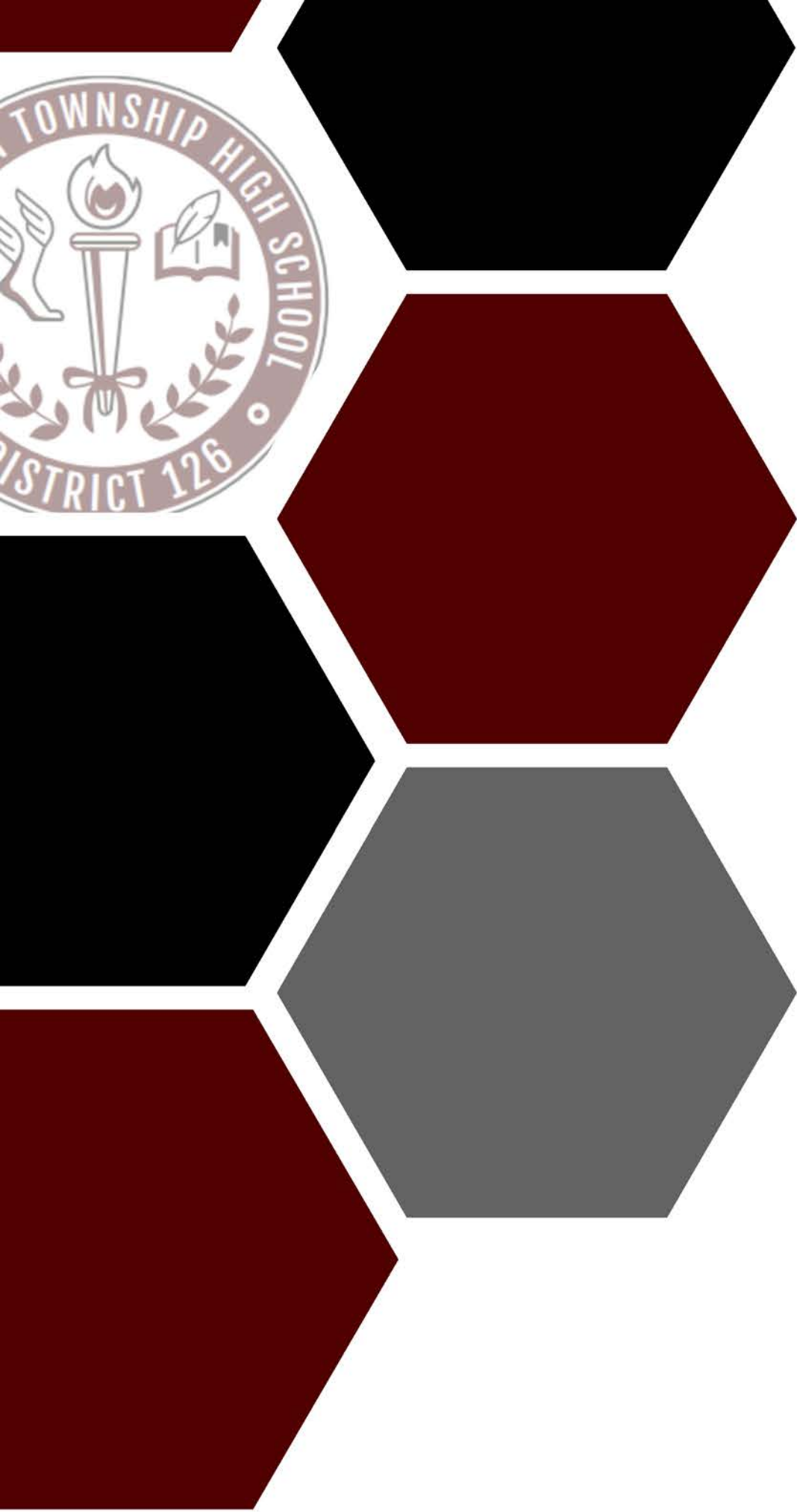
- Timely and Useful Assessments
- Accountability System More Flexible & Holistic
- Reform mandate process

Predictable Funding

- Protect EBF
- Pension reform
- Equitable Statewide Funding for Capital and Safety Needs
- Financial Flexibility

Comparing Vision 2030 Pillars & Priorities

	Illinois State Board of Education	Zion-Benton Township High School District 126
Future-Focused Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College and Career Exploration • Enhance Student Safety • Educator Pipeline • Curriculum and Instructional Flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly define and support multiple measures of college and career readiness for day 721. • Enhance student safety and well-being • Focus on both the recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff
Shared Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely and Useful Assessments • Accountability System More Flexible and Holistic • Reform Mandate Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the District's Community Outreach Plan • A focused partnership with foundational districts • Use and integrate the Illinois School Report Card
Predictable Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect EBF (Evidenced-Based Funding) • Pension Reform • Equitable Statewide Funding For Capital and Safety Needs • Financial Flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 126 5-year Financial Plan • Implement the District's 10-year Facilities Master Plan • Establish a District 126 Foundation



Next Steps

Pillars

Priorities

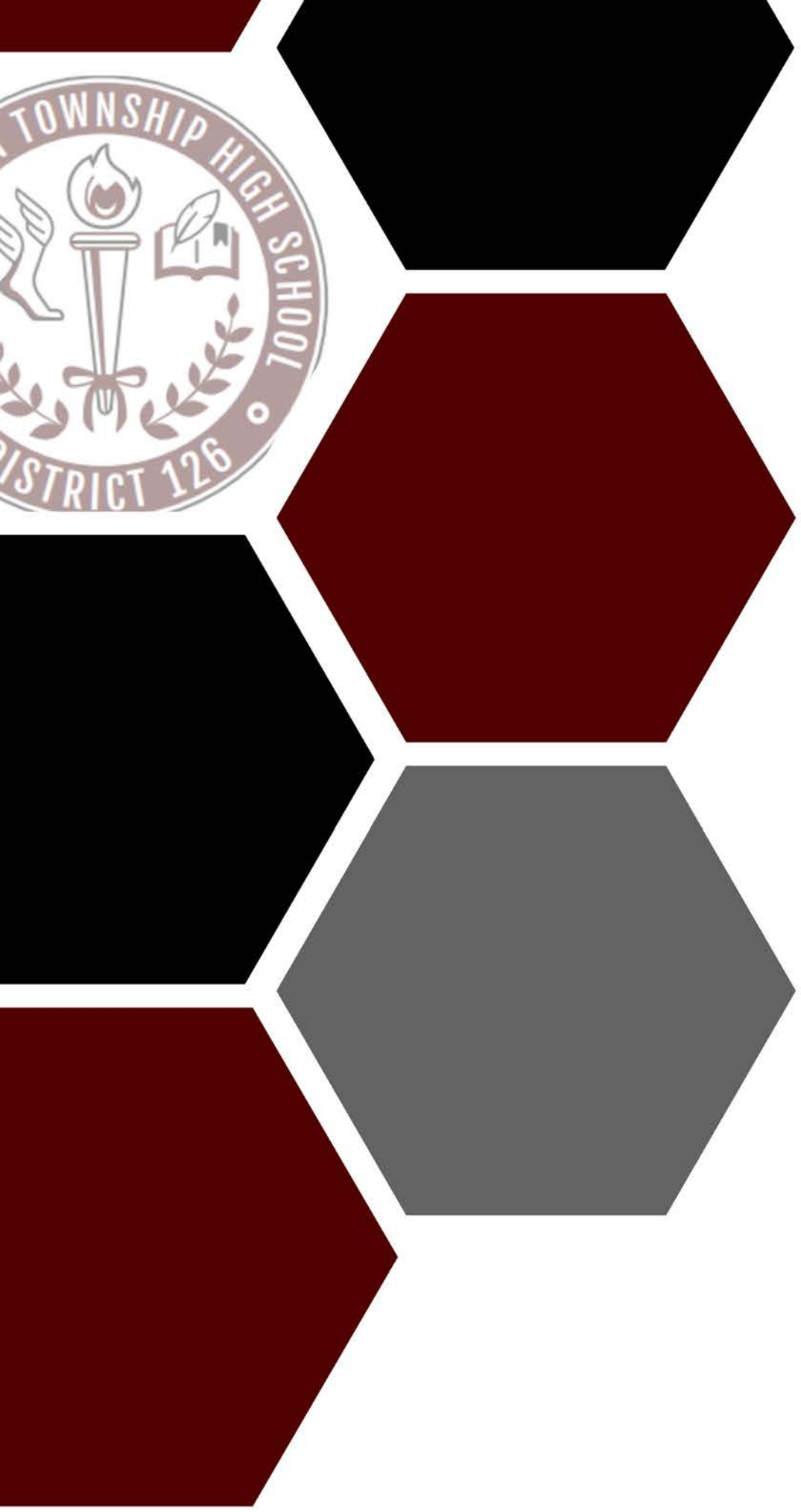
Commitments

Action Plans

Key Performance Indicators



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Timeline

Vision 2030 Completion



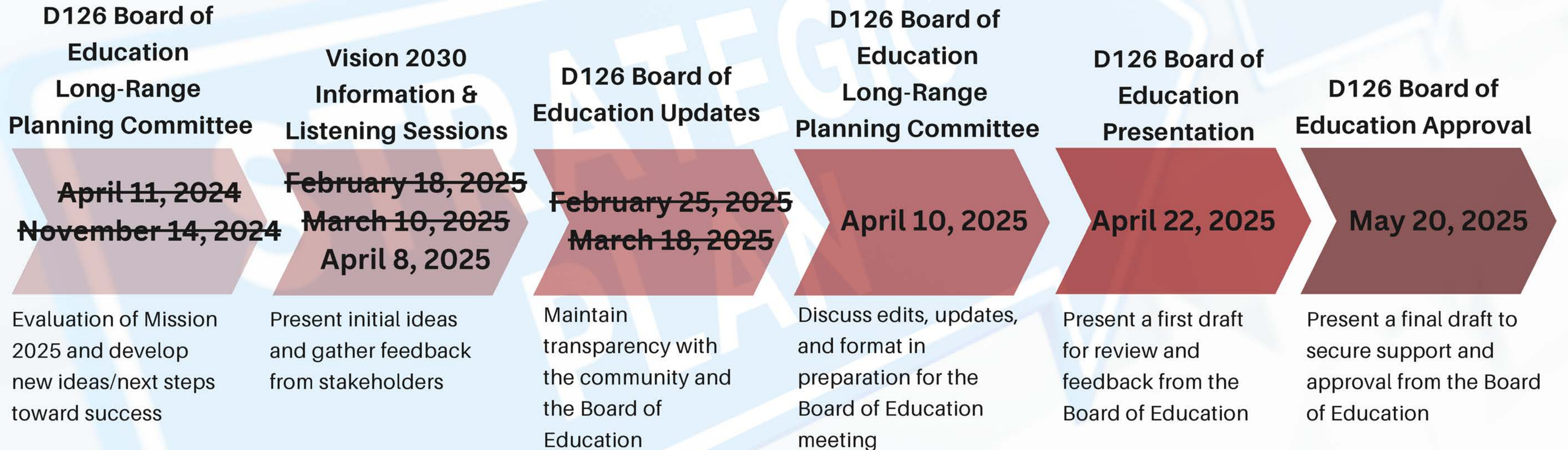
ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
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VISION 2030

ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 126 NEW 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Final Stages Timeline: Plan Creation to Board of Education Approval



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Closed Session



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

