



Brookline High School

2020 Working Group Meeting

On May 27, 2014, a group of BHS administrators, as well as representatives from Brookline High School's (BHS's) 2020 Working Groups, a collection of BHS faculty members who are inquiring into the future of the school's programming and educational goals, participated in a three-hour Educational Visioning meeting facilitated by Symmes, Maini and McKee Associates (SMMA) and New Vista Design. The purpose of the meeting was to kick-off the high school study process and give each 2020 Working Group an opportunity to report out on its progress and ideas as connected to its vision for the future of the school.

BHS's 2020 Working Groups have spent the past school year (2013-2014) researching the following focus areas connected to 21st century teaching and learning:

- Data Use
- College and Career Center
- Coordination of After School Supports
- CTE Pathways
- Senior Year Alternatives
- STEM and STEAM
- Global Options/Local Opportunities
- Cultural Proficiency

During the May 27 workshop, each Working Group shared its process, progress and priorities, after which small, mixed-groups of participants collaborated on preparing a SCOG (Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities, and Goals) Analysis of BHS's academic program and facility.





Brookline High School 2020 Working Group Meeting

Meeting Attendees:

May 27th (3-6pm)	
Mary Burchenal	Eng chair
Teddi Jacobs	Health/Fitness chair
Anthony Meyer	Dean
Owen Minott	Spec Ed admin
Scott Butchart	Dean
Dan Bresman	Alt program chair
Sarah Orlov	Spec Ed admin
Jim Henry	Spec Ed admin
Lenny Libenzon	Guid chair - 2020 Coll Career Center
Alicia Mitchell	Visual Arts chair
Arnie Marcus	CTE chair and 2020 - CTE
Agnes Alberola	World Lang chair
Josh Paris	Math chair
Rachel Eio	2020 - Global
Brittany Stevens	2020 - Senior Yr, Coll Career Center
Astrid Allen	2020 - Global
Kara Lopez	Alt program counselor
Kari Buys	2020 - STEAM
Lexi Thomas	2020 - Cultural Proficiency
Bridget Knightly	2020 - After School Supports
Susan Moreno	2020 - After School Supports
Deb Holman	Headmaster
Hal Mason	Asst Headmaster





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2020 Working Group SCOG Analysis

Brookline High School administrators, along with a group of faculty leaders who have been involved in the BHS 2020 Working Group process, engaged in a “SCOG Analysis” of what they see as their current strengths, challenges, opportunities and goals with regard to the BHS program and facility.

The following is a compilation of participants’ responses and ideas.

BHS Facility SCOG Analysis



STRENGTHS

- Like BHS building – has a sense of history and purpose
- Diverse, big, pretty spaces
- Quad – (indoor/outdoor), look outdoors (windows)
- Some collaborative spaces (benches/tables)
- Outdoor space
- Natural light
- Atrium
- Centrally located Library
- Art space/gallery
- Four buildings create campus feel
- College feel – comprehensiveness
- Space for alternative programs
- Partnerships (sharing space): BATV, REC, Adult Ed
- Digital Labs
- Athletic space
- History (plaques, old wood, preservation)
- Residential neighborhood – students walk or take the T
- Proximity to T



CHALLENGES

- Sharing space with other organizations and programs
- Residential neighborhood makes it hard to expand
- Feeling cramped within existing instructional space (intimacy vs. feeling cramped)
- Building capacity – is it safe to bring all students here?
- Anonymity of hallways – students are not always supervised
- Carpeting
- A/C
- No places for student to hang out
- Cafeteria (acoustics!)
- Cafeteria and lunch spaces
- No good space for faculty – no common lunch space
- Need both student and teacher collaboration spaces
- Creating a culture of innovation
- Multiple buildings – some learning is isolated
- Too few large and flexible spaces for speakers and performances
- No extra commons space for visiting groups
- PARKING!
- Parking with increased traffic
- Oddly utilized (unsafe?) first floor
- Tappan space needs reimaging
- We need collaboration and design spaces
- Teachers with young kids – space for kids





BHS Facility SCOG Analysis (continued)



OPPORTUNITIES

- Accessibility: the T allows students to “get our and onward”
- User friendly Student Commons and Café that can be used all day+
- The concept of “neighborhoods” = keep school small... but how to construct?
- CTE Program and space exists, how to re-purpose and build one?
- CTE/SYP/CC Center/STEAM – create space linkages between them
- Dean/Assoc. Dean structure – is it right spatially and structurally?
- Explore how the length of the school day affects use of the building
- Explore online learning
- Does our space crunch force us to rethink credit and graduation requirements?
- What other entities can use our space after hours? – Community College
- Time as space – thinking differently about schedule
- Better displays of who we are
- Learning outside BHS walls – global and community learning
- Better supervision – glass walls in hallways
- Create more flexible spaces, including intimate spaces
- Event spaces
- We have great ideas and can solve problems



GOALS

- Make BHS home to ALL students
- Make a user-friendly cafeteria
- Flexible common meeting spaces (many!) for presentations and groups visiting
- Tappan Gym renovation / underutilized
- Innovation space – STEAM/STEM Lab
- Collaboration space for classes/groups
- Access to tools outside of school hours
- Hold on to historical feel of building
- Welcome community partners
- Spaces that support innovative learning
- Encourage movement



BHS Academic Program SCOG Analysis



STRENGTHS

- Great staff
- Huge breath of curriculum
- Travel opportunities (exchanges)
- High achieving student body with enriched home lives
- Teach all students
- Excellent college prep
- Flexible department offerings (autonomy)
- Variety of alternative programs



CHALLENGES

- Lack support for culturally disadvantaged student to take AP
- Lack of diversity among high level classes
- Homework: lack of coordination – too much
- Don't teach 21st century skills well
- Lacking emotional support for regular ed students
- Lacking technology and training for differentiation



OPPORTUNITIES

- Redefine how we teach:
 - Flip classroom
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Collaboration
- Redesign schedule
- 21st Century Fund – innovative academics
- More robust CTE/Vocational programs
- Opportunities to collaborate with communities and industry
- Burst “silo” philosophy as colleges become more innovative (integrate across disciplines)



GOALS

(See Opportunities above)

- More collaboration with regard to space, academics and electives
- Bringing in outside professionals
- Make school inviting and garner enthusiasm
- More ways to obtain credits, including flex schedules
- Internships
- More flexible offerings that tap into real life experience