

SCOG Analysis

5.27.14

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





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

