Rebuilding a School and Rebuilding a Community

The Path to Reinventing Fremont High School

FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL OAKLAND CALIFORNIA

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QUATTROCCHI KWOK ARCHITECTS

Meet your Speakers

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Agenda

- Oakland and Fremont High School Context and History
- Project Overview
- Lessons Learned
- Results and Impact
- Discussion

Community Ownership

History and Context

City of Oakland and Fremont High School

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East Oakland

Fremont High School

EXIT

ADAM SMITH
CHAMPS
of 1978
The KITTENS

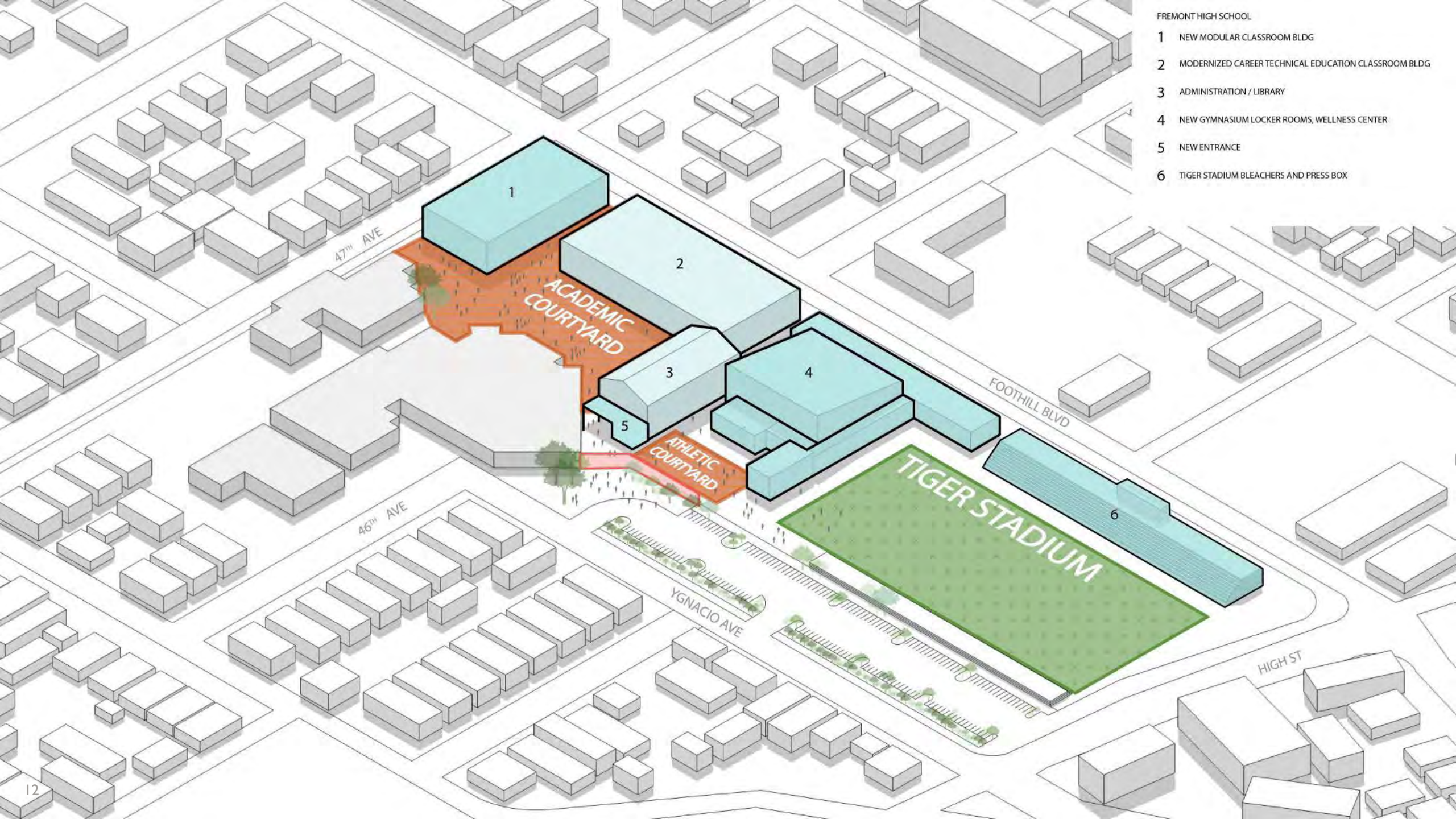
Challenges

- Issues of neglect and dysfunction
- Organizational dynamics added layers of complexity
- Charter schools in Oakland
- Academics/Small schools
- Enrollment decline
- Instability in leadership and vision for the school

Lost Community Ownership and Connection

Project Overview

- Scope:
  - New 12 classroom building
  - New gym, wellness center and stadium
  - Modernized CTE building
  - New Admin entry and re-clad library
- Budget:
  - $131M Total Project Cost
  - $97M Construction Cost

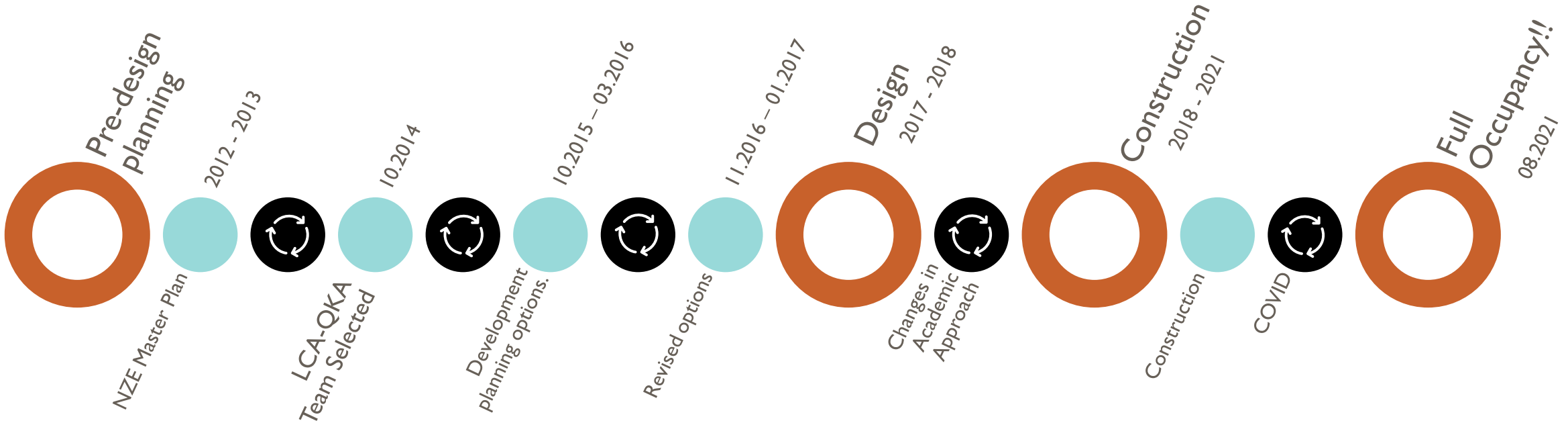

FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL
1 NEW MODULAR CLASSROOM BLDG
2 MODERNIZED CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM BLDG
3 ADMINISTRATION / LIBRARY
4 NEW GYMNASIUM LOCKER ROOMS, WELLNESS CENTER
5 NEW ENTRANCE
6 TIGER STADIUM BLEACHERS AND PRESS BOX
1
2
3
4
5
6
ACADEMIC COURTYARD
ATHLETIC COURTYARD
TIGER STADIUM
47TH AVE
46TH AVE
FOOTHILL BLVD
YGNACIO AVE
HIGH ST

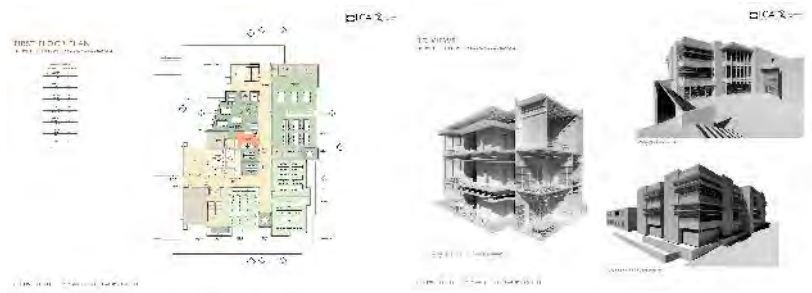
FREMONT

Sustainability

- ZNE Master Plan
- CHPS Verified Project
- High Indoor Environmental Quality
- Energy and water efficient
- Daylighting and exterior shading

Project Timeline





Lessons Learned

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Form a Discussion Group of 4

- Introduce yourselves
- 2:00

02:00

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None

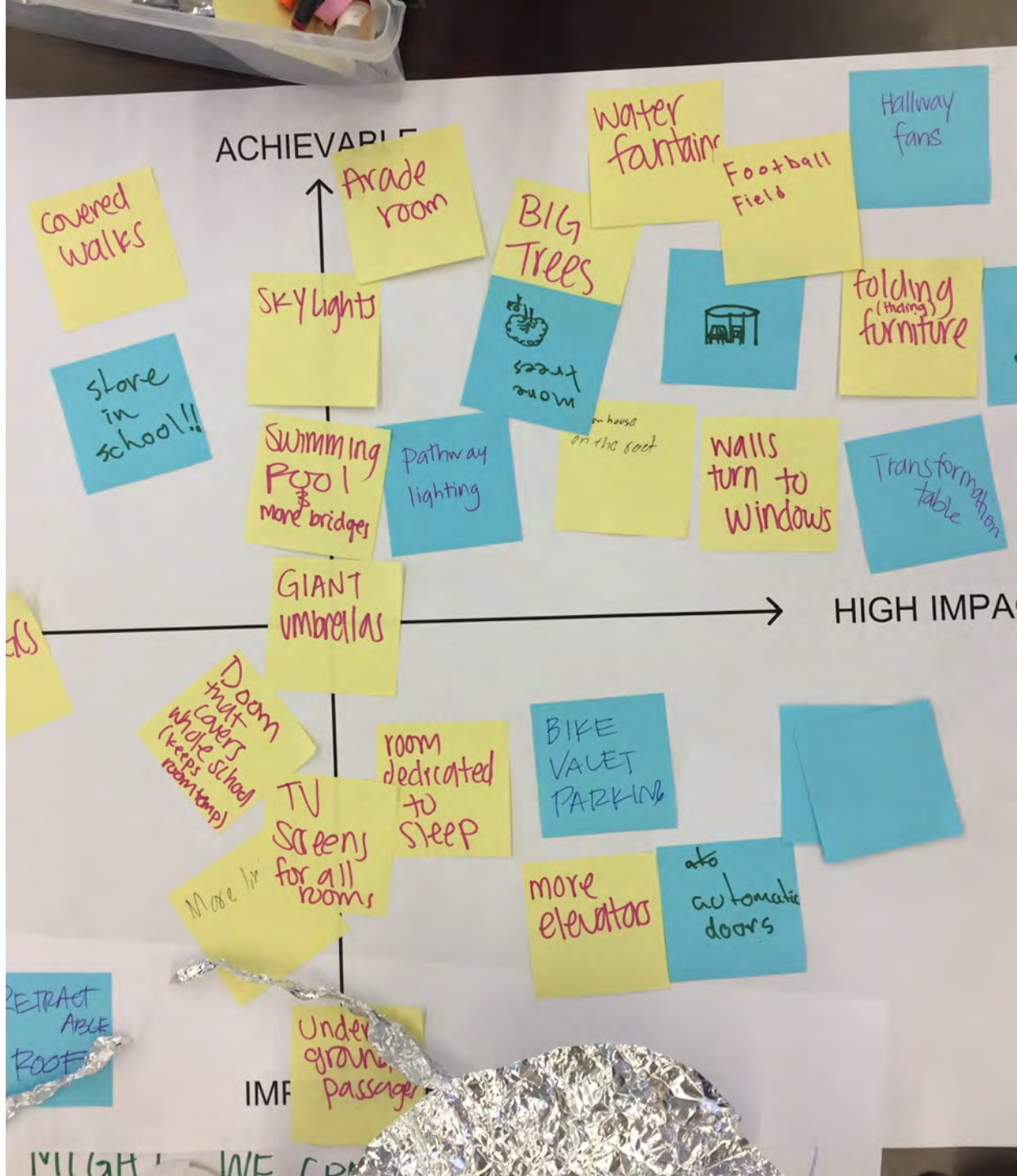
Breaktime for PowerPoint by Flow Simulation Ltd. Pin controls when stopped

HOW CAN A FACILITIES PROJECT RE-BUILD COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP?

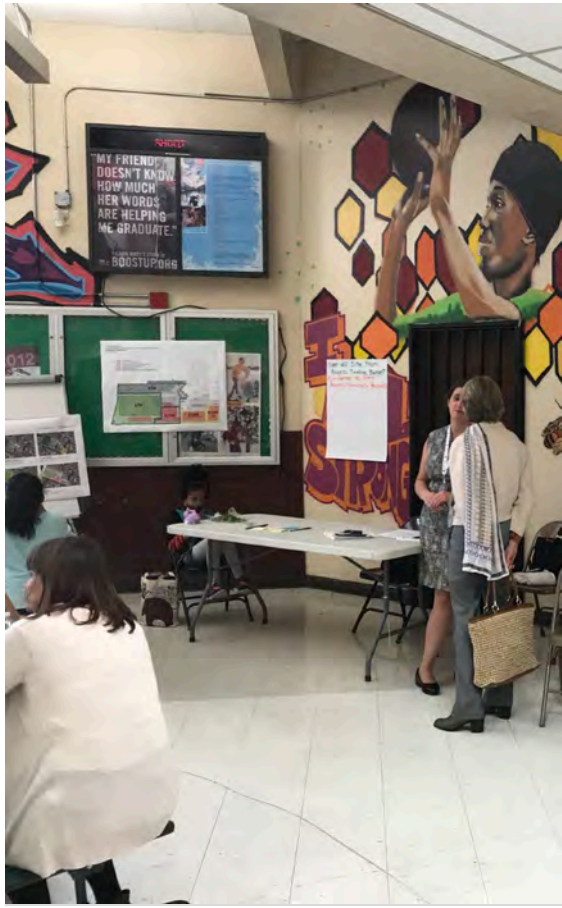
1. Community Engagement is Foundational

Consistent and Organized

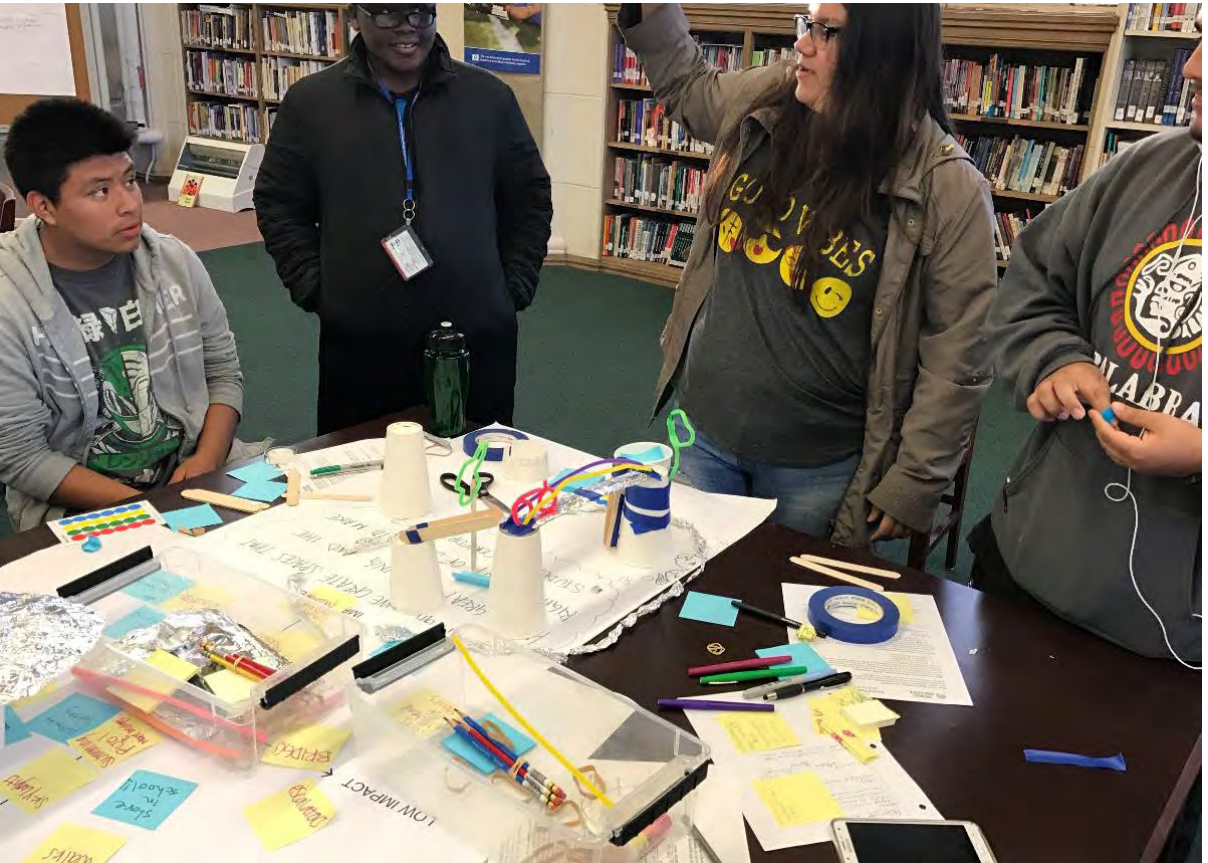
- Planning through Construction
- External communications to keep community informed
- Driven by District policy and community expectations
- Partnership between District, School and Design Team

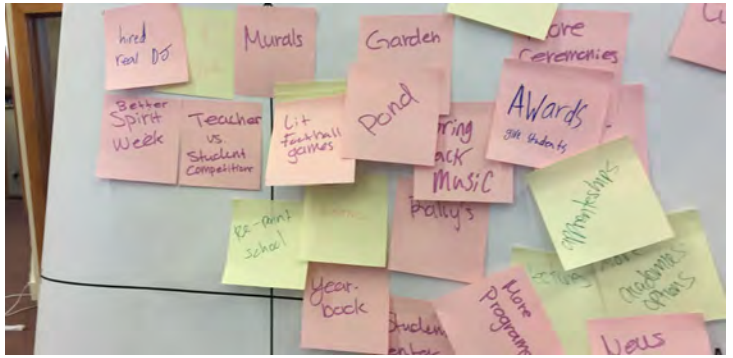


COMMUNITY MEETINGS



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT





Faculty Meetings

Shared Vision and Purpose

- Need to get something done
- Support Students and Families
- Connect to the Community
- Support academic programs
- Create a sense of pride and *ownership* in Fremont HS

Organized advocacy

- **Consistent Committee representing the Community**
  - Engage with people who are the most vocal
  - Find people who are genuinely engaged and care
  - Need to have availability to participate
  - Use it to draw people into the school community
- **Diverse team with connections to different constituent groups**
- **Know when to rally support around specific issues**
- **Make sure that rationale and communication about decision making is clear**
- **Over communicate – in absence of information people make things up**

Leadership

Nydia Baez

Tom Skjervheim

Tim White

Kenya Chatman

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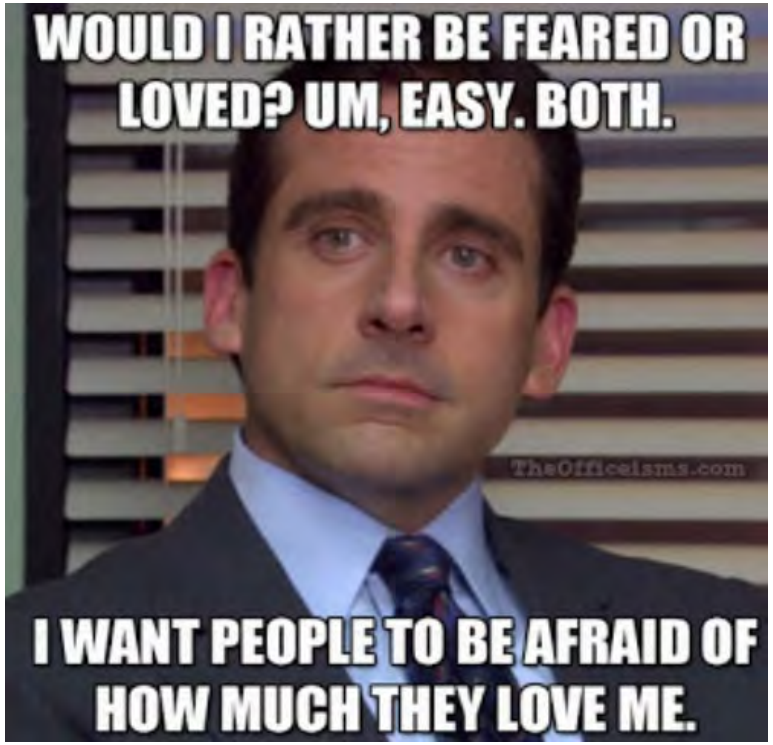
Conversation 1 of 3

- Share an example of leadership in action relative to Community Engagement.



2. Design and Decisions must be Driven by Educational Program

Architecture and Engineering

Linked Learning Academy

- Hands on curriculum in design, engineering and construction
- Flexible lab spaces for fabrication and design
- Outdoor work area
- Existing wood shop
- Connected classrooms

Digital Media Academy

Linked Learning Academy

- Video recording studio
- Audio recording booths
- Editing and production lab
- Connected sports venues and classrooms

Academic Classrooms

- New general education classrooms
- State of the art science labs
- Flexible learning spaces for different teaching styles

Athletics and Wellness

- Fitness Center
- Community Wellness Clinic
- Locker rooms
- Gymnasium
- Full size football field and stadium

Conversation 2 of 3

- How do you foster student ownership of a space?

02:00

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3. Have the ‘Right’ Team

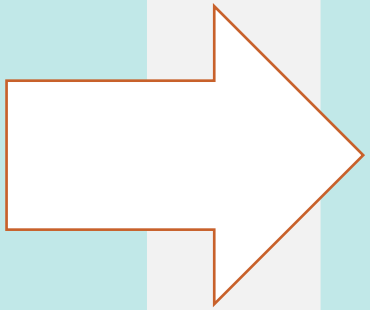
Approach

- Listen
- Care about the project and the community
- Start from a place of Trust
- Work to understand the needs of the school and community
- Communicate options clearly and honestly to help make decisions

Change in Approach

Manage

- Traditional School design
- Rigid structures, schedules, layouts
- Focused on controlling student bad behavior
- “School is not for us”
- Based in fear
- Has contributed to inequity
- “cells and bells” design



Trust

- Next Generation Schools
- Trust flows from:
  - Society to…
  - Educational Leaders to…
  - Teachers to…
  - Students
- Students feel safe and welcome
- Based on love and compassion
- Community and student ownership
- “This school is for me”
- Flexible and dynamic designs

EXPERIENCE

Conversation 3 of 3

- What spirit animal should a facilities team have and why?

02:00

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Breaktime for PowerPoint by Flow Simulation Ltd. Pin controls when stopped

4000
1000

FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL
2000

GYMNASIUM
5000

HOME
PERIOD
GUEST
FOULS
PLAYER FOUL
FOULS
SCORE
MATCH
SCORE
EXIT

Impact on the Students

- Enrollment has increased from 400 to over 1000
- Students feel more welcome, valued and appreciated
- Free and safe to express themselves and find who they are

Impact on the Community

- ‘Fremont is a feeling’
- Conversation with parents and families has gone beyond safety to the whole academic experience
- Welcoming entry helps people feel valued
- Creates more safe space for students and communities

Thank you!

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