



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



Facilities Committee Presentation - Schematic Design

LIGON MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL



Agenda

- Project Overview
- Site Constraints
- Proposed Site Plan
- Proposed Building Plans
- Schedule / Phasing

WCPSS FD&C Team

Elizabeth Sharpe, Senior Director

Elizabeth Wakeford, Senior Building Planner

Alice Reese, Senior Site Planner

Project Design Partner

Katherine Peele, Chief Practice Officer, LS3P

Carmen Cauthen, Historian

Kayla Sparks, Intern, LS3P



Ligon Legacy Committee Tasks



Connector

Help identify people and stories that need to be included.

Trust Builder

Create space for others to share openly and honestly

Story Carrier

Bring forward what matters - what should be remembered.

Bridge Builder

Carry voices from the community into this room.

Documenting Ligon's Legacy



Community agrees new school needed

*Negro PTA Group Plans
Talk with School Board*

The decision was the outgrowth of a PTA meeting in the school last night, at which Superintendent of Schools Jesse O. Sanderson discussed the recent Peabody survey as it affected the Negro schools in Raleigh.

Primary objection to the site proposed by the school board was that the Negro population was moving gradually eastward in Raleigh and that Washington High is not centrally located. The new school, a spokesman explained, should be located in an area toward which the Negro population is gravitating.

However, Sanderson said that the school board had based its plans on the findings of the Peabody survey. The survey said the Negro population was concentrating in south Raleigh and apparently would remain in that area for quite some time.

Land Assembly Historical Research

- Identified the assembly of more than eleven parcels for the future campus.
- Documented the role of Black landowners and inherited family property.
- Confirmed the Housing Authority transfer and deed restriction for school use.
- Demonstrated that the school was deliberately sited within an established Black neighborhood.

Documenting Ligon's Legacy

Ligon Jr. Sr. High School opens 1953

177

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, RALEIGH CITY ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
March 3, 1953

Mr. Carnage recommended to the Board that the new Junior-Senior High School for Negroes be named the John W. Ligon Junior-Senior High School. Upon motion by Mr. Carnage, seconded by Mr. Powell, the Board unanimously

(over)

178

approved the name John W. Ligon Junior-Senior High School.

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

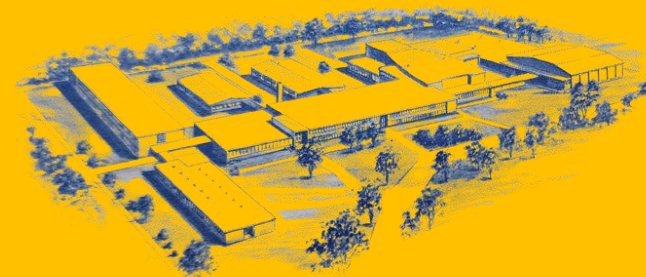
James E. Briggs
CHIEF

John O. Sanderson
SECRETARY

FIRST
Commencement Exercises
THE
Ligon
Junior-Senior High School



June 1, 1954 8:00 P.M.
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium
Raleigh, North Carolina



John W. Ligon High School

Documenting Ligon's Legacy

Community Documentation

- **Oral histories (continuing)**
- **Artifact collection (continuing)**
- **Alumni outreach (250+ contacts)**

Historical Research

- **Raleigh School Board minutes (1946–1954)**
- **Yearbooks (1954–present)**
- **Newspapers**
- **Peabody Report**
- **School siting deeds**

Documenting Ligon's Legacy

A recurring theme from interviews, surveys, committee discussions, and public engagement.

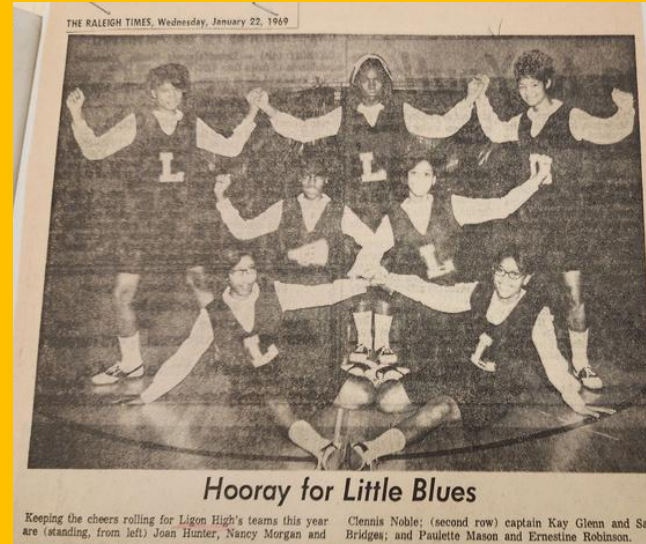
- **What the community says must be remembered**
 - **Ligon Was an Educational Community**
 - **Ligon Cultivated the Expectations**
 - **Relationships Were Central to the Educational Experience**
 - **Leadership Was Expected**
 - **Arts and Culture Were Essential**
 - **Ligon Produced Collective Identity**
 - **Legacy Educators Recognition**

Documenting Ligon's Legacy

My Responsibility

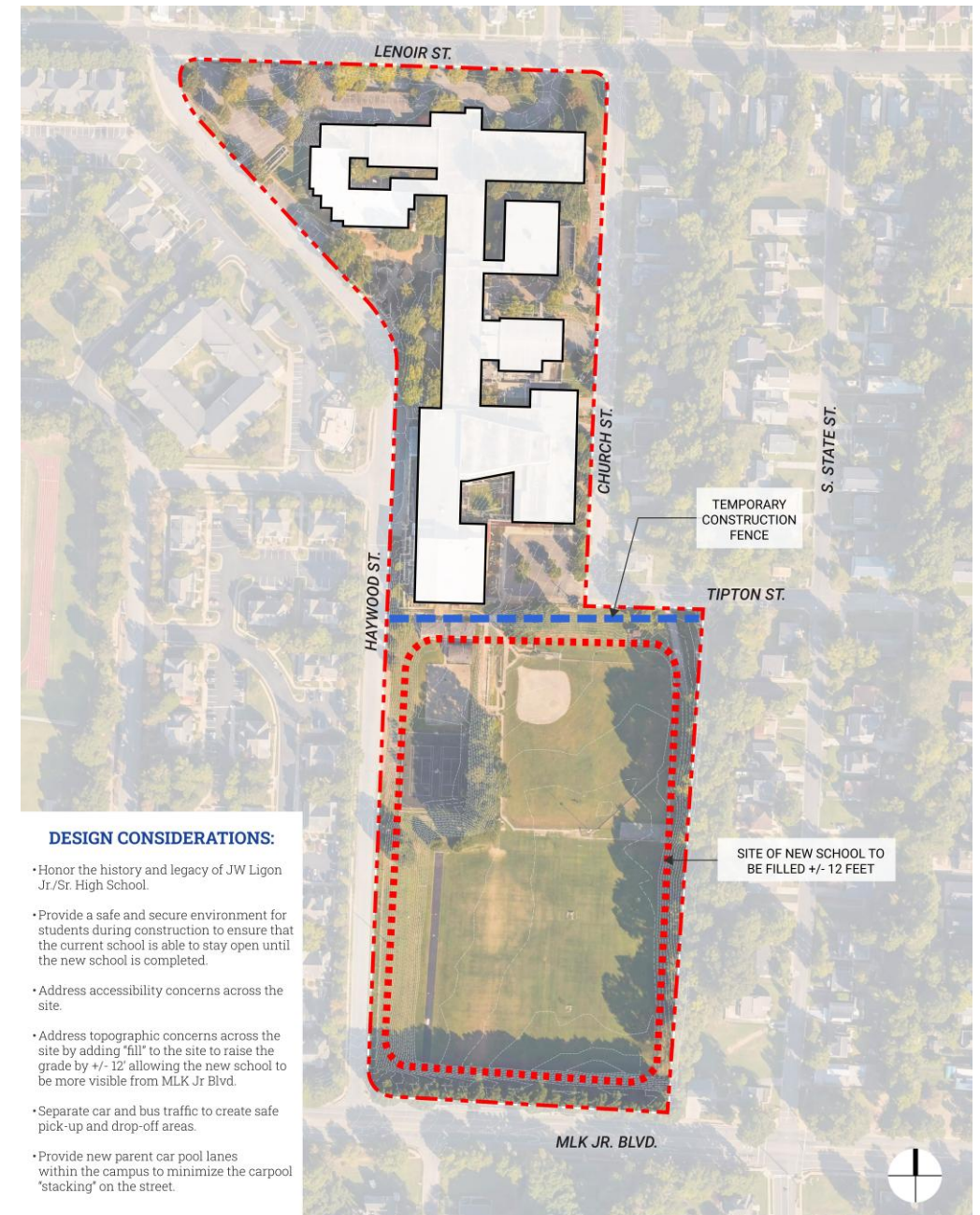
- **Tell the truth.**
- **The work is still underway.**
- **The history belongs to every generation.**
- **Trust is the foundation of this work.**

One School. Many Generations.



Site Constraints

- Size: **17 acres** (vs 24 acres WCPSS standard)
- **40 feet of topographic grade change** from Lenoir Street to MLK Jr. Blvd
- Existing School to stay occupied during construction (construction fencing)
- Existing ballfield site to be raised +/- 10 feet
- Create new bus queueing lane and parent carpool drive to address City of Raleigh traffic requirements



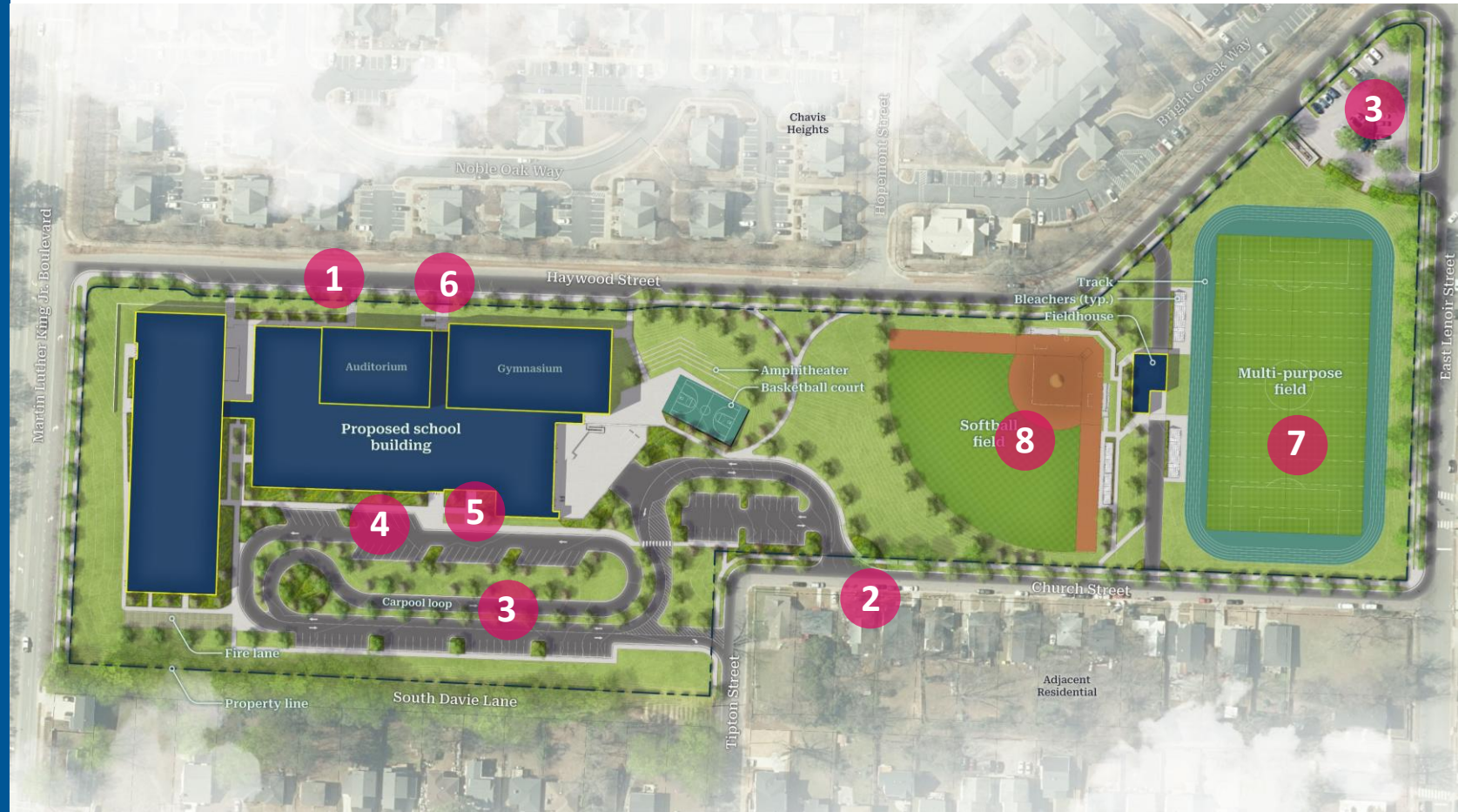
Phased Construction

1. Bus Lane/ Drop Off
2. Car Entrance
3. Staff Parking
4. Visitor Parking
5. Building Main Entrance
6. Haywood Street “Legacy” Entrance
7. Existing School (to Remain Operational until 2030)



Completed Site

1. Bus Drop Off
2. Car Entrance
3. Staff Parking
4. Visitor Parking
5. Building Main Entrance
6. Haywood Street "Legacy" Entrance
7. Multi-purpose Field: Soccer Football, Walking Path
8. Softball Field

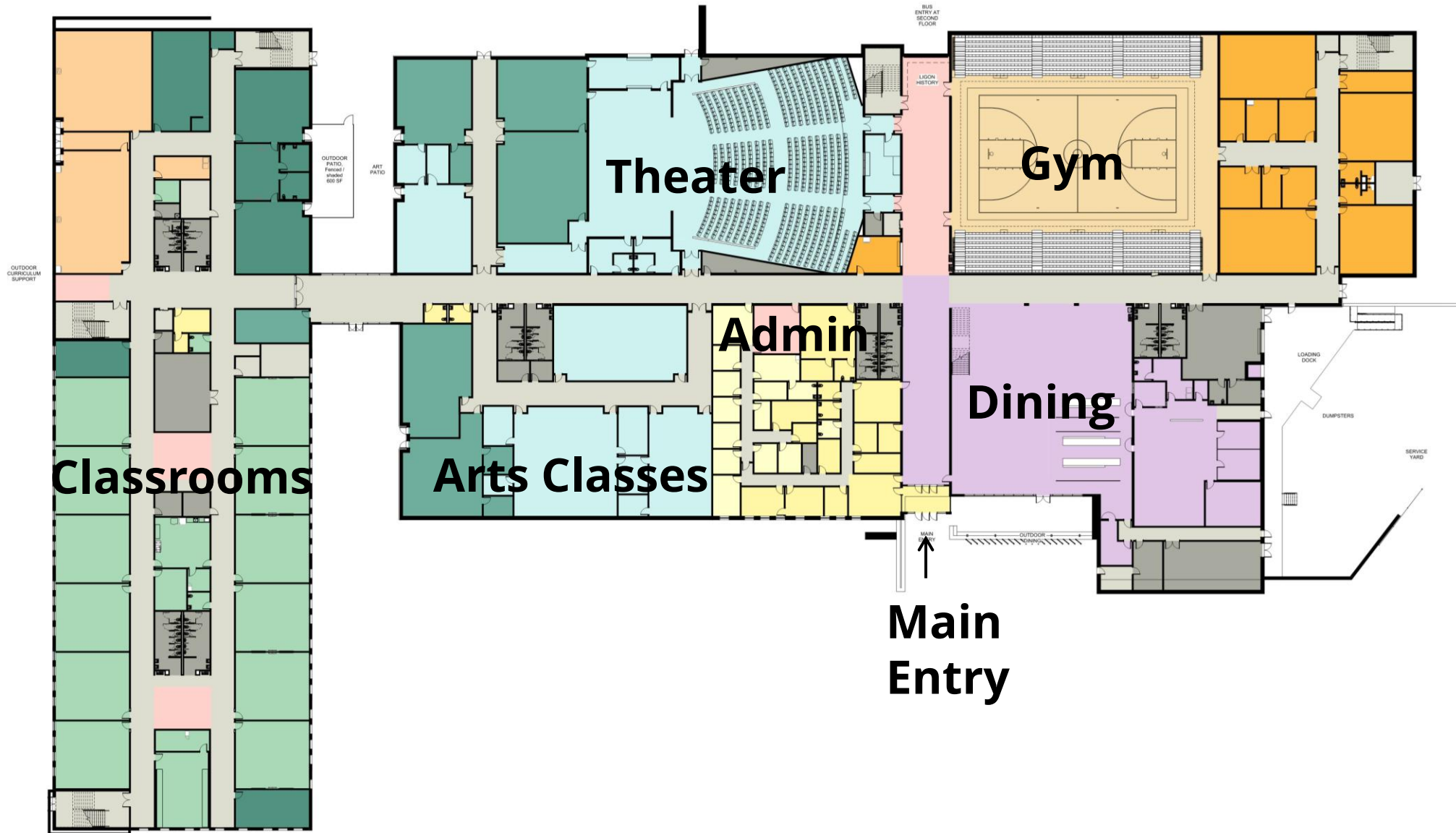


**Smaller site (17 acres
vs 24 acres typical):**

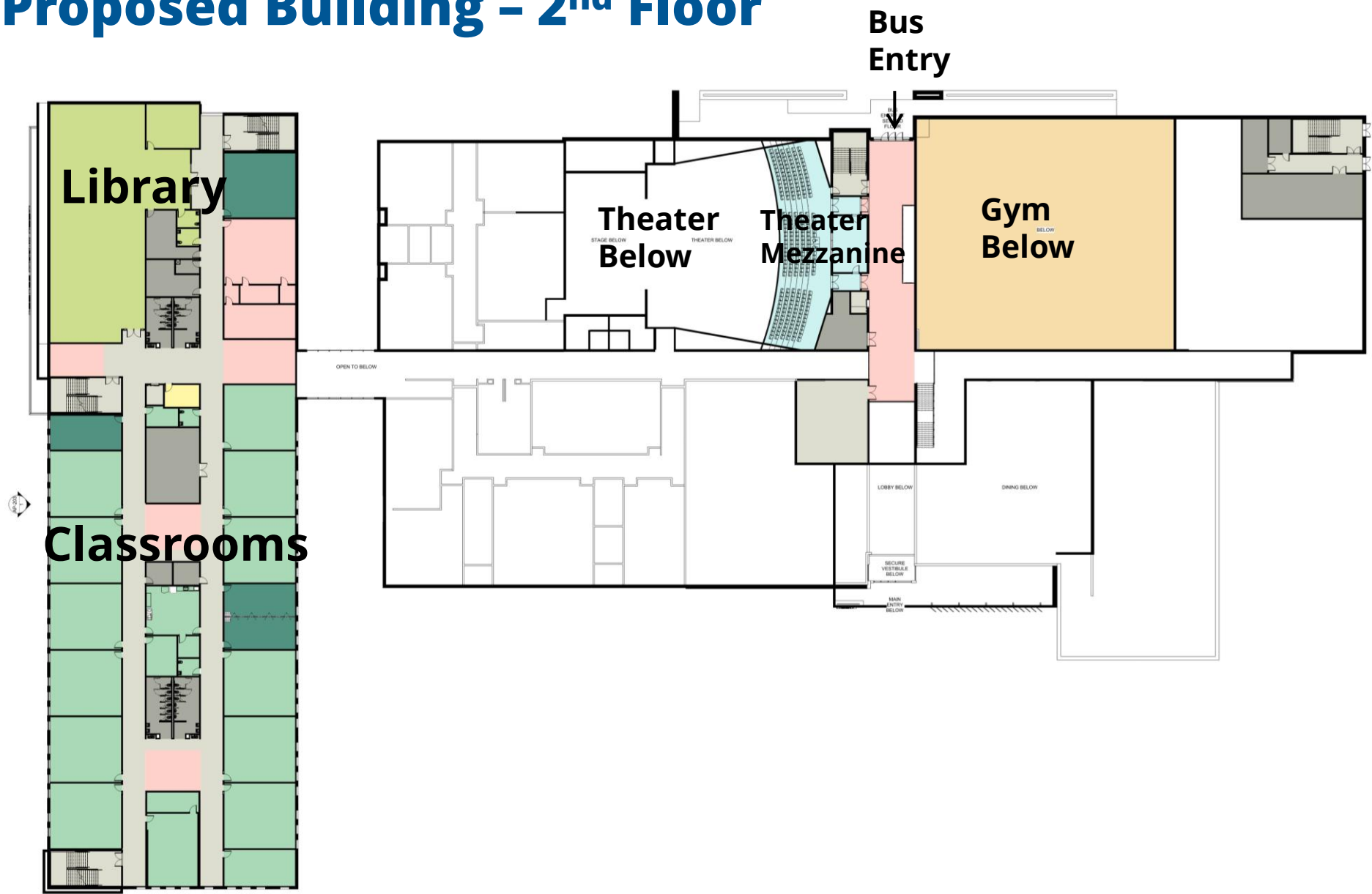
**Ligon site (shape and
size) limits ability to
incorporate
a regulation track**



Proposed Building - 1st Floor



Proposed Building - 2nd Floor



Proposed Building – 3rd Floor





Preliminary Concept – Haywood Street “Legacy” Entry

Schedule / Phasing

- **Design:** Complete Fall 2027
- **Phase 1 Site Work Bidding:** February 2027
- **Phase 1 Site Work Begins::** Summer 2027
- **Phase 2 Bidding:** October 2027
- **Phase 2 Construction:** Spring 2028
- **New Building Opens:** Spring/Summer 2030
- **Demo/New Ballfield Construction:**
Summer 2030
- **All Construction Complete:** Summer 2031





Thank you!

