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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Planning Meeting #3
Mason Community Learning Center
Thursday, February 5, 2004 @ 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance

J. Wheeler.....	AAG
J. Baumann.....	AAG
C. Schreckenberger.....	AAG
D. Loomis.....	Akron Public Schools
J. George.....	Akron Public Schools
C. Hansrote.....	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal.....	Akron Public Schools
L. Messina.....	Akron Public Schools
A. Shan.....	Student
G. Kalail.....	Akron Rec
J. Finley.....	City of Akron
T. Long.....	City of Akron
H. Foster.....	Mason Park Council
G. Moneypenny.....	Council Member
K. Stapleton.....	UA
D. Bolden.....	CAL
D. Lombardi.....	CPT
S. Lukacik.....	CPT
T. Evans.....	CPT
A. Babich.....	CPT
C. Isenhart.....	CPT
C. McVan.....	CPT
J. Nicolino.....	CPT
S. Parsons.....	CPT
K. Mulhauser.....	CPT
L. Bezbatchesenko.....	CPT
A. Rushanan.....	CPT
L. Boigegrain.....	
H. Day.....	
R. Todd.....	

Distribution

AAG Project Managers	
M. Salopek.....	AAG
D. Mitchell.....	AAG
D. Loomis.....	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal.....	Akron Public Schools
K. Ingram.....	Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan.....	City of Akron
T. Long.....	City of Akron
M. Williamson.....	City of Akron
D. Krutz.....	RKPS
L. Jennings.....	Burges and Burges

The following is a review of items discussed at the meeting:

- J. Wheeler presented the agenda for the evening's topics. First on the agenda was the Alliance school tour with photos. John asked all present if any questions arose during the field trip or if anyone had any comments.
 - Shelves and cubbies were discussed. Some members felt that the cubbies above the areas for coat storage should have doors so as not to look cluttered, and that these cubbies could be larger and closed with doors similar to upper style wall cabinets.
 - The teachers present liked the furnishings in the Alliance schools, especially the chairs.
 - J. Beal stated that general classroom furniture would be purchased and that existing classroom furniture would not be moved into the new Community Learning Center. Jim also stated that newer purchased furniture would move to the new Community Learning Center. APS assessed the existing furnishings and most did not meet current OSFC standards.
 - A member of the community questioned whether security measures will be taken in the new Community Learning Center and if exterior mounted cameras would be installed. J. Wheeler stated that telephones would be located in each classroom for emergencies and that the possibility of cameras internal for the building are still under discussion. J. George from APS stated that currently APS is in preliminary meetings to regroup their technology committee to discuss security measures in the new building. J. Beal noted that the possibility of installing cameras internal to the building could be aimed out towards the major entrances. It was noted again by a community member that they were concerned about children outside and used the example of a current case where a child was abducted on film, thus giving the police a description of the suspect. This community member felt that cameras are needed and that at least run a videotape 24 hours a day for exterior spaces. One parent suggested connecting the exterior cameras internally to the building to individual classroom televisions for monitoring during after school functions. J. Beal stated that the system installed in the Community Learning Center could be capable of this type of monitoring system. In their experience, exterior cameras get vandalized.
 - Cafetorium was discussed by J. Wheeler. One teacher noted that noise control could be an issue in a space this large and that some acoustical treatment would have to be made. It was also noted by the teachers present that movable wall partitions would be desired in certain classrooms. These classrooms with movable wall partitions could be located throughout the school, but not required between each adjoining classroom. The configuration suggested would locate a movable wall partition in between two large kingergarden rooms for one large group meeting space as well as possibly between higher grade levels, such as one for the 3rd graders and one for the 5th graders.

- J. Wheeler presented some consistent themes that AAG and APS has noticed from the area P.O.R. meetings. One major theme consistent throughout the District is the student enrollment number. This is not only a major concern at Mason Elementary, but also other schools and is being addressed by AAG and APS. Another theme common throughout the P.O.R. process is the number of storage rooms as well as storage size. In the individual roll-up sleeves meeting, storage has been discussed, but needs to be further analyzed for specific grade needs. The third consistent theme noted is accommodating staff positions currently not in the OSFC program that exists today in the Akron Public Schools. Some examples of this are room for interpreters, psychologists, Title 1 tutors and itinerant at Mason which currently do not have a specific room for a home office. Provisions need to be made by the individual schools to provide areas for these interpreters. J. Wheeler noted that further analysis of the P.O.R. would have to be made at the next roll-up sleeves meeting and that a list of these positions has already been received by AAG from Mr. Lombardi.
- Review of schematic site plan options – J. Wheeler presented four schemes for the site plan review of Mason Elementary, labeled A, B, C and D. John also noted that provisions had been made in each of these site plans to accommodate pedestrian and vehicular access to Mason Community Learning Center as well as to the existing recreation center. In addition to the four site plans presented, John also presented the pros and cons that AAG felt pertained to each of the site plans. Mr. Wheeler then asked the community and all present what they felt about each of the options.
 - Option A presented the proposed building at the end of Crouse Street with an exit off of East Exchange, south of the existing recreation center. This scheme maintained the existing playground to the south of the recreation center as well as maintained the existing ball fields of Mason Park. This scheme relocated the basketball courts to the south of the proposed building, as well as relocated the tennis courts to the south of the existing parking lot. Those present felt that this scheme did not provide enough parking, as well as vehicular circulation area for parents dropping off children, and buses. Concern was also raised with the potential of causing a hazard for children crossing the parking lot to the neighborhood to the east. It was also noted that this scheme did not engage the existing recreation center like envisioned originally. Some felt that if this scheme was to be adjusted, that one would make provisions to move the proposed building footprint more northward to engage the existing recreation center.
 - Option B located the proposed two-story Community Learning Center to the southeast corner of the site, maintaining existing parking off of Crouse Street with an entrance from East Exchange. The scheme also added new parking lots as well as drop-off area and building services. This scheme maintained all exterior recreation spaces already provided at Mason Park as well as utilizing the existing recreation center. Those present felt that the building was too far removed from the existing recreation center as well as too far removed from any vehicular access off of Exchange or adjacent streets.
 - Option C includes a proposed building footprint parallel to East Exchange Street. This Community Learning Center option has been tied into the existing recreation center. The scheme provides access to the parking off of Beaver Street, as well as utilizing the existing parking of Crouse Street. This scheme relocated one physical education field, but maintains the location of the existing baseball diamond, as well as tennis courts and basketball courts. Drop-off for this scheme is on East Exchange. Those present felt that access off of Exchange to an unloading and loading zone would not be desired due to heavy traffic on Exchange. One community member stated that the area of new drop-off is located at a blind spot on Exchange Street. It was also noted by Mason staff that not enough parking had been included into this option and that more parking would be required for staff as well as after school activities close to the building. Mason staff felt that this option presented the biggest problem for noise and visual distractions to the students and that a building close to Exchange Street would not be desired.
 - Option D maintained the existing softball and baseball diamonds, but relocated the existing tennis courts. The proposed building footprint would be L-Shaped with one portion parallel to Exchange Street while the other portion would be parallel to the existing parking lot off of Crouse Street. This scheme did not utilize the existing recreation center and the proposed Community Learning Center enveloped the footprint of the existing recreation center. The community members

present felt that this option, like Option A, did not provide enough parking as well as drop-off area and caused the same safety concerns for children crossing the east-most parking area as Option A. It was noted by a member of the cafeteria staff that provisions would have to be made in all four options to provide an access for a tractor trailer drop-off for lunch supplies. J. Wheeler noted that this is a new criteria that AAG hasn't been made aware of. He will review with APS and design accordingly. The community members also felt that Option D did not respond to the existing recreation center as an existing building. Accommodations would need to be made for programs that took place in the middle of the day during school, as well as before school begins. It was noted that the current recreation center accomplishes this. It was desired to maintain the current recreation center or provide a new space for the current recreation center programs. It was noted by a member of the City of Akron Recreation Staff that currently the recreation center is not programmed to its potential, but this does not eliminate the possibility for programming specific functions for the existing building. A member of Mason's staff noted that if the current recreation center was to be utilized on site that some provision should be made to restore the exterior image of it to coordinate with the new Community Learning Center for Mason.

- o C. Schreckenberger noted that all schemes shown tonight were first blushes for the site planning of the Mason Community Learning Center and that AAG and APS will take the comments and suggestions from this meeting and return at the next community planning meeting with revised site plans. All present felt that Option C was not desirable due to the fact that the building was positioned too close to Exchange for student activity and drop-off. T. Long stated that Mason is a unique site in an urban environment, due to the fact that it has large open areas for recreation that already exist. Some of the plans shown tonight try to preserve these existing recreation areas, but further analysis would need to be made following the comments this evening. Mr. Long also stated that the Mayor's original intention for the existing recreation center was to have rooms utilized internally to coincide with the program for the new Mason Community Learning Center. After analysis of the spaces were made in the existing building, AAG and APS realized that none of the spaces fit the criteria for the OSFC guidelines, thus the internal spaces would not benefit the new Community Learning Center. Further analysis would have to be made for the use of the existing recreation center by the City of Akron because of limited demand for the building's use. All present felt that the existing recreation center provides opportunity for further community involvement on the Mason site and that every provision should be made to maintain the existing building or to replace it with new.
- J. Wheeler presented the calendar for February and March. The next roll-up sleeves meeting will take place on February 11, 2004 at 2:45 p.m., followed by the next community planning meeting #4 on February 26, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. It was noted that a field trip to the Canton City Schools would take place on Tuesday, February 17, 2004. Buses would leave Mason for this meeting at 2:30 p.m.

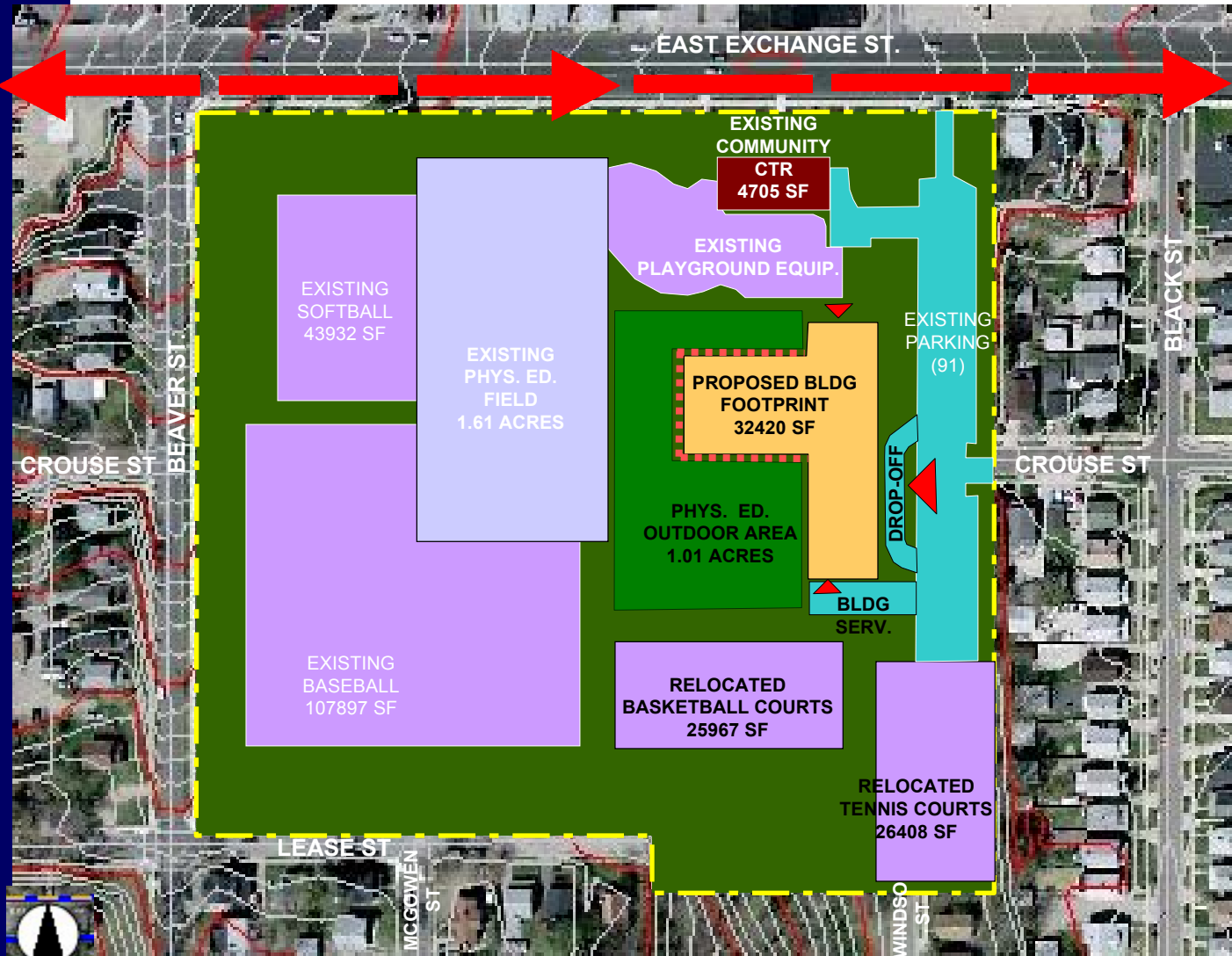
The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Attachments: Schemes A, B, C & D

The preceding is AAG's interpretation of the meeting. Any changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.

Proposed Site Plan Option A

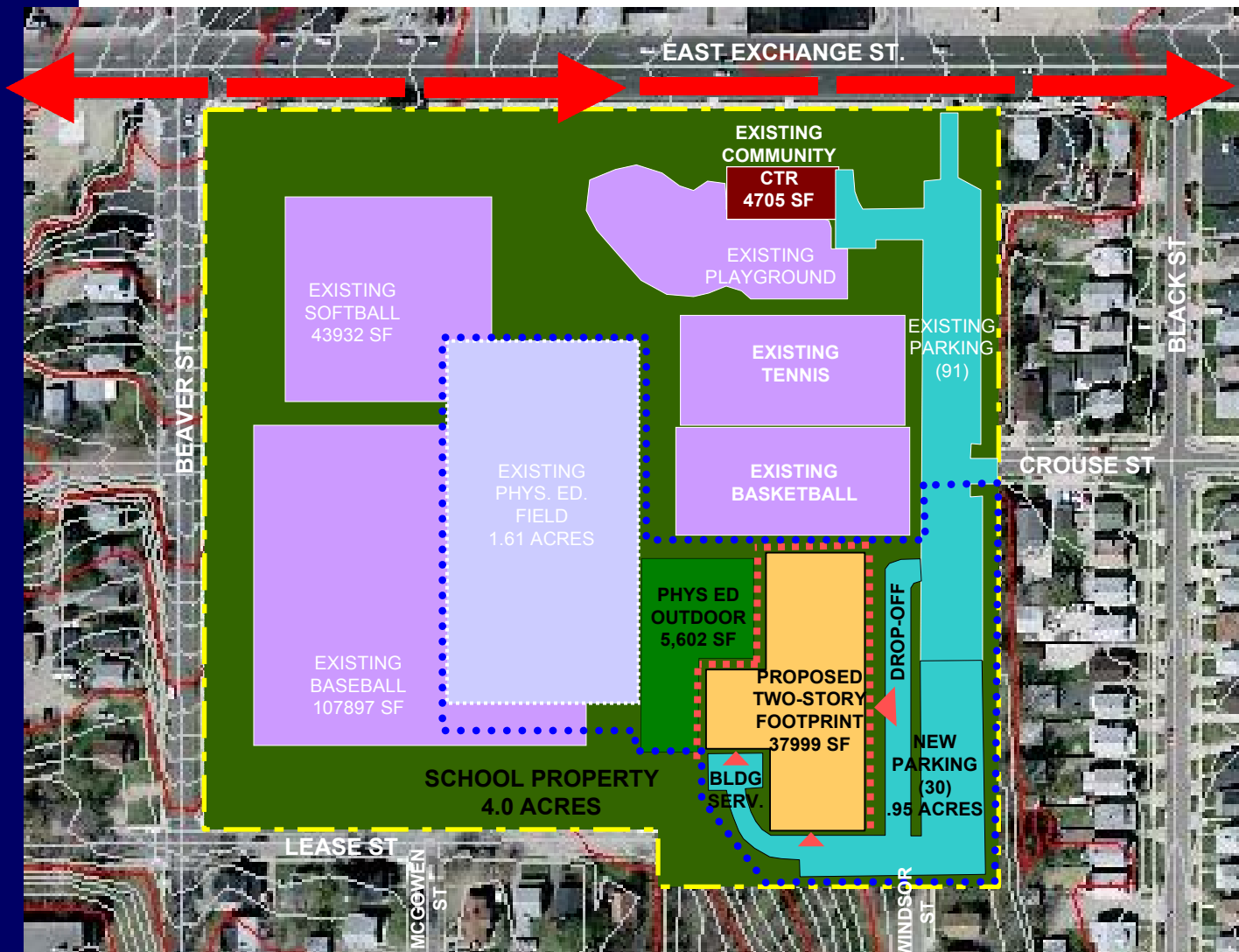
Mason Elementary



Final Site Plan

Proposed Site Plan Option B

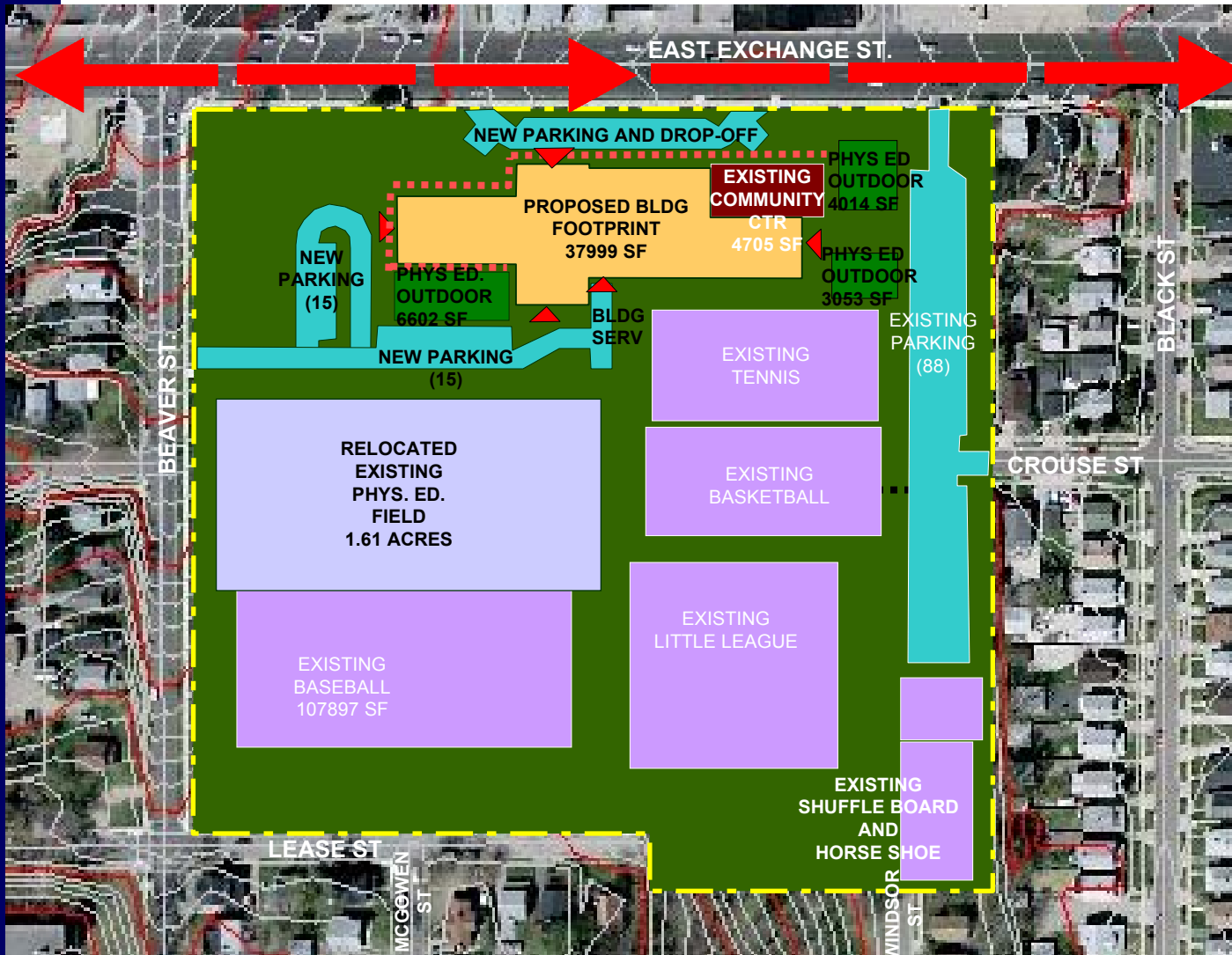
Mason Elementary



Final Site Plan

Proposed Site Plan Option C

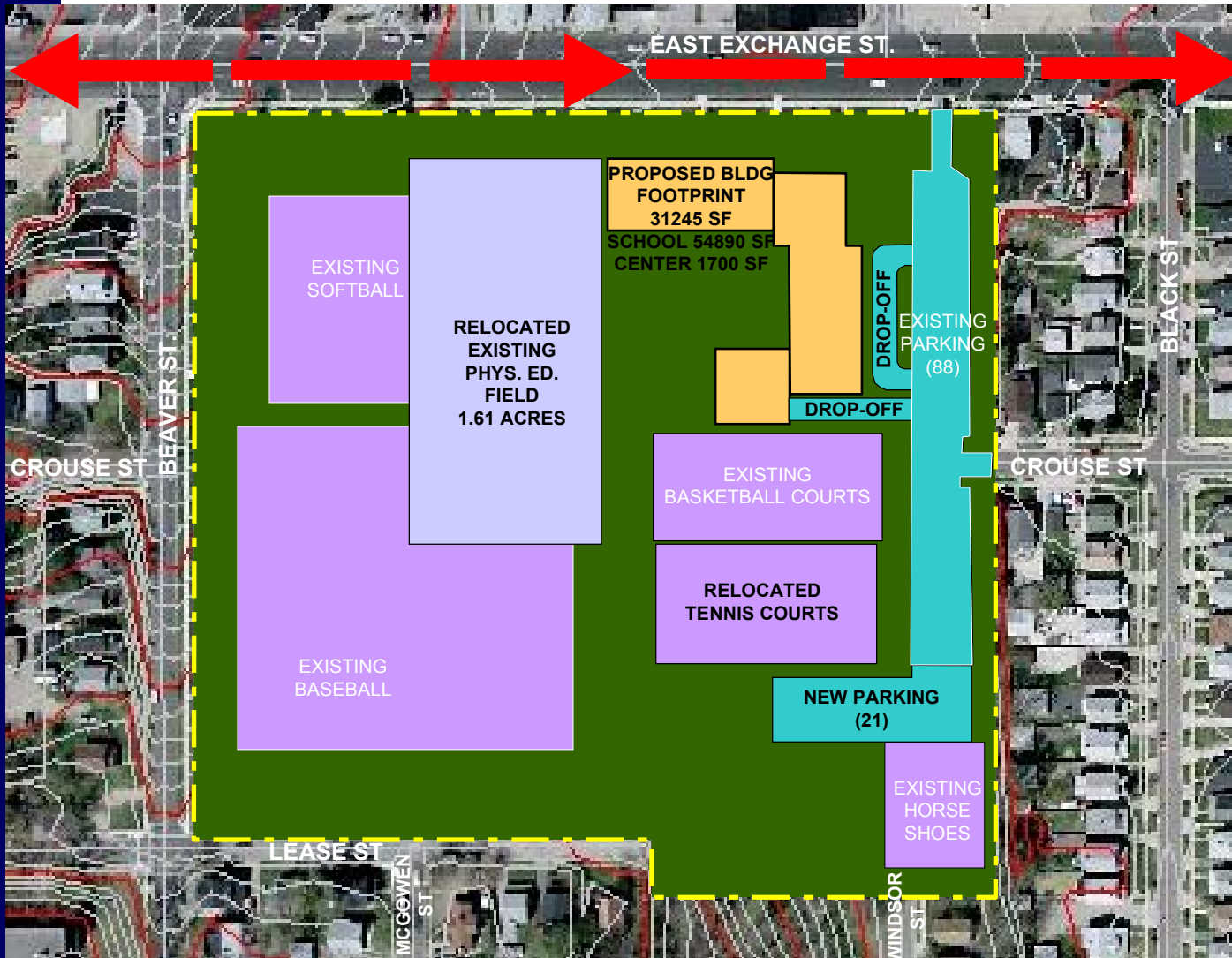
Mason Elementary



Final Site Plan

Proposed Site Plan Option D

Mason Elementary



Final Site Plan