

# **Darien High School Cafeteria Alternative Proposal**

## **RTM Education Committee**

**February 13, 2017**

### **Current BoE DHS Cafeteria Proposal: \$1,700,000**

This proposal includes new construction to physically expand the existing cafeteria space in order to accommodate an additional 60-70 students per lunch shift. At current capacity, per the fire code, the DHS Cafeteria legally seats 304 students.

However, according to the town fire marshal, the DHS Cafeteria only accommodates 304 students per shift because we use the most inefficient combination of tables and chairs, which requires a *minimum* of 15 square feet per student.

This proposal also includes noise abatement measures to reduce the overall noise level in the cafeteria.

### **Alternative DHS Cafeteria Proposal: \$36,507.90 (plus noise reduction)**

After speaking with the town fire marshal, the RTM Education Committee was able to determine that the seating capacity in the *existing* DHS Cafeteria space can be increased greatly simply by employing more efficient seating.

Based on information obtained from Mr. Lynch, the DHS Cafeteria space is 6,390 square feet, which does not include the hallway, snack area, or serving area. The small faculty lunch room provides an additional 360 square feet of space, *if needed*.

Per the town fire marshal, tables with fixed benches provide the most efficient form of seating requiring 18 inches of space per student. The total area of each table is 54 square feet (12' x 4.5'); the *total* footprint for all 30 tables would be 1,620 square feet.

Conservatively, we are estimating that the required square footage for open areas around the tables is equal to the square footage of the tables (the fire marshal didn't have the exact figure, as he was out in the field today), which brings the total square footage requirement to 3,240 square feet vs. a total of 6,390 square feet available currently, not including the faculty lunch room.

Next we looked at egress routes and the minimum required capacity in the event of an evacuation. The fire marshal stated that each 36" door can handle 150 students, per code; we *currently* have two sets of two (2) 36" doors that lead directly outside so, in our existing configuration, we can evacuate safely 600 (4 x 150) students.

Accordingly, we were able to obtain a quote for 30 cafeteria tables\* with fixed benches – each seats 16 students. **Total seating capacity: 480 per shift/1,920 total.**

Tables: 30 @ \$1,044.25 = \$31,327.50

Freight: 30 @ \$172.68 = \$5,180.40

**Total: \$36,507.90**

- \* Mobile Bench Cafeteria Table - 30"W x 12' 1"L (Total 54" wide including benches)  
Height: TBD  
Plywood Core: Yes \$168 included in unit cost  
Top: Blue  
Edge: Dyna Rock Blue \$146.00 included in unit cost  
Bench: Blue  
Frame: Black  
15-Year Warranty

**Note:** These tables fold in the middle and can be rolled away allowing utilization of the entire cafeteria.

**Summary:** We believe that our goal of expanding the DHS Cafeteria, to address present and future seating needs, can be accomplished simply by employing more efficient seating and utilization of our existing cafeteria space. In fact, *if ever needed*, we could add many more seats, in the same space, than that contemplated above.

Including noise abatement measures, we believe we can achieve the desired increased seating capacity for approximately \$100,000, allowing Darien Public Schools to achieve a total savings of approximately \$1,600,000 compared to the expansion contemplated currently.