



TOWN OF DARIEN

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL

ROBERT J. BUCH
FIRE MARSHAL

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DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL

DAVID R. FRANCIS
FIRE INSPECTOR

Memorandum

To: Dr. Dan Brenner, Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Mr. Mike Lynch, Director of Facilities

From: Robert J. Buch, Fire Marshal

Date: February 27, 2017

Re: Darien High School Cafeteria

I want to try and summarize the conversation we had on Wednesday the 22nd to alleviate any concerns as to the requirements of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code.

The CT Fire Safety Code allows several ways to calculate the maximum occupant load for an assembly area depending on the use of the space. The current occupant load of the cafeteria was calculated at 15 square feet per person of the net usable space for tables and chairs.

The Fire Code does permit fixed bench style seating to be used in an assembly occupancy, meaning that the tables and chairs do not move. The calculation for this is 18 inches per person of linear seating per bench, while maintaining adequate aisle spaces. This seating arrangement is generally used to calculate occupancy for bleacher type seating, or seating in pews in a house of worship.

Based on the drawings done by Silver Petrucelli and Associates dated February 22, 2017 (options 8A and 8B) changing from the current seating arrangement to rectangular and round table bench seating in the current tiers you will be able to increase the occupancy to 369, and removing the tiers and changing to bench seating you will be able to increase occupancy to 450, which is within the egress capacity that is provided, but realize that asking people to sit in an eighteen inch space and eat their meal probably isn't a reality, as there is no room to move your upper body to try and eat and there is no "personal" space.