

ISSUE PAPER 6.4 PRINCIPLES OF HISTORIC STEWARDSHIP

BACKGROUND

Many Portland Public School buildings are historically significant and they are often integral to the communities more livable as well as instilling civic pride and sense of place. By maintaining these buildings we also maintain the original fabric of the community they serve, which preserves this culture of place. Historic rehabilitation within Portland Public Schools is a primary consideration and key component to thoughtful, sustainable, cost effective development.

RELEVANCE FOR FACILITIES PLAN

Pursuant to the school facility planning statute, ORS 195.110:

(5)(a) The school facility plan must cover a period of at least 10 years and must include, but need not be limited to, the following elements:

(C) Description of physical improvements needed in existing schools to meet the minimum standards of the large school district

(E) An analysis of:

(i) The alternative to new school construction and major renovation

all the energy saving, environmentally sensitive strategies that can be employed, reuse is the most sustainable. In regards to issues such as solid waste disposal, energy conservation, embodied energy,

3. MODERNIZATION OF HISTORIC SCHOOLS

Adapt to current educational and cultural goals while meeting modern building standards.

- a) Reflect current needs of all students to meet the challenges of the global economy.
- b) Strengthen and expand the uses of each school as central to community.
- c) Implement accessibility upgrades and universal design elements to ensure access and inclusivity for all students, staff, families and community members.
- d) Require energy efficient upgrades to ensure cost effectiveness and contribute to sustainability.
- e) Seismically improve buildings for life safety and protect these resources.

4. EXISTING IS SUSTAINABLE

Reuse is more environmentally responsible than new construction ¹.

- a) Evaluate and balance the potential lifecycle savings of new construction with the embodied energy investment of existing historic buildings.
- b) Require full feasibility studies of renovating older and historic schools by design professionals with historic renovation expertise prior to considering demolition of school buildings. Investing in historic school buildings saves construction and demolition debris from landfills.
- c) Recognize that building reuse conserves energy.
- d) Deconstruct buildings when necessary (versus demolition) to reduce waste.
- e) Require salvage and reuse of historic features, many of which are irreplaceable.

5. TEACHING THE VALUES OF REUSE

Students, parents and teachers cultivate the sense of ownership that naturally results from reuse and rehabilitation, galvanizing the community as a whole.

- a) Recognize that historic district designations and historic rehabilitation help maintain and increase property values over time.
- b) Acknowledge that historic rehabilitation creates more local jobs than new construction, with a greater proportion of construction costs in labor and less in materials.
- c) Recognize that neighborhood schools encourage walking and biking in a city that values walkable neighborhoods.
- d) Require feasibility studies which include environmental impacts to compare reuse options of historically significant buildings as compared to new construction.

SUMMARY

Portland Public Schools recognizes the importance of historic buildings and their place in our community. Their renovation supports the sustainability goals of the District while supporting local communities and preserving our history.

References

¹ Preservation Green Lab, National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2012.
The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Environmental Value of Building Reuse.
<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/sustainability/green>