

The Big Barn

While there may be enough classroom space to accommodate the current student population of Pescadero Middle & High School (PM/HS), both middle and high school students need more sheltered space and more educational resources to take the institution beyond being simply adequate.

The Bond fiasco of 2008 left the middle school in portables and destroyed the vision of a new high school. While the money to realize that initial vision may be gone, a modified plan could give more than an equivalent bang for much less buck. How? A Big Barn!

Situated between the high school and the soccer field (or between the high school the eastern or western edges of the campus) a large, open modular or steel structure could house the resources to enhance the campus, the living & learning conditions, and the academic programs for all students.

With a roof-line that speaks to that of the high school and the gymnasium, and with a large, heated floor, the structure would feature alternative & sustainable power generation (solar, wind, etc.). With adjustable walls, the interior would feature a couple classroom spaces, a large meeting or performance space, and a series of shops or labs for academic or vocational projects.

The Barn would be a huge "Maker Space" featuring a Computer Lab, a Media Studio, a Ceramics/Jewelry/Art Studio, a Bicycle Shop, an Engineering Technology Lab (electronics, automotive, construction, etc.), or other project-based learning spaces depending on the interests of students, teachers, community partners, etc.

While the Multi-Purpose Room in the high school can still serve as a lunch room or performance space, a similar area would be provided in The Big Barn to keep the middle & high school students separate, and to provide other opportunities. While the classroom space at PM/HS is currently sufficient, extra classrooms in the Barn would allow flexibility, housing during renovation of other classrooms, and possible expansion of the total student population.

The Greenhouse

On campus, there is also land area enough for a large Greenhouse. The Greenhouse would also have classroom space, a Biology Laboratory, Hydroponics/Aquaponics, and house the tools & equipment for developing gardens and farm fields on campus. (In addition to two farm fields, there is enough landscape available for a variety of gardens, an orchard, and other agricultural facilities.)

Summary

Both structures would be built at minimal cost, would use all green design features, and would enhance the current academic program at PM/HS. Both structures would speak to the surrounding architecture and environment - barns and greenhouses are fundamental to our community. Both structures could be involved in a variety of Dual Use programs, with community partners employing the facilities after school, on weekends, and during vacation time.

In addition to the ideas I shared with the architects in 2008 ("Ed. Spec. Recs."), I'm sure others in the district and in the community have myriad ideas about the design, configuration, and use of the buildings. What is important is that some of Bond Measure I be used to enhance the PM/HS campus (even if other financial partners are brought in to complete the project).