

Memorandum

To: Shelley Berman
From: Philip Poinelli
Project: Andover - West Elementary School
Re: Flexitorium Description
Distribution: LBF, MR, (MF)

Date: 4/23/2020
Project No.: 19146

Flexitorium – a flexible auditorium like space for gathering and performance

From the schools' Education Plan

Although the existing West Elementary, being an old facility, includes a traditional auditorium, the West faculty and administration do not want to replicate such a space in the new school. The auditorium is used daily for many purposes; however, the staff realize that its design, with fixed seating on sloped tiers, is limiting and no longer meets the school's instructional needs. Instead, West envisions the creation of what they call a "flexitorium"—a flexible space that can be used every day and virtually all day (plus some evenings) for a wide variety of student and adult education-related experiences.

Plan Configuration – a simple rectangle in dimensions / area to be defined, primarily by the desired seating capacity, allowing for flexible configurations

- Support Spaces: lighting control room, chair / platform storage room

Volume – in order to respond to choral and instrumental performance, a ceiling height in the range of 20' to 24' is recommended

Performance or dais - can be on the flat floor or on a low platform(s). Platforms are generally folding table like pieces in heights of 6" or 8", to a maximum height of 18" – 24". These pieces can be assembled to any size and temporarily placed or de-constructed as needed. Location of platform is flexible

Seating – it is envisioned that the seating be a combination of electrically retractable bleachers with folding backrests and loose chairs that can be stacked on dollies.

Performance Characteristics

- Performance acoustics achievable
- No rigging, no fly loft
- No curtains
- Lighting - Performance lighting would be exposed, theater style lighting with control booth, no catwalk with spots.

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- Sound - Performance sound system with sound control board possible
- Live or Recording – video or TV capabilities
- Flooring could be a sprung wood construction or resilient rubber

Technology – WIFI capacity for seating; large screen projection

Global Portal – ideal location for APS's Global Portal when desired

Events / Community Use – in addition to daily school activities: instruction multi-class size groups, practice and performance, the Flexitorium can serve the West EI and larger community in the evenings and on weekends.

(additional language if desired) also from the Education Plan

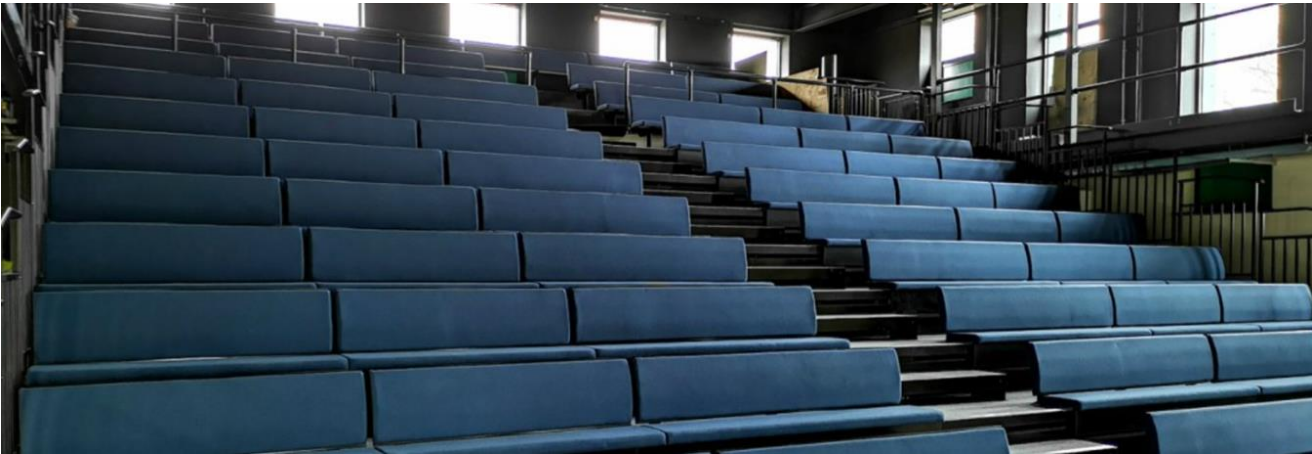
Much of the time, the flat areas would serve as flexible areas to meet the changing needs of the teachers and students. For example:

- *For an upcoming play, the flexitorium space would enable students to construct and store sets over a multi-week period, instead of storing the sets in the hallways and creating a hazard.*
- *The music teacher could set up a small number of chairs for an instrumental music class or open a portable stage for a choral practice.*
- *A science teacher could set up tables in a few areas and let groups of students carry out experiments. Or a master science teacher could teach a lesson and demonstrate a chemical reaction on the stage while multiple classes of students watch—along with interested parents.*
- *After school, teachers could gather for a grade group meeting.*
- *Two teachers could bring their students to adjoining areas for a co-taught lesson.*
- *If the faculty discovers that they often want to have access to tables for student projects, a few sections could have tables left up for routine use.*
- *For brief listening activities, such as reading a Big Book to a double class of kindergartners, it would not even be necessary to set up chairs. Near the entrances will be large bins filled with individual cushions (sit-upons) that students can access for short-term seating.*
- *Off to the side of the flexitorium will be storage rooms for stackable chairs. Instances in which the flexitorium will be used to provide seating for a large group include the three days of WERAWC school assemblies, student class plays, annual music performances (instrumental and vocal), guest speakers for parents (as when discussing transition to middle school), and professional development for teachers and instructional assistants.*

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Examples



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