



RICHLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT NO. 1

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Jason Fox, Superintendent of Schools

Rylan Rusk, Assistant Superintendent of Business

Kacie Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum

TO: Mr. Jason Fox, Superintendent

FROM: Mr. Rylan Rusk, Assistant Superintendent of Business

DATE: September 22, 2026

RE: Potential Change Order for South Building

After the August BOE meeting, I contacted FGMArchitects about our plans for the south building and how those plans could be modified to accommodate for space and amenities for our growing wrestling program. Additionally, I met with Major Waldhoff (JROTC) and Coach Steele (Wrestling) immediately after the August BOE meeting and then again prior to the September BOE meeting. After several meetings with coaches and architects we have 2 new options to offer for consideration. Below are those options and a short description of positives/negatives for each.

Option 1 – Reconfigure Space and Relocate the Weight Room and Wrestling Areas

Considerations:

- Building footprint remains unchanged
- Increase wrestling room by 5'-0", shift center block of rooms to the east
- Square off the wrestling storage room to create two equally sized storage rooms
- Provide 4'-0" doors at both storage rooms
- Relocates the weight room to the South Building and wrestling to the basement of RCHS.
- Estimated additional cost: \$22,104.
- Provides wrestling with access to larger locker rooms and proximity to cleaning supplies and restroom facilities.
- The proposed weight room would provide approximately 2,226 square feet, compared with approximately 2,500 square feet currently used by the weight room in the basement.

Financial and Facility Considerations:

- Reduces the available JROTC area and JROTC storage space.
- Does not provide dedicated locker or changing rooms for wrestling or the weight room.

- May require more students to travel between buildings for classroom-related activities during the school day. For example, weight lifting is currently offered as a scheduled class.
- The wrestling area would have a lower ceiling height than the space available in the South Building.
- Reduces the square footage currently allocated to the weight room program.

Option 2 – Increase Building Footprint and Incorporate Additional Requested Features

Considerations:

- Increases the building footprint within the lot-size constraints while being code compliant.
 - Extend Building to 170'-0" in length, depth remains the same
- Includes small men's and women's locker rooms with space for (24) lockers, changing, and ADA bench.
- Increases JROTC storage space while reducing the JROTC competition area.
- Reconfigures the restrooms into single-user unisex restrooms serving the wrestling and JROTC areas.
- Increases the available wrestling space and provides a large viewing area across a 3'-4" masonry wall.
- Provides a Stacked Washer & Dryer Hook Up
- Provide Wrestling Access to a Mop Sink for cleaning
- Addresses most of the space and facility requests identified by the wrestling program.

Financial and Facility Considerations:

- Estimated additional cost: \$159,021.22.
- This represents an increase to the overall project budget but remains within the 15% change-order limit for the overall project.
- The plan does not include a shower. Based on discussions with Coach Steele, the shower was identified as a lower-priority item due to the anticipated limited use.
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Option 3 – Maintain the Current Building Plan

Considerations:

- Maintains the building configuration as currently planned.
- Has the lowest additional financial impact of the three options.
- Allows the project to proceed without additional design changes and provides dedicated areas for JROTC and wrestling.

Financial and Facility Considerations:

- Provides wrestling with the minimum amount of space currently identified for the program.
- The available space may become a consideration if the wrestling program continues to grow.