



Executive Summary Facilities Committee Meeting

DATE: April 21, 2026

TOPIC: Proposed Mural Artwork in the Door 7 Stairwell at Rutledge Hall

PREPARED BY: Aliaa Ibrahim and Michelle Wielgosz

Recommended for:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Purpose/Background:

This proposal outlines a student-designed mural honoring Ann Rutledge, the namesake of Rutledge Hall. The mural aims to foster school spirit, enhance the visual environment, and provide students with a meaningful opportunity to contribute to their school community through collaborative artmaking.

The mural will be designed and painted by students in the 2025–2026 Art Club. Through this project, students will engage in research, creative problem-solving, and teamwork while developing skills in planning, design, and large-scale artistic execution. As part of the design process, students have been researching the life and historical context of Ann Rutledge to inform their artistic decisions.

Because there are no confirmed images of Ann Rutledge, the mural features a symbolic interpretation rather than a literal portrait. The figure depicted looking away from the viewer, representing both the mystery of her likeness and inviting personal interpretation. The composition will be rendered in black and white to reflect the historical time period in which she lived (1813–1835), reinforcing the connection between art and history.

The proposed location in the Rutledge Hall stairwell provides a high-visibility space where the mural can serve as a daily source of inspiration for students, staff, and visitors. Its presence will contribute to a welcoming and reflective school environment while strengthening students' sense of ownership and pride in their school.

This project will be completed as part of the before-school Art Club program and is estimated to require approximately 20 hours of work time, depending on the mural's size and complexity. The timeline is as follows:

- Planning & Design (2–4 hours): Students will brainstorm ideas, conduct research, and develop a collaborative design plan.
- Surface Preparation (2–3 hours): Cleaning, sketching outlines, and applying base coats.
- Painting Phase (approximately 12 hours): Executed across multiple before-school sessions to ensure quality and sustained engagement.

- Finishing & Sealing (1–2 hours): Final details, protective coating, and cleanup.

The Art Club will include up to 20 fifth-grade students working in small, rotating groups to maximize participation and ensure effective use of materials and space.

This mural project not only celebrates the legacy of Ann Rutledge but also empowers students to leave a lasting, meaningful mark on their school community.

Proposed Sketch:



Fiscal Impact:

Not to exceed \$130 for materials.

Recommendation:

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this Proposal for a mural in the Rutledge Hall stairwell by Door 7 in an amount not to exceed \$130.