

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b> <b>6:00 PM</b> <b>April 23, 2025</b>	<b>Walsh Intermediate School</b> <b>Collaboration &amp; Innovation Center (Room 112)</b> <b>185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405</b>
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**[Chair: Laura Troidle; Judith Barron, Adam Greenberg & Marie McNamara]**

To locate agendas and to access/view meetings please go to [www.branfordschools.org](http://www.branfordschools.org)

**Community Agreement**

The Board of Education is committed to supporting the mission, vision, core values and global learning competencies of the Branford Public Schools. We are here to provide access for all students in close collaboration with the Superintendent and in partnership with the larger community.

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Public Comment**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Discussion/Action Items**
  - A. Communication Updates**
  - B. Anxious Generation and Master Facilities Communication Discussion**
- V. Adjourn**

**TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC COMMENTS REMOTELY PLEASE CALL:**

**1 (646) 558-8656**

**Meeting ID: 815 6405 4671**

**Passcode: 812124**

***When participating by telephone please mute your phone when joining the meeting and unmute your phone when you are ready to speak. This can be done by pressing \*6 on your phone's keypad.***

**Rules Governing Public Comments**

Guests attending meetings in person or virtually are invited to make public comment. Speakers must identify themselves by name and address. While the Board does not respond to public comment during the meeting, the Chair and Superintendent will work collaboratively to make sure your comments are thoughtfully considered. Disruptive conduct may result in termination of participation privileges or removal from meetings. Three minutes will be allotted to each speaker.



# Branford BOE Communication Committee Community Updates April 23, 2025





# BRANFORD EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



# Walsh Fields





# Walsh Fields



**Tecton**  
ARCHITECTS

Updated  
03/31/2025

**Data and Analysis –  
What other information  
is needed?**

## Options Review and feedback/input

### Decisions on priority and preferred option

Select & approve plan

Branford Public Schools - District Master Plan (Revised 3/31/2025)[illegible]



# Framework: Priority Rankings & Tiers ~ *Physical Condition* Needs



**Tecton**  
ARCHITECTS

										TOTAL	Average	Rank (Priority)
Building Name		Building Shell	Site (Physical Condition)	Interior	HVAC	Fire Protection & Alarm	Plumbing	Electrical	Security			
9-12 Branford High School		1	3	2	1	2	2	4	3	18	2.25	2
5-8 Francis Walsh Intermediate		4	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	37	4.63	5
PK-4 Mary T. Murphy		3	3	4	2	3	4	4	3	26	3.25	4
K-4 John B. Sliney		2	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	15	1.88	1
PK-4 Mary R. Tisko		3	3	4	2	3	4	4	3	26	3.25	4
PK & Access Indian Neck		1	3	2	3	4	2	3	4	22	2.75	3

1.5 - 2.0 1  
2.0 - 2.5 2  
2.5 - 3.0 3  
3.0 - 4.0 4  
4.0 - 5.0 5  
1 = Poor  
5 = Good

# Framework: Priority Rankings & Tiers ~ *Programmatic* Needs



**Tecton**  
ARCHITECTS

										TOTAL	Average	Rank (Priority)
Building Name		Demogr. Capacity	21st Century	Special Ed.	Program Space	Staff/ Support Space	Site (Function)	Community Use	ADA Compliant		1.5 - 2.0 2.0 - 2.5 2.5 - 3.0 3.0 - 4.0 4.0 - 5.0	1 2 3 4 5 1 = Poor 5 = Good
9-12	Branford High School	4	2	3	2	2	4	4	3	24	3.00	3
5-8	Francis Walsh Intermediate	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	39	4.88	5
PK-4	Mary T. Murphy	4	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	30	3.75	4
K-4	John B. Sliney	3	2	2	2	3	1	5	2	20	2.50	2
PK-4	Mary R. Tisko	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	30	3.75	4
PK & Access	Indian Neck	2	2	1	1	2	3	4	2	17	2.13	2



# Summary of Matrix



**1** **Sliney  
Indian Neck  
High School** } **Priority!**

**2** Cost prohibitive & challenging programmatically to RNV **Sliney**, **therefore, offline.**

**Similar for Indian Neck** – possible use for alternative programs, just not Early Elementary.

**3** **Murphy/Tisko** - inherent value in conditions & program. To preserve long-term for successful use, need:

- **Infrastructure upgrades (EOUL)**
- **Program additions**

**4** **High School** ~ why it's the “anchor” for other decisions...

**A** **Significant needs for infrastructure & some program but...**

**B** **Makes little sense to fully renovate the existing building without adding other programs.**

**C** **Therefore, you have the following options:**

- **Fill it with program & renovate it** (Path A, next slide)
- **“Re-imagine” existing spaces, discard underutilized portions where possible**
- **Build new to appropriate size** (Path C, next slide)

**5** Continued maintenance (CIP) at Walsh

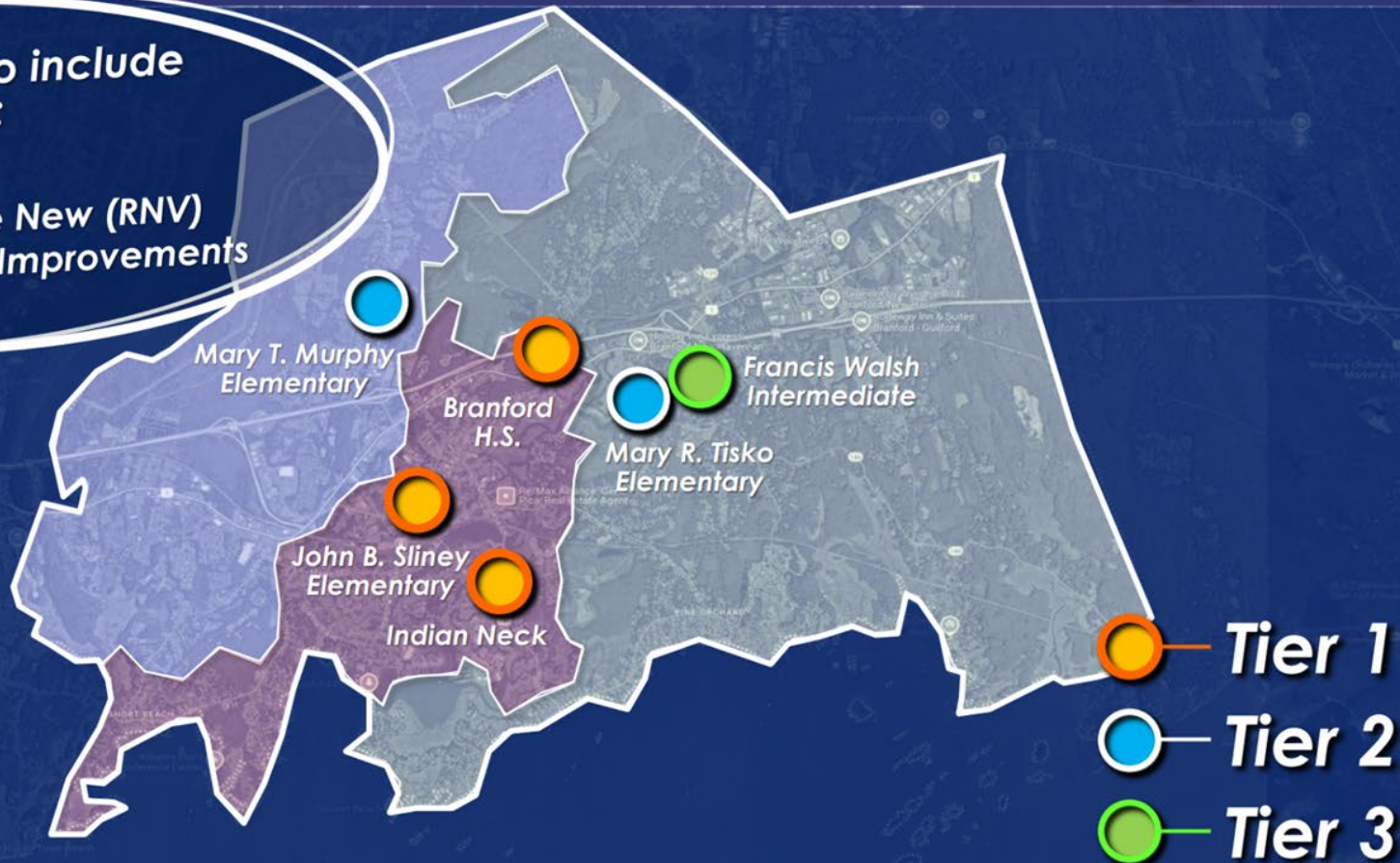
# Framework: Priority Rankings & Tiers ~ Priority Tiers



**Tecton**  
ARCHITECTS

Options likely to include  
a combination:

- New Builds
- Renovation like New (RNV)
- Yearly Capital Improvements





# In Summary ~ Options Narrowed to Four



## PLANNING OPTIONS SUMMARY

Routine Maintenance Targeted Renovations Renovate as New (RNV) New Construction

Option	Description	Francis Walsh Int.	John B. Sliney	Mary Tisko	Mary Murphy
		5-8, E, 771P A ~ 172,492 QSP	K-4, E, 241P A ~ 33,823 QSP	K-4, E, 319P A ~ 33,670 QSP	K-4, E, 328P A ~ 33,629 QSP
0	Fix what you have	5-8, 783P	K-4, 257P	K-4, 338P	K-4, 355P
1	Early Learning Center	5-8, 783P		1-4, 383P	1-4, 383P
2	A New Campus	5-8, 783P			
3	Two K-4's	5-8, 783P		K-4, 475P	K-4, 475P
4	Three K-4's	5-8, 783P		K-4, 517P	K-4, 517P
5	Three PK-4's	5-8, 783P		PK-4, 353P	PK-4, 353P
6	Grow Together w/PK	5-8, 783P		K-4, 374P	PK-1, 484P
7	Grow Together PK w/BHS	5-8, 783P		K-4, 574P	K-1, 376P
8	Renovate & Reimagine	5-8, 783P	K-4, 257P	K-4, 338P	K-4, 388P
9	Replace & Renovate	5-8, 783P	K-4, 257P	K-4, 338P	K-4, 388P
10	Expand	5-8, 783P		K-4, 387P	K-4, 387P
11	Options?				

**Option A**

**Major renovation at BHS w/ PK; and 2 K-4s** (See Option 3)

**Option B**

**"Re-imagine" BHS; and 3 PK-4s (new Sliney)** (See Option 5)

**Option C**

**New/reimagine BHS; and district-wide PK-4** (See Option 2)

**Option D**

**Fix what you have** (See Option 0)

**Total Approx. Cost to Branford**

**\$184-218M**

**\$187-223M**

**\$173-204M**

**\$154M**

**11**

**Narrowed to 4:**



# Current Priorities *of the* U.S. Surgeon General



## Surgeon General Issues New Advisory About Effects Social Media Use Has on Youth Mental Health

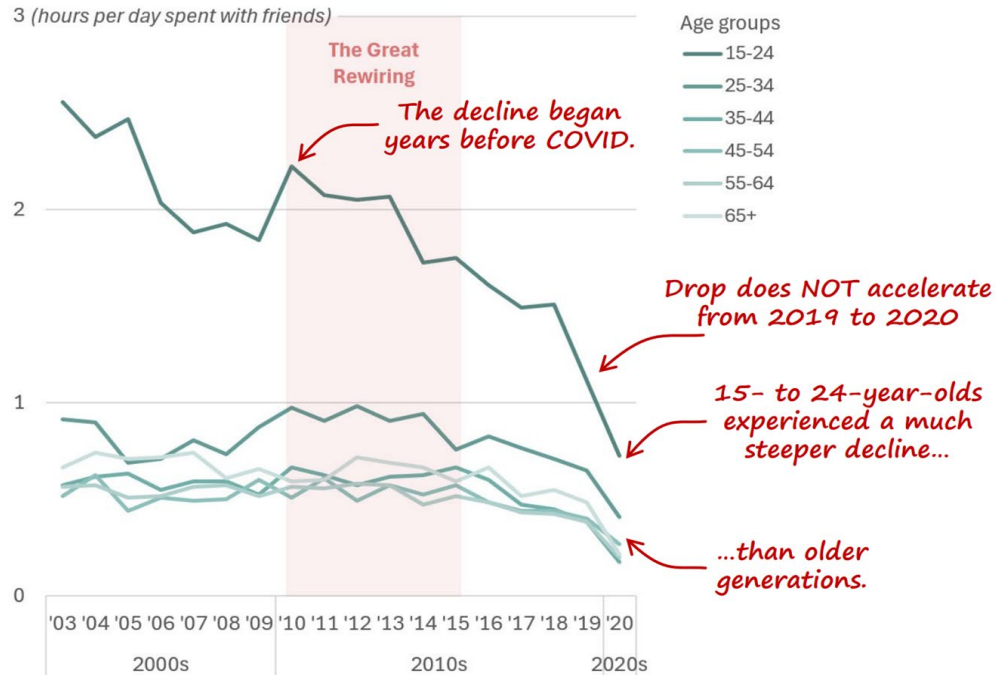
*Children are exposed to harmful content on social media, ranging from violent and sexual content, to bullying and harassment. And for too many children, social media use is compromising their sleep and valuable in-person time with family and friends. We are in the middle of a national youth mental health crisis, and I am concerned that social media is an important driver of that crisis – one that we must urgently address.”*

**- U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, May 23, 2023**



# Time With Friends

Time Spent With Friends, 2003-2020

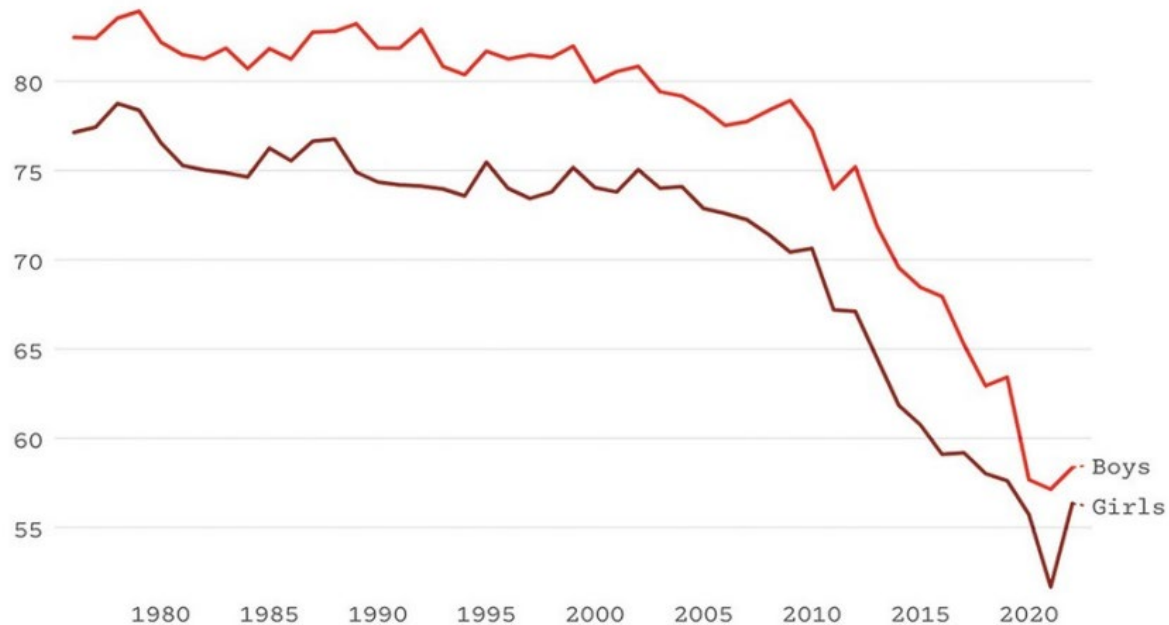


Source: Kannan & Veazie, 2023,  
from American Time Use Survey



# Less Social Teens

Percentage of 12th graders going out with friends two or more times a week

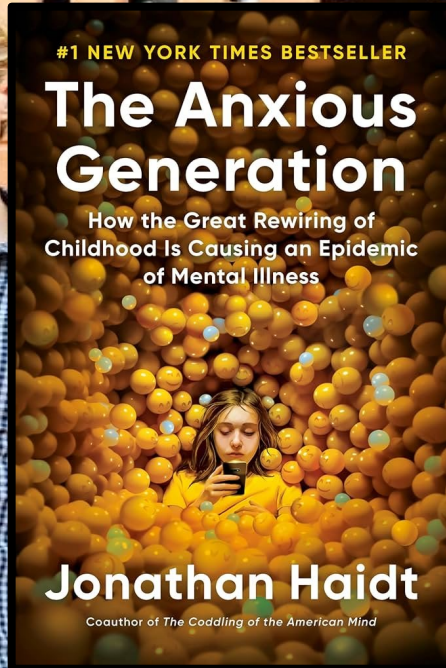


Source: Data from Monitoring the Future, compiled and analyzed by Jean M. Twenge, author of *Generations*





# *The Anxious Generation*



Adolescent Mental Health Surge  
—  
Diminishing Unstructured Play  
—  
Smartphones and Social Media  
—  
Fostering Healthier  
Environments



# School-Level Policy Implications

