SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA ASSEMBLY SELECTING A PERMANENT SITE FOR MAT-SU CENTRAL SCHOOL WITHIN LOT 1, STRINGFIELD SUBDIVISION, PLAT NO. 2020-96, LOCATED IN SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, SEWARD MERIDIAN, ALASKA.

AGENDA OF: October 19, 2021

Assembly Action:	
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MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Present to the Assembly f consideration.

APPROVED BY MICHAEL BROWN, BOROUGH MANAGER:

Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
Originator - A. Bradway	13	
Public Works Director	120	- Bocr 2021
Planning and Land Use Director	J.O. (ACTING)	
Community Development Director	P	
Emergency Services Director	KB	
Finance Director	Stor CH	10.8.21
Borough Attorney	IS	
Borough Clerk	Ann 10/1	1/21
	Originator - A. Bradway  Public Works Director  Planning and Land Use Director  Community Development Director  Emergency Services Director  Finance Director  Borough Attorney	Originator - A. Bradway  Public Works Director  Planning and Land Use Director  Community Development Director  Emergency Services Director  Finance Director  Borough Attorney

ATTACHMENT(S): Fiscal Note: YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_x
Resolution Serial No. 21-108 (3 pp)
Matanuska Susitna Borough School Board Resolution 20-009 (2 pp)
Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee Resolution 21-01 (3 pp)
Planning Commission Resolution 21-24 (3 pp)
Site Map (1 pp)
Rough Order of Magnitude Cost Estimates Birchtree

Charter School and Mat-Su Central School (8 pp)

#### SUMMARY STATEMENT:

On February 5, 2020, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board approved Resolution 20-009, A Resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board supporting initiation of the formal process to identify the location of a permanent facility for Mat-Su Central School at 1959 N Stringfield Road to be known as "Stringfield Subdivision." The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (District) has leased Mat-Su Central school building and property for over twenty years, and the current lease is set to expire June 30, 2024. To accommodate the Mat-Su Central's growing population, the district believes that it is in the best interest to determine a permanent location for the school and specifically identified Stringfield Subdivision as a preferred site.

In accordance with MSB 19.08.020, the Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee (BASSSC) shall make recommendations to the Assembly regarding the location of school buildings. The BASSSC consists of Assembly members, School Board members, Planning Commission members, and at-large members. The BASSSC was provided with detailed reports from MSB and District Staff and held three meetings (February 18, 2021; April 14, 2021; and August 4, 2021) to review potential school sites.

Note: Sites for Mat-Su Central School, Birchtree Charter School, and American Charter Academy were reviewed concurrently by the BASSSC, though each school was considered for its unique needs and characteristics.

Eight Matanuska Susitna Borough-owned sites were reviewed as potential permanent sites for Mat-Su Central School. Only MSB owned land was reviewed because; site-selection procedure is to review MSB-owned land before looking at agency or privately owned land, there were potentially suitable MSB owned sites, and there is currently no funding allocated towards school site acquisition. These eight sites were selected for review after an evaluation by Borough Staff that included, in accordance with MSB 19.08.20, of the student population, school enrollment, review transportation, relationship of proposed sites to other community facilities, multiple uses of the site, and other appropriate criteria. These criteria were reviewed by MSB staff in part through staff-scored site suitability matrices.

After initial review by the BASSSC, only the Stringfield site and the Church-Seldon site were considered as potential sites for Mat-Su Central. Once two potential sites were identified, more indepth site analyses, including site development costs and access, were requested.

The attached Rough Order of Magnitude Cost Estimates Birchtree Charter School and Mat-Su Central School summarizes the site-

Page 2 of 3 IM No. 21-212

suitability and rough development cost for the two potential sites.

On May 5, 2021, Mat-Su Central School principal John Brown drafted a letter in support of the Stringfield Subdivision site, signed by all members of their parent advisory council. This letter was presented to the BASSSC on August 4, 2021.

Mat-Su Central School is a correspondence school which provides services to students across the entire Borough and has the highest enrollment of any school in the district. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District identified a pressing need to find a buildable, centrally located site, with sufficient access to arterial roads. The Stringfield Subdivision site is located near the intersection of Trunk Road and the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, two arterial roads with Trunk Road being a direct connection to the Parks Highway.

After final review, the BASSSC approved Resolution unanimously recommending Stringfield Subdivision as a permanent site for Mat-Su Central School.

On October 18, 2021 the Matanuska Susitna Borough Planning Commission concurred with the findings of the School Board and BASSSC, approving Resolution 21-24 recommending the Stringfield Subdivision site.

### RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Assembly adopt Resolution 21-108, selecting a site for the permanent location of Mat-Su Central School, with due consideration of the recommendation of the School Board, Planning Commission, and Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee.

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#### OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION 20-009

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTING INTIATION OF THE FORMAL PROCESS TO IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF A PERMANENT FACILITY FOR MAT-SU CENTRAL SCHOOL AT 1959 N. STRINGFIELD ROAD TO BE KNOWN AS "STRINGFIELD SUBDVISION."

**WHEREAS**, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District has leased Mat-Su Central School building and property from a private entity for over 20 years for the purpose of a correspondence school; and

**WHEREAS**, the current lease agreement for Mat-Su Central School is set to expire on June 30, 2021 with the option for an additional extension; and

**WHEREAS**, Mat-Su Central School needs a permanent facility to support its growing student population and innovative programs; and

**WHEREAS**, in cooperation with the Mat-Su Borough, the District has identified 1959 N. Stringfield Road to be known as "Stringfield Subdivision" (Appendix A) as a possible location for Mat-Su Central School; and

**WHEREAS**, MSB 19.08.020 provides for a School Site Selection Committee which shall make recommendations to the Assembly on the needs for school sites.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board supports the initiation of the formal process to identify the location of a permanent facility for Mat-Su Central School at 1959 N. Stringfield Road to be known as "Stringfield Subdivision."

**APPROVED** by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

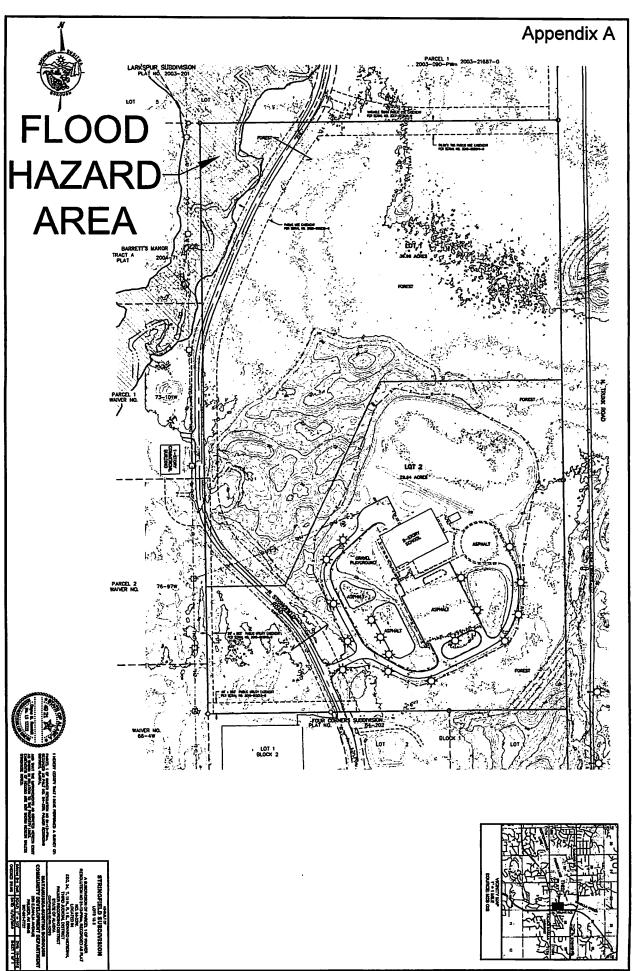
Thomas Bergey, Board President

or. Monica Goyette,

ATTEST:

Stacy Escopedo, Board Secretary

IM 21-212 RS 21-108



1m 21-212 RS 21-108

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AREA SCHOOLS SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 21-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AREA SCHOOLS SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING A SITE FOR MAT-SU CENTRAL SCHOOL.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District is seeking to identify a site for the permanent location of Mat-Su Central School; and

WHEREAS, the current lease agreement for Mat-Su Central School is set to expire on June 30, 2024 with the option for an additional extension; and

WHEREAS, the Mat-Su Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee (the Committee) received a request from the Matanuska-Susitna School District to identify a suitable location for this school; and

WHEREAS, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code 19.08.020 provides that the Committee make recommendations to the Assembly on requested school sites; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no funding allocated to school site procurement, thus, only Matanuska-Susitna Borough owned property was considered for selection; and

WHEREAS, Matanuska-Susitna Borough owned property within the area of Mat-Su Central's families was reviewed for school site

MSB Area School Site Selection Committee Resolution 21-01

IM 21-212 RS 21-108 suitability, using criteria outlined in Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code and represented through a site suitability criteria scoring matrix; and

WHEREAS, the review of Matanuska-Susitna Borough property, returned "Stringfield Subdivision" as the potential preferred location; and

WHEREAS, the preferred location is legally described as Lot 1, Stringfield Subdivision, Plat No. 2020-96, located in Section 34, Township 18 North, Range 1 East, S.M., AK., Palmer Recording District, Third Judicial District, State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a professional engineering firm performed a geotechnical analysis to verify useable areas and identify soils useful for development, with acceptable findings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee does hereby recommend to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board, Planning Commission, and Assembly that Lot 1, Stringfield Subdivision be identified as the preferred location of a permanent facility for Mat-Su Central School.

MSB Area School Site Selection Committee Resolution 21-01

RS 21-108

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee this 4th day of August, 2021.

Thomas Bergey, Chairperson

Attest:

Adam Bradway, Planner II

MSB Area School Site Selection Committee Resolution 21-01

1M 21-212 RS 21-108

By:

Action:

Adam Bradway

Introduced:

October 4, 2021 October 18, 2021

Public Hearing:

Approved

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. PC 21-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING A PERMANENT SITE FOR MAT-SU CENTRAL SCHOOL AT LOT 1, STRINGFIELD SUBDIVISION, PLAT NO. 2020-96, LOCATED IN SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, S.M., AK., PALMER RECORDING DISTRICT, THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District is seeking to identify a site for the permanent location of Mat-Su Central School; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee (Site Selection Committee) received a request from the Matanuska-Susitna School Board to identify a suitable location for this school; and

WHEREAS, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code 19.08.020 provides that the Site Selection Committee make recommendations to the Planning Commission, School Board, and Assembly on requested school sites; and

WHEREAS, the Site Selection Committee reviewed Matanuska-Susitna Borough owned property within the area of Mat-Su Central's families for school site suitability, using criteria outlined in

Planning Commission Resolution PC 21-24

RS 21-108

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code and represented through a site suitability criteria scoring matrix; and

WHEREAS, the review of Matanuska-Susitna Borough property, returned "Stringfield Subdivision" as the potential preferred location; and

WHEREAS, the preferred location is legally described as Lot 1, Stringfield Subdivision, Plat No. 2020-96, located in Section 34, Township 18 North, Range 1 East, S.M., AK., Palmer Recording District, Third Judicial District, State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, professional engineering firms performed a geotechnical analysis, a preliminary site evaluation, and a rough order of magnitude cost estimate for the development of the site; and

WHEREAS, the Site Selection Committee unanimously recommended Lot 1, Stringfield Subdivision as a preferred location; and

WHEREAS, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code 19.08.020 provides, the Assembly shall determine the location of school buildings with due consideration of the recommendation of the school board, planning commission and school site selection committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby concurs with the Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee, recommending to the Assembly that Lot 1, Stringfield Subdivision be identified as the preferred location of a permanent facility for Mat-Su Central School.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this 18 day of October, 2021.

ATTEST

RIESE, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: 7 Commissioner Glashan, Elder, Mossanen, Chesbro, Allen, Vague, and Anderson

NO: O



Matanuska - Susitna Borough Land and Resource Management Division

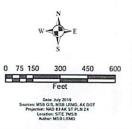


Potential School Sites MSB Land



# SELECTED PARCEL

SITE 7 18N01E34D015 63.94 ACRES SCHOOL/PIONEER PEAK ELEM





# MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 18, 2021

TO: Tony Weese, MSBSD

David Lundin, PE FROM:

RE: ROM Site Development Cost Estimates

Birchtree Charter School and Mat-Su Central School

# INTRODUCTION

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (District) intends to relocate Birchtree Charter School (BTC) and Mat-Su Central School (MCS) to Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Borough)-owned land. Several parcels were proposed and two parcels were identified for further consideration for the construction of one or both schools on each parcel. To assist the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Area School Site Selection Committee, District staff tasked HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC (HDL) to prepare a rough order of magnitude (ROM) site improvement cost estimate for each school on each prospective parcel based on generalized requirements for each school. No site plans or building plans exist, so quantities and cost estimates are based upon generic school layouts scaled to meet the needs of each school using information provided by District staff. ROM estimates are valuable for planning and comparison only and will change once the actual design process starts and more information becomes available.

Both parcels were previously evaluated in the 2018 Mixed-Use Campus Preliminary Site Evaluation Study performed by HDL for the District and much of that information was useful in preparing the ROM estimates.

#### SITE CONSIDERATIONS

Anchorage Mat-Su

### Parcel A

Located north of Pioneer Peak Elementary School (PPE) and between Trunk Road and Stringfield Road, Parcel A consists of approximately 37 acres of mostly usable land (see Figures 1 and 2). The majority of the parcel is relatively flat with a large hill in the southwest corner of the parcel. Topography varies from a maximum elevation of 350 feet at the top of the hill to low elevation of 325 feet. The majority of the parcel has an average elevation of about 330 feet.

Stringfield Road cuts across the northwest and southwest corners of the parcel. Wasilla Creek is located on the west side of Stringfield Road, leaving approximately 30 acres to the east of the road for development.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

GEOTECHNICAL **ENGINEERING** 

TRANSPORTATION **ENGINEERING** 

ENVIRONMENTAL **SERVICES** 

**PLANNING** 

SURVEYING & MAPPING

CONSTRUCTION **ADMINISTRATION** 

> MATERIAL TESTING

**REAL ESTATE** SERVICES

907.564.2120

RE: ROM Site Development Cost Estimates

June 18, 2021 Page 2 of 5

A narrow band of wetlands crosses the northwest corner of the parcel from about 220 feet east of Stringfield Road along the north property line, then intersecting Stringfield Road approximately 400 feet south of the north property line. This removes about 2 acres from the parcel, leaving about 28 acres of developable land.

Basic soils information is available for Parcel A from *Stringfield Subdivision Geotechnical Investigation* performed by Mark Hansen, PE in January 2020. Ground water in the relatively flat area of the site varied from depths of 1.7 feet to 6 feet below ground surface and was expected to vary seasonally. Development in this portion of the parcel would necessitate adding sufficient fill to obtain soil strength to support improvements. Due to the high water table, a mounded septic system would also likely be required.

Soils in the hill on the southwest corner of the property consist of 4 feet to 6 feet of silt over gravel. The gravel is noted as usable as structural fill (DOT&PF Selected Material, Type A) under buildings and paved areas. The silt can be usable in deep fill areas and under playfields or playgrounds.

A well would need to be developed for domestic water for each school. PPE currently utilizes a 118-foot-deep well; wells for new schools would likely be similar depth.

Currently there is no vehicle access to the parcel from either Trunk Road or Stringfield Road. The Borough has plans to build a connector road between Stringfield Road and Trunk Road along the north property line of Parcel A. The Trunk Road Connector intersection with Trunk Road is eventually planned for a traffic signal. As Stringfield Road is already heavily impacted by local traffic, including traffic from PPE, it is strongly recommended that additional school traffic not be added to Stringfield Road. The cost to develop a portion of the Trunk Connector, from Trunk Road to the proposed school driveway, without signalization, is included in the site development estimates.

Utilities are located adjacent to the parcel. A 6-inch natural gas main runs along the east side of Stringfield Road approximately 600 feet up the west property line. A gas service will need to be extended to new school building(s). A three-phase overhead power line and an overhead fiber optic communications line run along the west side of the parcel for the length of Stringfield Road and would require service extensions to the proposed building(s).

#### Parcel B

Parcel B consists of approximately 156 acres, located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Seldon Road and Church Road (see Figures 1 and 3). The majority of the parcel (approximately the northern half) is relatively flat, low-lying wetlands and bog with some standing water, while the land closer to Seldon Road is moderately to steeply sloped terrain varying in elevation from 400 feet to 465 feet with slopes as steep as 40%. This southern portion, approximately 70 acres, is assumed to be developable.

While no site specific soils investigation has been made available by the District, the Borough provided the *Geotechnical Engineering Report – Seldon Road Extension* prepared by Shannon & Wilson, Inc. in 2014. Test pits and borings were performed along the Seldon Road corridor and provide insight into the soils that may be found along the southern portion of Parcel B. Soils in the corridor generally consisted of 1 foot to 3 feet of organics and silt over



RE: ROM Site Development Cost Estimates

June 18, 2021 Page 3 of 5

silty gravel with sand, with soils towards the Seldon-Church intersection being moderately to highly frost susceptible. Soils of this type would be adequate for use in deep fills and in non-paved or non-structural areas of the site.

A septic system would need to be developed for each school site. As fill will be needed to level the site, we anticipate a standard, below grade system would be utilized.

A well would need to be developed for each school site. Well logs for properties to the east of Church Road indicate depths varying from 51 feet to 147 feet and are likely affected by topography. The actual depth of a well on Parcel B will depend on final ground elevation, but would likely be approximately 140 feet.

There is currently vehicle access to the site directly from Church Road. A rough dirt road connects some log deck sites located in the southeast portion of the parcel. Access to Seldon Road may be problematic, as Seldon Road is Borough-owned and is classified as a minor arterial. The *Corridor Access Management Plan – Seldon Road Extension, Church Road to Pittman Road* prepared in January 2017 by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. provides recommendations to the Borough to "maintain the mobility and safety benefits of this minor arterial road" by "limit[ing] access along the new roadway to the extent possible." The plan states that "access to Seldon Road shall be limited to public roads, and no new driveways shall be permitted." However, the Plan also allows for the possibility of "restricted" access near the Church intersection for commercial development. The Plan recommends the use of a parallel collector road to collect traffic and route it to access points spaced 1/3-mile to 1/2-mile apart. Direct driveway access to Seldon Road may not be allowed, and the site may need to be designed with access to Church Road only.

Utilities are located adjacent to Parcel B along Church Road. Overhead three-phase power lines and overhead fiber optic communication lines are located along the east property line and would require service extensions to the proposed building(s). A 6-inch natural gas line is located along the east side of Church Road and would necessitate boring a service line, or small main for multiple schools, under the road.

According to the District, Parcel B is also planned as the new location for American Charter Academy (ACA). We have assumed ACA will be located in the southwest corner of the parcel. However, due to the *Corridor Access Management Plan*, access to this school may also need to be to Church Road, resulting in up to three schools accessing one driveway.

### METHODOLOGY

For evaluation of the two parcels for each school, simplified, generic school sites were developed that meet the needs of BTC and MCS. District staff provided required square footage and a building footprint size for each school, as well as other site component needs.

- BTC, with an enrollment of 396 students, requires an overall site of approximately 15 acres, a playfield, a playground, a building footprint of 35,000 square feet, a small bus loop, and adequate parking to meet the needs of staff, parents, and visitors.
- MCS, with an enrollment of 1,801 students, but an onsite requirement of 200 students at any one time, requires a playground, green space for a possible pavilion, a building



RE: ROM Site Development Cost Estimates June 18, 2021 Page 4 of 5

footprint of 25,000 square feet, and adequate parking to meet the needs of staff, parents, and visitors.

The generic school site component dimensions were based on sizes of similar components at existing schools with comparable enrollments. Once generic school sites were laid out, the sites were located on the developable land of each parcel.

Building finish floor and site elevations were established based on the existing topography, soils information, and other considerations such as fill quantities.

### **COST CONSIDERATIONS**

#### Parcel A

Parcel A has room to construct both school sites, providing BTC approximately 18 acres and MCS approximately 10 acres, without encroaching on the identified wetland area. Much of the site has shallow groundwater and will require fill for adequate soil strength. The hill in the southwest corner can be excavated to provide much of this fill.

PPE, located directly south of this parcel, was also constructed in high ground water that necessitated a shallow septic system. While a mounded septic system is more expensive than a below grade system, the additional cost (approximately \$25,000) will be a relatively small percentage of the overall school construction cost.

To provide vehicle access to the site, a portion of the Trunk Road Connector will need to be built. Although the Trunk Road Connector project is included in the Borough's current legislative funding request package, the District may have to construct of a portion of the road to meet the District's timeline. The cost is included in the ROM estimate for both schools for comparison purposes; however, it will only need to be constructed by one school project, if any. This road will give the school(s) direct access to a major arterial road, and eventually a signalized intersection, providing safe access to the school(s).

#### Parcel B

At 156 acres, Parcel B has more than adequate area to construct both schools without encroaching on the wetland areas; however, the parcel does have topographic challenges. Generally, it is recommended to position a school at or above the adjacent roadways for student safety and to reduce roadway noise impacts. In addition, depending on how much lower the school is, the roadway may block sunlight in the winter months. As the existing ground elevations on this parcel are up to 60 feet below the adjacent roadways, positioning the school(s) at or above the roadways is not reasonable.

Some of the higher elevation soils may be used to level the site for one school; however, a significant volume of imported fill will be required to raise one or both sites to an acceptable elevation. While our estimate might include more fill than may eventually be needed once a design is prepared, the cost of any excess fill will likely be offset by retaining walls, elongated drive areas, drainage structures, extraordinary accessibility measures, and other items that may be needed for steeply sloping sites. Understanding and balancing the development costs on this parcel will be a significant part of the design process.



RE: ROM Site Development Cost Estimates

June 18, 2021 Page 5 of 5

In addition to the terrain, limitations to direct access to Seldon Road may significantly impact the site design cost. Additional consideration to access will need to be included in the design process.

## ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE SITE DEVELOPMENT COSTS

For the purpose of these ROM estimates, site development costs include:

- · Site grading
- Site drainage
- · Paved parking, roadway, and bus loop
- Exterior concrete (sidewalk, curb and gutter)
- Well System
- Septic System
- Fencing
- Utility Extensions (Natural Gas, Communications, Electric)

ROM cost estimates are based on current unit prices for similar publicly bid construction items, including industry standard percentages for items such as mobilization, construction surveying, District administration, architectural and engineering design, and construction contract administration.

For paved areas, the assumed paving section is:

- 2 inches Asphalt Pavement
- 4 inches Crushed Aggregate Base
- 36 inches Classified Fill, Type A

For building areas, an average of 36 inches Structural Fill was assumed within the building footprint. This should be a conservative estimate of the structural fill needed for a slab-ongrade structure with deep footings.

With these and many other assumptions, the rough order of magnitude costs for developing the proposed schools on each of the proposed sites are as follows:

Table 1: ROM Site Development Cost Estimate.

	Parcel A	Parcel B
Birchtree Charter	\$4.7 million	\$5.7 million
Mat-Su Central	\$2.4 million	\$5.2 million

Please contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

