CROCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Part 1 — Overview:

History:

Crocker Middle School originally was constructed in 1959 on land granted to the school district by the Crocker family. In 1964, increasing enrollments and expansion of the three elementary schools required the expansion of Crocker, so a two-story addition was constructed adjacent to the original two-story classroom wing. The school initially was home to only seventh and eighth grades, but in 1972, Crocker absorbed sixth-grade students also, following completion of the library/science wing and gymnasium additions. In 1996, two portable classrooms were added, and in 2000, two more portables were added. In total, the campus now has 21 classrooms, including the four portable classrooms but not including the art classroom, the band room and the three science labs.

Existing Facility Conditions:

The District's Maintenance and Operations Department and site administrators identified several building and site components in need of repairs, improvements and/or enhancements. As part of the condition assessment, a seismic evaluation was performed by Buehler and Buehler Structural Engineers to determine whether the structures presented any life-safety hazards (Appendix D). Shortly after the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, that caused the floor tiles on the second floor balcony of the classroom wing to crack, the State inspected the buildings and determined that they are safe to occupy. It is also suspected that the crack in the multi-purpose room floor slab might be attributable to the quake, though the crack did not appear for several years afterward. In April 2000, the District had a structural engineering firm provide a seismic evaluation of all buildings. This initial report identified some areas of concern, but none of the items noted required immediate attention. The subsequent report by Buehler and Buehler identified one of the immediate concerns which included the need to seismically retrofit the classroom building. The exposed concrete columns on the lower floor require a continuous carbon fiber wrap to maintain their structural integrity during a seismic event. Other structural modifications also are required, including replacement of

the expansion joint between the library/science wing and the two-story classroom addition.

The roof of the main classroom wing also needs immediate attention due to water damage at the soffits. The water damage is the result of leakage from the gutter system that is built into the roof. The solution will be to remove the internal gutter, infill the wood roof deck, install replacement shingles, and install an external gutter system that ties into the existing downspouts. With necessary repairs and an annual maintenance program, the roof at the gymnasium is not in immediate need of replacement and could last another five to seven years.

The classrooms and science labs on the ground floor of the main building rely on an old boiler system for heat. The classrooms on the second floor have individual furnace closets in each room. Because some of the classrooms on the ground floor will be reconfigured during later construction projects, only those that will not be reconfigured will have furnace closets installed. The heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems at the library and multi-purpose room are in need of replacement, in addition to the heater at the gymnasium.

The Architectural Barrier Removal Plan identified several areas that need attention in order to make the facility more accessible. Some of the accessibility problems were resolved under the 2004 Modernization project. Several remaining insufficiencies will be corrected during renovation.

Enrollment/Capacity:

Crocker Middle School serves grades 6-8 with an enrollment of 456 students, per the October 2004 CBEDS in Table III-A below.

Table III-A
October 2004 CBEDS Enrollments

Grade Level	Number of Students
Sixth Grade	142
Seventh Grade	150
Eighth Grade	164
Total Enrollment:	**456**

Enrollment projections were prepared by Enrollment Projection Consultants in April 2005 (See their report in Appendix C). In October of 2005, the projected number of students that will reside in the attendance area is 437 students, and it is projected that there will be 455 students attending at that time. In 2014, it is projected that there will be 481 students within the District's attendance area, an increase of 44 students. If the number of students attending from out of the attendance area remains constant at 18, it is projected that there will be 496 students attending in 2014.

The current capacity of Crocker is 525 students. Additional classrooms are required based on the projected enrollment increase, continued reduction of class size as supported by the Hillsborough Schools Foundation, and expanded curriculum offerings.

New Construction Projects:

Through the series of Master Plan meetings, the staff, parents, community members and administrators offered observations that were valuable in determining the desired new projects and identifying problems with the existing facilities.

Center for Performing Arts Education: For years, District officials, teachers and parents have expressed desire for a Center for Performing Arts Education with a large theater that could seat the entire student body, stage, band, choral and dance rooms as well as all of the supporting spaces, hoping that an independent capital campaign could raise the necessary funds. Unfortunately, the high cost associated with a facility of this magnitude is beyond a reasonable expectation for a local fund-raising campaign. Further study determined that the complex should be master planned into two construction phases. The first phase will provide a 350-seat theater with toilet rooms, other theater related support spaces; and a large band room with practice and storage facilities. The second and non-funded phase would provide the drama room, choral room, dance studio, additional storage and office space to complete the complex.

Traffic Circulation: The master-planned Center for Performing Arts Education will be a substantial addition to the campus, requiring reconfiguration of the traffic circulation on the site. Doing so will resolve one of the most significant problems with the current layout: lack of separation of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The goal is to reduce the hazards associated with vehicle circulation on the site during student pick-up and drop-off. Although no vehicle-pedestrian collisions have occurred yet, concern is shared by faculty, parents, and students alike, and is an ever-present risk. As a result, Crocker administrators place great urgency on revision of vehicular ingress and egress.

New Lecture Hall: A new lecture hall is the highest construction priority for Crocker. The current facility is too small and not accessible to persons with disabilities. In the evolution of the Master Plan, the lecture hall was combined with two other high-priority projects, the new computer labs and video studio. This new 2-story building will be immediately adjacent to the existing two-story library and science building with connecting walks at both levels. The addition of this building allows for the spaces currently serving these special instructional needs to be converted into standard classrooms.

New Technology Center: In the existing school configuration, the computer labs, TV studio and art rooms are in different areas. However, a more central location near the classrooms and the Center for Performing Arts Education would be preferable so that technology resources can be utilized in either location. Relocating the technology

center near the Performing Arts Center will enhance the instructional articulation between the two programs.

Administrative Offices: Another significant concern was the location and size of the current office. It is difficult for visitors to find and should to be located at or near the entrance to the campus for security and ease of access. The relocation of the office to a new building at the front of the campus will improve security and vacate space for additional classrooms.

Fitness Center: One of the lower priorities was to construct a fitness center planned as an addition to the existing gymnasium. The envisioned facility would have a rock-climbing wall and an area for fitness apparatus to expand the physical education program and would accommodate the Recreation Department's use as well as house its office. However, due to the budgetary constraints, funding for the fitness center would have to come from a source other than the current bond.