

# Mansfield Sustainability Committee School Siting Criteria

## Comparison of Three Existing Elementary School Sites

(Assessment completed by town staff)

Siting Criteria	Goodwin	Southeast	Vinton
<b>Site is in a community-centered location and has connectivity to community amenities and public spaces.</b>			
Within walking distance of existing or planned amenities such as retail development, other schools, community center, library, recreational fields, university, parks, open space, “heart” of the community.	★	★	★
Close to existing or proposed higher density neighborhoods and/or areas planned for additional residential development	★		★
Potential to share infrastructure with adjacent sites (e.g. recreation fields, library, parking, parks, swimming pool)		★	
Potential for “co-location” – a facility on this site could meet multiple needs and be shared for complementary uses during non-school hours (e.g. senior citizens)	★	★	★
School use of site achieves or complements multiple goals for the community	★	★	★
School use of the site would add value to surrounding land uses. Also consider impact on property values of moving existing school out of neighborhood.	★	★	★
Potential for future renovations of site for education and non-educational uses (building will continue to serve the community if no longer used as a school in the future)	★	★	★
<b>Site is walk/bike/transit accessible.</b>			
Accessible by walkers and bikers and has existing or potential for bike/pedestrian infrastructure	★	★	
Close to areas with greatest existing or planned concentrations of neighborhoods with families minimizing busing distance and costs			★
Close to existing or planned public transit for school and non-school users	★		
<b>Site is environmentally suitable for development</b>			
Avoids “greenfields” (previously undeveloped lands). If a greenfield is chosen, mitigate the loss through protection of other land with comparable qualities	While all of none of the existing sites are ‘greenfields’ in the strictest sense; all options would require development of previously undeveloped land on the site		
Can be developed without impacting wetlands and waterbodies, floodplains or habitat for threatened and endangered species	★	Unknown-completely within Natural Diversity Database Area	Unknown-Natural Diversity Database area clips western edge; wetlands along Route 32 frontage
Served or serviceable by existing water and wastewater infrastructure ( <i>well and septic</i> )	★	★	★
Minimal impact on traffic patterns, congestion and air quality and	★	★	★

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<b>public safety issues related to traffic</b>			
<b>Potential to minimize lot size and development footprint (LEED Neighborhood Development calls for 5 acre maximum for elementary schools)</b>	All sites are over 5 acres currently.		
<b>Redevelop existing buildings or site within an already developed area that is community centered (<i>near other municipal/community uses</i>)</b>		★	
<b>Potential to optimize building location to take advantage of passive heating and cooling, natural ventilation, daylighting (i.e. elongate the building along east-west axis)</b>		★	★
<b>Natural site attributes provide opportunitie for outdoor learning (e.g. forested areas, streams, etc.)</b>	★	★	★
<b>Requires minimal site regrading. No steep slopes.</b>	★	★	★
<b>Excellent environmental quality (no water or soil contamination)</b>	★	★	★
<b>Has potential for school garden to support local food production</b>	★	★	★
<b>Other considerations</b>			
<b>Budget for ongoing repair and maintenance to maintain usefulness and efficiency of facilities and avoid cost analysis in the future that results in “new is cheaper.”</b>	Applies to all sites		
<b>Site selection should provide for a northern and southern school</b>	Only northern site under consideration		
<b>If a selected school site does not have surrounding community uses or complete streets, these related improvements and future community/civic features should be planned and incorporated to strengthen the community hub.</b>		Improvements Needed	Improvements Needed