

Cumberland County High School Tennis Courts

**Presented to the Cumberland County Board of Education
October 22, 2026 Work Session / Board Meeting
-Kevin J. Dean, First District Representative**

Purpose

The purpose of this proposal is to begin the process of evaluating potential locations and costs for providing new tennis courts for Cumberland County High School (CCHS), while also considering the long-term facility needs of Cumberland County Schools.

I have developed several preliminary concepts for possible tennis court locations. These concepts are intended only as a starting point for discussion and are not intended to represent final site plans.

Before the Board makes a decision regarding the location or construction of new tennis facilities, I believe it would be beneficial to have the concepts reviewed by a qualified architectural/engineering firm and to obtain preliminary cost estimates.

Option 1 – Return the Tennis Courts to the Original Location at CCHS

The first option would be to return the CCHS tennis courts to their previous location.

My understanding is that tennis courts were included in the original planning for the CCHS Auditorium project. If architectural plans or site plans for that project still exist, there may already be information that could be useful in determining the feasibility and cost of rebuilding the courts at their original location.

Pros / Cons of Option 1

PROS:

- Property already owned by the BOE.
- Existing plans might already be completed and the previous firm might be able to offer an updated cost estimate based on previous work done on the project.
- Existing infrastructure due to prior location of previous courts.
- Existing Parking / Restroom facilities
- Easier use for PE classes to use the courts.

CONS:

- Recently paved new parking lot.
- Does not have an unused area where a possible indoor archery/rifle range could be constructed. Another location would have to be considered.

Option 2 – Tennis Courts at Martin Elementary

The second concept places the tennis courts on property associated with Martin Elementary School.

This location could potentially provide adequate space and proximity to CCHS, however, there is an important long-term consideration. The Board and school system have discussed the possibility of converting Martin Elementary into a middle school. If that occurs, the property may eventually be needed for:

- A new school wing for additional classroom space.
- Other future middle-school needs.

I believe any evaluation of the Martin Elementary site should consider not only whether tennis courts can physically fit on the property, but whether placing the courts there could limit the ability of the Board to expand or modify the school in the future.

Pros / Cons of Option 2

PROS:

- Property already owned by the BOE.
- Existing parking
- Potential for additional sports facilities to be included in the project
 - Indoor Archery/Rifle Range

CONS:

- Restroom facilities would need to be constructed
- Could limit future growth or expansion if needed for middle school.
- Would be more difficult for PE classes to use the courts.

Option 3 – Property to the Rear of CCHS

The third concept places the tennis courts on property located to the rear of Cumberland County High School.

This option would need to be evaluated for site access, grading, drainage, utilities, parking, property boundaries, and construction costs. Mostly due to the amount of unknowns, which can be associated with any of the proposals, but with this one not being a portion of property that has already had some development on it, the unknowns have a potential to be more impactful.

Pros / Cons of Option 3

PROS:

- Property already owned by the BOE.
- Potential for a master plan to have multiple sports facilities to be included in the project
 - Indoor Archery/Rifle Range
 - Other expanded need for Track/Field
 - Or other sports

CONS:

- Restroom facilities would need to be constructed.
- Parking lot construction would need to be constructed.
- Would be more difficult for PE classes to use the courts.

Option 4 – Joint Tennis Complex for CCHS and Stone Memorial High School

The fourth concept takes a broader, long-term approach. I wanted to include option 4 since this idea has been discussed on multiple occasions by the Board.

Rather than constructing separate tennis facilities for CCHS and SMHS, the County could consider developing a centralized tennis complex capable of serving both high schools.

The Cumberland County Community Complex may provide an opportunity for this concept because the County already owns property in that area.

One potential location would utilize a portion of one of the former softball fields that is currently used for overflow parking during large events, including the Cumberland County Fair.

Pros / Cons of Option 4

PROS:

- Property already owned by the County.
- Existing Parking area
- Potentially existing restroom facilities. (Would require a small modification to the existing fence to allow a gate and path to the nearby restroom facilities inside the “fair grounds”).
- Could create a recreational space for tennis to be used by the public during non-practice/ match times, that is NOT located on existing school property.
- Potential for a master plan to have multiple sports facilities to be included in the project
 - Indoor Archery/Rifle Range

CONS:

- Would eliminate a portion of the “on grass” parking used for major events at the Community Complex.
- Not sure the willingness of the county to give up that property for school sports use.
- Would be more difficult for PE classes to use the courts.

Potential Next Steps:

1. I believe the Board needs to look at the potential options I have submitted or come up with new ones. Then narrow the options down to 2 or 3.
2. Once the possible locations are identified, I would ask the Board take action, to authorize Dr. Farley and her team to
 1. Contact the previous firm and ask if they would be willing to look at the narrowed down options, to evaluate them for feasibility and potential estimated construction cost or if need be, to create and release an Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the same.
 2. If there is any cost associated with the previous firm or if an RFP/RFQ is required, then that cost could be brought back to the Board with further action needed to authorize the expenditure or plan for it to be included in next year’s budget.

3. Once the cost estimates have been completed, then an informed discussion and hopefully, a decision can be had/made to remedy an issue that, in my opinion, could have been avoided.