

[Public Comment <public.comment@isd709.org>](mailto:public.comment@isd709.org)

Historic Old Central High School

1 message

Rhett Abrahamson

Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 8:32 AM

To: public.comment@isd709.org

Hello School Board Members,

For what my is worth, I forgot to send it and kept it in my *Drafts* file. Please consider my comment as a last minute weight-in.

My comment follows suit to other presumed comments: I'm all for the preservation and repurpose of one of Duluth's most iconic landmarks. There are many potential uses that could be possible, as long as the developer(s) is/are respectful and sympathetic to the original character and details during restoration/renovations.

Iconic and well-known nationwide architect, and "father" of the *Romanesque Revival* architecture, Henry H. Richardson, along with the Allegheny County Courthouse at Pittsburgh, PA served as the backdrop for inspiration and influence for the school's design by the local firm, Palmer Hall & Hunt. The institution served many students throughout its tenure, including many children from prominent families at the turn of the last century. Many of Duluth's well-known names in business or other professions, as well as community leaders were educated here. Needless to say, the roots run very deep in such a place.

The building deserves much of the same (if not more) attention given to historic East Junior High, now Ordean Middle and Denfeld High School(s). Many architectural aesthetics were preserved at both schools during their respective renovations.

Most Duluthians and Twin Ports/Northland residents; especially former alumnus, want to see the building preserved and repurposed in some capacity. I cannot reiterate enough, how much this building deserves the utmost attention and respect. My hope is the right decisions are made for this special place, that is in part woven into the eclectic fabric of Duluth's history; to have a new lease and meaningful purpose on [its] life.

Regards,

Rhett Abrahamson