

November 17, 2014

Happy Valley Educational Specifications Design Advisory Committee Meeting

Members present:

Anderson, Mike
Aperule, Tara
Cowan, Ron
Dalton, Mark
D'Hondt, Mike
DeJong, Jill
Flanagan, Kevin
Gazow, Kurt
Howard, Gretchen
Lawyer, Curtis
Moss-Owen, Jamine
Rowe, Tanya
Scherrer, Wendy
Sterling-Chue, LaVonne
Tolliver, Karen

Members absent:

Angell, Dennis
Brawley, Jackie
Dominguez, Kristi
Haberman, Mike
Lin, Ming
Morse, Steve
Prichard, Tony
Rumbaugh, Matt

Ron and Kevin explained that the purpose of today's meeting is two-fold:

- 1) Finalize a recommended schematic design to be forwarded to the superintendent
- 2) Review design refinements since our last meeting

Kevin reviewed the current preferred site plan and explained the various features.

Ron spent a few minutes reviewing the concerns expressed related to traffic, and actions the district has taken as a result of those concerns. He also answered several questions. [Click here to view the *Traffic Concerns and Actions Taken* document.](#)

Kevin and members of his team (Melissa Holland and Brian Love reviewed the existing floor plans and answered several questions

Tanya led the group through a consensus discussion exercise pertaining to the schematic design which includes the preferred site plan. After considering all of the information from the various sources,

the committee reached consensus on this recommendation, including that the Preferred Site Plan is the recommended choice. During the discussion regarding the recommendation, some committee members shared their perspectives, un-related to the site plan traffic issues, on items they hope can be addressed by the architects in the next phase of work: advocating that solar be part of the design; advocating for as much sidewalk construction as possible; wanting to provide more input about landscape architecture; advocating that the staff gathering area remain in the design; and expressing concern about to clean the interior of the library's skylight.) [Click here to view the schematic design recommendation.](#)

A question was asked about portables. Ron explained that it is a district standard to plan for at least two portables at each site. Since Happy Valley currently has seven portables it is likely two will remain on site (at a location to be determined). Even if the portables are not needed as classrooms at Happy Valley the additional space can always be used. This also reduces the cost of moving the portables elsewhere in the district at a cost of over \$30,000 per portable.

Kevin discussed some of the design team's current thinking relating to day lighting, using the building as a teacher, etc.

The committee was given a homework assignment by Brian Love from NAC:

The design team would like the design committee's help with the interior design of their new school. Previously some members of the committee have spoken passionately about the potential for integrating educational topics into the design of the physical building. We think this is a great idea and an outstanding way of transforming the building itself into an educational experience.

To do this, we need to know more about your teaching and your students' learning. We'd like to know what are your favorite lessons? What topics really fascinate your students? Are there subjects that students struggle to grasp without a visual or tactile learning experience?

The opportunities are broad. We have talked before about displaying the mechanical, electrical, structural, water drainage, and building envelope systems to the students so they can understand and explore the workings of the new Happy Valley Elementary. We could also infuse the building with different topics from the Bellingham curriculum. Finally the design could reference the rich culture and annual traditions of Happy Valley Elementary and Larrabee Elementary.

Next meeting will be some time before winter break with a date and time to be determined.