



Meeting Minutes
BSD – Sehome High School Advisory Committee
November 16, 2016

Members Present:

Allen, Jeff	Jewett, Tim
Ashby, Melissa	Hasenjaeger, Kathy
Atkins, Marty	Keck, Kacy
Brawley, Jacqueline	Kuss-Cybula, Michelle
Carroll, Jeremy	Lawyer, Curtis
Clarke, Steve	Schenck, Corrine
Mike Couto	Smith, Dana
Cowan, Ron	Snyder, Craig
Criez, Kevin	Stinson, Jonah
Cushman, Colin	Tetrick, Jeff
Dawson, Pete	Williams, Rachel
Denton, Julie	Zender, Martha
Ham, Zach	
Hankinson, Amy	

Members Absent:

Anderson, Mike
Dalton, Mark
Diehl, Gus
Dominquez, Kristi
Gazow, Kurt
Johnson, Kevin
Knops, Gail
Peterson, Mark
Schubeck, Grace
Trulock, Oliver

Michelle Kuss-Cybula welcomed the Design Advisory committee back together, quizzing the group to recall their 6 Guiding Principles in self-reflection.

The Guiding Principles:

1. The physical characteristics of the school should inspire learning.
2. Great teachers are supported – collaboration space and technology should facilitate and support teacher professional development and instruction.
3. Occupants enjoy a safe, inclusive, welcoming, healthy and nurturing environment that supports diversity, promotes relationships and nurtures innovation.
4. The physical characteristics of the school environment should meet current teaching and learning needs and adapt to future needs.
5. The school is a hub of activity, a source of community pride and promotes positive relationships between students, staff and the community.
6. The campus will be a sustainable environment that promotes global citizenship and environmental awareness.

Ron Cowan summarized what has transpired since the committee last met in May 2016. After sharing the original schematic design (SD 1.0) with the community the committee's recommendation was sent to Dr. Baker, and the design had his support as well. The next step was to do a formal cost estimate. As with most projects at this stage of design the cost estimate exceeded the budget for the project, which was prepared in 2012. A number of things contributed to this including construction cost escalation, new site and building regulations put in place since 2012, and costs related to site topography.

The next step on all projects, (and one that is mandated by the state on the Sehome project), is a process known as Value Engineering. It is used to identify design items that optimize (reduce) costs with little or no reduction in function or program. While we needed to find ways to reduce overall costs we want to maintain the sizes of our programmatic spaces, not making classrooms any smaller, and to maintain the adjacencies between the spaces the committee had identified. In addition, the process was viewed as an opportunity to try and improve on the original design.

The committee was given a set of plans which included the original schematic design and the proposed revised schematic design, (SD 2.0), to review in their table groups, ([Site and Building Modification Summary 11.16.16 pdf](#)). Tim Jewett and Zach Ham from Dykeman architects, and Steve Clarke, Ron and Michelle were available to answer individual questions from committee members as they went over the drawings. Following this exercise Zach Ham shared the presentation of proposed Schematic Design 2.0 including floor plans as well as interior and exterior perspectives. ([Sehome DAC SD 2.0 Presentation pdf](#)).

Zach began with the site, explaining that space is tight and a portion of the property can't be used due to the sloping topography. The proposed revised site plan, has several benefits including, fewer retaining walls, better overall accessibility including access to the fields, better supervision, better connection with all of the public facilities, and reuse of some existing parking. In addition, stormwater retention was moved from a vault below the football field to a more standard retention pond. This allows resources to be used for teaching and learning spaces instead of for storing water underground.

Two major site changes are also being proposed; the relocation of the Central Kitchen to another district owned site and reducing synthetic turf fields to the football/soccer field only. The Central Kitchen on the Sehome site was originally proposed because at the time it was the only available district owned site where it could be placed and there was thought that it would have a curricular/instructional connection to the school. Both of those original assumptions are no longer accurate, (the district owns a possible alternative site and a new Culinary Arts space in the new school will provide the curricular/instructional connection to healthy food). Freeing up this space provides better spaces for playfields and parking, and reduces the need for numerous and expensive retaining walls and site accesses.

The revised site plan calls for the football/soccer field to be synthetic turf, with the remaining fields (baseball, softball, etc.), to remain grass turf. This proposed change will bring all three high schools to the same field development standard. The plan is for all remaining fields at Sehome, Bellingham and Squalicum to be converted to synthetic turf as part of a future bond issue.

Concern was raised regarding the need for the new tennis courts before the fields were complete and with the new bell schedule in the fall it was also proposed that lights be provided to the tennis courts.

This will be considered as the design, construction schedule and budget are further developed. Ron mentioned that in terms of tennis court and field lighting, Sehome will have the same lighting as Bellingham and Squaticum.

Zach then reviewed the proposed building revisions. The original plan had three floors while the revised plan is a two story school. Even with this change the design maintains the ceiling heights that are desirable in the CTE spaces. In addition, the square footage of all instructional spaces and all original adjacencies were maintained. With a 2 story building there are fewer stairs, a less costly elevator, improved circulation, better proximity of services, improved constructability and a lower net cost.

It was questioned if the building's furnishings budget was trimmed. Ron stated none of the other project budget components were reduced to address the budget challenges.

Steve Clarke thanked Zach for his presentation and the good work by Dykeman as shown in Schematic Design 2.0. The committee was unanimous in their support for the new design.

Next steps include sharing the committee's work with Dr. Baker, third party Value Engineering to continue to find ways to reduce costs without materially altering the building or site, a community update event (maybe at upcoming basketball games) and focus group meetings with the Sehome staff.

Meeting adjourned 4:35p.m.